

Essex Waste Partnership

# DRAFT WASTE STRATEGY FOR ESSEX

2024 - 2054



## Easy Read version



**RETHINKING**  
OUR WASTE

Working together for Essex

Essex County Council,  
Essex District, Borough  
and City Councils

# Introduction

When we say ‘we’ in this document, we mean the ‘Essex Waste Partnership’.



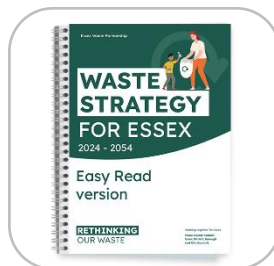
The Essex Waste Partnership is made up by the councils in Essex. This does not include Southend and Thurrock.



Some words are [blue and underlined](#). These are links that will take you to another website which has more information.

## About this Strategy

This strategy is about reducing and managing waste in Essex.



The current waste strategy for Essex was created in 2007. It needs to be updated as a lot has changed since then.

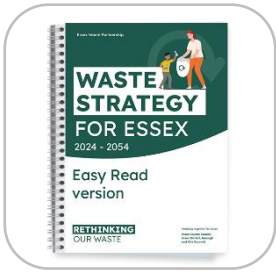


We have written this strategy, so we are clear about how we aim to reduce waste.

It tells you what we are aiming to do, by when, and how.

This strategy will last for 30 years, from 2024 to 2054.

## This strategy will tell us:



Why this strategy is important.



What our goals are.



What we need to do and how we will do it.



The next steps.

# Summary

## What is a waste strategy and why do we need one?



We want to reduce the impact that waste management has on climate change.



The strategy sets targets for waste reduction, recycling, and waste management in Essex.



It tells you how we will manage the waste made in Essex for the next 30 years.

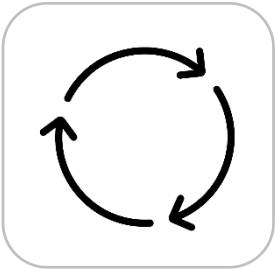
## The Essex Waste Partnership's goal



We aim to be a **zero waste** county. 'Zero waste' means reusing and recycling resources rather than dumping them.

By working together, we will reduce waste, protect the environment, and save resources.

## Our strategy



The best way to minimise our waste is to use a **Circular Economy**. This is where things are made to be reused forever.

This means we will reduce our waste, reuse things and recycle more.



Then we will need to think about what we can do with things we cannot recycle.

We will help businesses and people living in Essex do this.

## Why do we need to do this?



We need to minimise the impact we have on the environment and cost of waste management.

This section explains some of the other reasons why we need to do this.

## Climate Change

Waste has an effect on climate change. It is currently responsible for about 4% of greenhouse gas emissions in the UK.



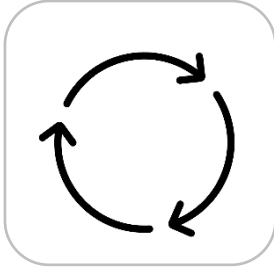
We can help reduce the amount of greenhouse gas emissions made by the way we collect and treat waste.

## What is a Circular Economy?



The way we make things is important. Most items are still designed to be used and then thrown away.

They often can't be used in the same way and can't be recycled.



To use the **Circular Economy** model, we need to think about how things are made.



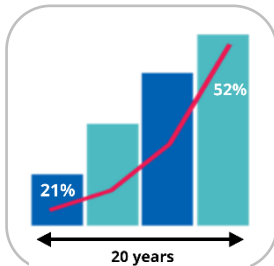
Items need to be long-lasting and easy to repair. This allows people to reuse the items for as long as possible.

When items can no longer be reused or repaired, they should be easy to break down and recycle.

## We have too much waste



Although we have already made improvements, we still produce too much waste.

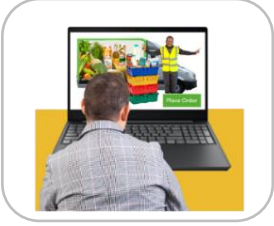


The amount of waste that is recycled has increased over 20 years from 21% to 52%.

## People and lifestyles



People are more aware of their impact on the environment.



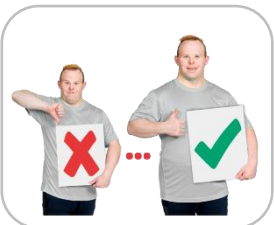
More online shopping and home working has changed the type of waste made.



Some homes don't have much space for recycling bins. We need to think about how we will collect recycling and waste from these homes.



The amount of people in Essex is likely to grow by 6%. More people means more waste produced.



It is important that waste services respond to these changes so we can improve the way we manage waste.

## Cost

It is much cheaper to avoid waste all together than to try and treat or dispose of it.



Waste created by people living in Essex costs the taxpayer more than £130 million a year.



Without changing how we work, waste management will cost more in the future. It is important to think about other options.

## Managing what can't be recycled

In 2022 we sent around 350,000 tonnes of household's waste to landfill.



Even if we achieve our targets, we will still have a lot of non-recyclable waste.



Landfill is the last resort, we must make sure that the impact of waste disposal is as little as possible.

## Laws

The government has made the **Environment Act 2021**. This is a guide on how to manage waste using the **circular economy** model.



It will also put new rules on councils and businesses to make sure they are doing what they should.



# What is a waste hierarchy?

## The Waste Hierarchy

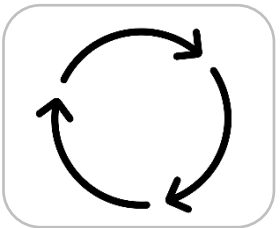


We must manage waste in ways that reduce the impact we have on the environment.

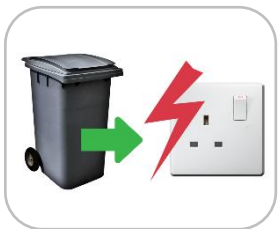
The **Waste Hierarchy** is a way to rate waste management options by what is best for the environment.



It rates avoiding waste as being the best and landfill as being the worst.



Products and materials should be reused first. When they are no longer reusable, they should be recycled. They should only be sent for recovery or disposal as a last resort.



**Recovery** is when waste is treated and used to make energy or other materials.

Using this guide will make sure we make the right choices about waste.

## Behaviour change



People can make mistakes when they recycle. Many people place items in the recycling that shouldn't go in there.

Some people do not realise the affect their waste has on the environment.



Lots of people find it difficult to reduce their waste. The Strategy aims to help people understand how they can reduce their waste.



People also want to see businesses reduce their packaging.

## Tackling Climate Change



Climate change is one of the biggest challenges we face.

Waste can be treated in different ways. This creates different amounts of greenhouse gas. We need to make sure we choose the best options for Essex.

## Research



We have done a lot of research about the type of waste in Essex and how it is disposed of.



We have also looked at how this might change in the future.



It has helped us understand what our priorities and targets should be.

## Our targets and aims



Targets are things we are committed to achieving. These targets are the government's current national targets. They are the minimum we **will do**.

We would like to go beyond these targets. Therefore we have added **aims** to help us have a bigger impact more quickly.



### Greenhouse Gas Emissions

**We will** reduce the county's greenhouse gas emissions to net zero by 2050.



### Waste Reduction

**We will** halve the amount of leftover waste made by each person by 2042.

**We aim** to reduce waste by 10% by 2030.

**We want** Essex to be a zero-waste county by 2054.



### Recycling

**We will** reuse, recycle or compost 65% of waste by 2035.

**We aim** to reuse, recycle or compost at least 70% of waste by 2030.



### Waste disposal

**We will** send no more than 10% of waste to landfill by 2035.

**We aim** to send zero waste to landfill by 2030.

## Collection Services

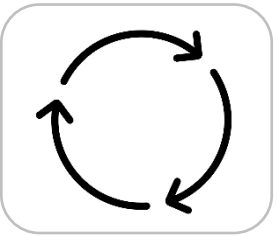


**We will** provide food waste collections to everyone by 2026.

**We will** provide a wide range of kerbside recycling by 2026.

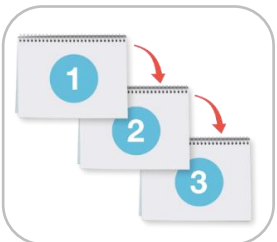
## This is what we will do

### Use a Circular Economy



Make the most of ideas in the Circular Economy model that will help Essex.

### We will use the Waste Hierarchy system



Deliver a system that puts waste reduction first.



Work together to help people to reuse and repair more.



Help people to recycle as much they can.

## **Work together**



Work together to make a better waste system

Work with government and businesses to make a better waste system.



## **Educate**

Show people how to reduce waste and recycle more.



## **Keep you up to date**

Publish our progress on our goal, targets and aims

Involve people living in Essex

## Consultation and next steps



This document is a draft version of the Waste Strategy for Essex 2024-2054.

Essex County Council is holding a **consultation**. This is where people who are affected by this strategy can give their views or feedback.

### What is a consultation?



Consultations are a way for you to tell us your views about a suggested project or change to service.

Taking part is very important. Feedback can have a big effect on the decisions we make.

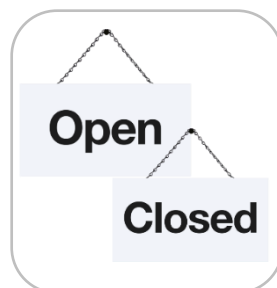


There is more information about the strategy and what we are doing at [essex.gov.uk/wastestrategy](https://essex.gov.uk/wastestrategy). This may not be in EasyRead format.

The Public Consultation Questionnaire is available at [essex.gov.uk/wastestrategy](https://essex.gov.uk/wastestrategy) for 10 weeks.



If you need the strategy and questionnaire in a different format, please email [wastestrategyforessex@essex.gov.uk](mailto:wastestrategyforessex@essex.gov.uk) or call 0345 603 7625.



The consultation period will open on 13 September 2023 and closes on 22 November 2023.

Paper copies will be accepted by post for a further five working days, closing on 29 November 2023.

## What happens next?



A report on the feedback will be available after the consultation is finished. This will be on our consultation platform at <https://consultations.essex.gov.uk/> and will be available in EasyRead format.

The feedback collected will be used to create the final version of the Waste Strategy.



The Waste Strategy for Essex will act as a framework for waste management in Essex.

Collections will continue to be managed by District, Borough and City Councils.