



WASTE IN NORFOLK

How much waste do we produce in Norfolk?

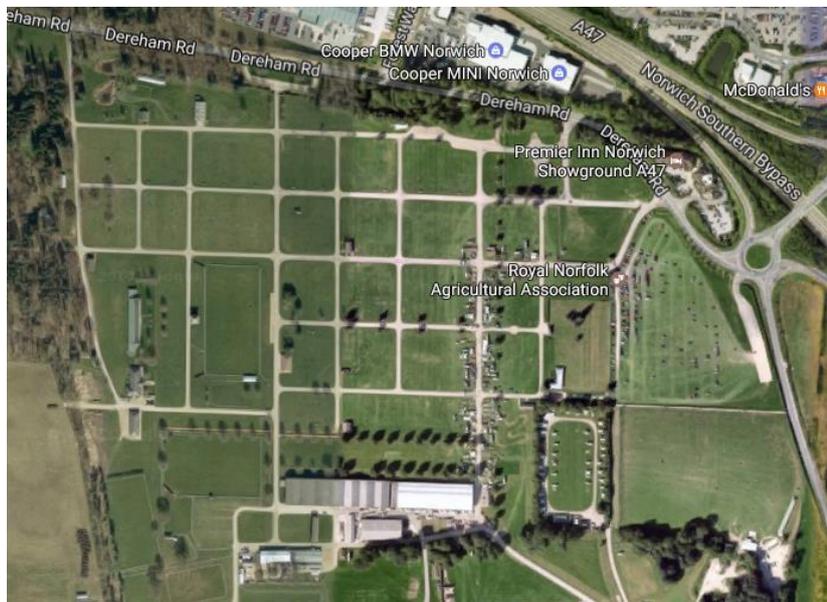
Each year Norfolk households generate over 390,000 tonnes of waste. This waste is collected from the kerbside wheelie bins by Norfolk's Borough, District, and City Councils. Household waste is also taken to the 20 recycling centres across Norfolk by residents and managed by the County Council.



What does 390,000 tonnes look like?

Imagine enough waste to:

- cover all 150 acres of the Norfolk showground in over half a metre of rubbish every year, or



- fill Norwich City's football stadium at Carrow Road to a depth of 16 metres every year.



SCOUTS

390,000 tonnes of waste is the same weight as:

- 65,000 African elephants



- 30,380 double decker busses



- 2,786 blue whales (the largest animal that has ever existed)



What happens to your waste?

About 46% of your waste is sent for recycling (or in the case of garden waste and food waste it's sent for composting).



All of Norfolk's recyclables collected at the kerbside from your wheelie bin (excluding food waste and garden waste) are taken to a Materials Recycling Facility (MRF) in Costessey near Norwich. Here the recyclable materials are sorted before being sent off for reprocessing.

WHY RECYCLE?



Recycling allows used materials to be made into new products. This reduces the need to consume natural resources. If used materials are not recycled, new products are made by extracting fresh, raw material from the Earth, through mining and forestry. Also, using recycled materials in the manufacturing process uses considerably less energy than that required for producing new products from raw materials.

As recycling saves energy it also reduces greenhouse gas emissions, which helps to tackle climate change. Current UK recycling is estimated to save more than 18 million tonnes of CO₂ a year – the equivalent to taking 5 million cars off the road.

Sending rubbish to be buried in the ground or burnt in an incinerator to generate electricity and heat costs Norfolk County Council around twice as much as it does to recycle. The money the County Council saves thanks to your recycling is spent on other services such as roads, libraries, schools, environmental projects, and social services.

For more information see www.recyclefornorfolk.com/learning-zone/why-recycle/

CLEAN, DRY, AND LOOSE

Please remember Norfolk's recycling service accepts a wide range of materials right from your home.

Just remember, all materials should be placed Clean, Dry & Loose in your recycling bin.

Clean – empty and rinse containers so they are free of food, drink or other residue.

Dry – after rinsing, shake off excess water as liquids can make other things soggy and not fit for recycling.

Loose – different materials need to go in your bin loose. Please don't put things in carrier bags, bin bags or boxes as they can't be separated and recycled.



REUSE

Reuse is often confused with recycling, but they are really quite different.

Recycling takes a product and makes it into a new version of the same thing or something else. Reuse is simply changing the user of the product or the way that product is used. This prolongs the life of the product and retains the value of it for longer. This is good for the environment as it displaces the need to use raw or recycled materials.



You can reuse by donating, selling or buying reusable things. There are many places to do this including charity shops, second hand shops, car boot sales, Freegle, free ads, eBay, Gum Tree, etc.



RAISING MONEY THROUGH RECYCLING

Did you know your Scout Group could raise money through recycling?

Every year, Norfolk County Council pays out around £200,000 to parish councils and community groups (including scout groups) across the county. Over 450 groups claim money for the collection and recycling wastes such as bottles, cans, paper, cardboard, and textiles. In most cases this involves simply arranging a recycling bank in your area and making a claim. For more information see www.norfolk.gov.uk/rubbish-recycling-and-planning/rubbish-and-recycling/recycling-credits.



WHAT HAPPENS TO WASTE THAT WE DON'T RECYCLE?

After all our efforts to reduce, reuse and recycle there is still a lot of waste generated by households in Norfolk that isn't recycled. In 2015/16 there was over 200,000 tonnes of waste left (over half a tonne for every Norfolk household). While we are working to reduce the amount of waste that is left, we still need to deal with the remaining residual waste we create in ways that are environmentally friendly and good value for money.

40,000 tonnes a year of residual waste are sent to an energy from waste facility in Great Blakenham in Suffolk. The waste is burnt to produce energy while scrap metals and ash generated from the process are recycled.

160,000 tonnes a year of residual waste are sent to three different facilities that process it into a fuel that is exported to combined heat and power facilities in Europe. The waste is burnt to generate electricity and heat.