



WASTE STRATEGY

FOR ESSEX

2024 - 2054

Appendix 10 Targets and Ambitions Definitions

The Draft Waste Strategy for Essex contains ten proposed targets and ambitions.

Targets are things we are committed to doing. They are the government's current national targets and are the minimum we need to achieve.

Ambitions and aspirations are where we want to go further than the national target or achieve things more quickly.

Net zero greenhouse gas emissions



We will contribute to reducing the county's greenhouse gas emissions to net zero by 2050.

Waste reduction



We will halve the amount of residual waste produced per person by 2042.



We aim to reduce waste by 10% by 2030.



We aspire that Essex will be a zero waste county by 2055.

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 ensure that all Essex residents have access to separate food waste collections by 2026.



We will ensure that all Essex residents have access to comprehensive recycling services for plastic, paper and card, metal, glass, food and garden waste, by 2026.

Working towards these targets and ambitions will ensure we achieve the strategy vision. Why these targets and ambitions are important, what they tell us and how we intend to measure them are detailed further below.

Appendix 10 Targets and ambitions definitions

Full list of appendices can be found at <https://consultations.essex.gov.uk/rci/waste-strategy-for-essex-consultation/>

Target	We will contribute to reducing greenhouse gas emissions to net zero by 2050
Why is it Important?	Climate change, resulting in hotter and more extreme weather is happening today. This is due to greenhouse gas emissions caused by human activity. The generation and management of waste is a major contributor to greenhouse gas emissions in the UK. Reducing greenhouse gas emissions through the better design of waste services, adoption of lower carbon solutions and adherence to the waste hierarchy will contribute to the net-zero targets for council services. The choices we all make about how we dispose of our waste, and the way councils operate waste management services will affect the quantity of greenhouse gases emitted.
How will we measure it?	Although many local authorities are collecting and reporting greenhouse gas emissions data, there are no mandatory requirements for the public sector. This has led to some inconsistency in approach. The Essex Waste Partnership needs to undertake further work to develop the scope and approach for capturing emission data for waste management, and to establish a baseline from which progress will be judged. This will take place during the first year of strategy adoption.
How often will we measure it?	The frequency and format of reporting progress against this target will be dependent on the monitoring and measurement approach adopted.
What will measuring this tell us?	Measuring the greenhouse gas emissions will ensure waste management actively contributes to the ambitions of all councils to lower emissions and the achievement of net zero targets. The sharing of emission data will also enable best practice examples of low carbon waste operations to be identified and adopted across the partnership.
Further Information	The Climate Change Act 2008 sets a net zero carbon target for the UK by 2050

Target	We will halve the amount of residual waste produced by person by 2042
Why is it Important?	Residual waste is the unsorted waste that is not reused, recycled, or composted. It is disposed of in landfill or used to generate energy. Reusing, recycling or composting waste is almost always better for the environment and cheaper than sending waste to either a landfill or an energy facility. Reducing the amount of residual waste by waste reduction and higher levels of reuse, recycling or composting is therefore important if we are to protect the environment and reduce costs.
How will we measure it?	We will use weight data and the Office for National Statistics annual mid-year population estimates to calculate how much residual waste is produced per person in Essex and collected by Essex Councils. We will compare this to the baseline year for this target which is 2019. Our target is to have 50% less residual waste per person in 2042 compared to 2019.
How often will we measure it?	Performance against this target will be reported annually.
What will measuring this tell us?	It will tell us if our reuse, recycling, and composting services are being used by Essex residents and businesses. It will show if the information and support we provide are helping businesses and residents to reduce waste.
Further Information	This is a government target set for the Country as a whole. We propose to adopt the same approach in Essex as contained in The Environmental Targets (Residual Waste) (England) Regulations 2023

Ambition	We aim to reduce waste by 10% by 2030
Why is it Important?	All waste regardless of whether it is reused, recycled, composted, used to generate energy, or sent to landfill costs money and has a negative impact on the environment during its production or at the end of its life. Not generating as much waste in the first place has the greatest environmental and cost benefits.
How will we measure it?	We will use weight data detailing how much household reuse, recycling, composting and residual waste is collected by Essex Councils from Essex, together with the Valuation Office Agency household data to calculate how much total household waste is produced in Essex and collected by Essex Councils. We will compare this to the baseline year for this target which is 2020. We aim to have 10% less total waste in 2030 compared to 2020.
How often will we measure it?	Performance against this target will be reported annually.
What will measuring this tell us?	It will tell us if our reuse, recycling, and composting services are being used by Essex residents. It will show if the information and support we provide are helping residents to reduce waste. It will indicate if our work to lobby business and Government is resulting in changes to business practices or the introduction of new legislation to reduce waste at source
Further Information	This target was a recommendation of the Essex Climate Action Commission .

Aspiration	We aspire that Essex will be a zero-waste county by 2055
Why is it Important?	Minimising the demand on natural resources through waste reduction has the greatest positive impact. However, we cannot eliminate all waste and it is important that we maximise the reuse, recycling and recovery of any waste that is produced to further protect the environment. Zero waste in Essex means ensuring we treat any waste that is produced as a resource, rather than something to be discarded. Our ambition to be ‘zero waste’ will demonstrate our transition to a Circular Economy.

How will we measure it?	Although the waste reduction and recycling targets will help measure performance against this ambition, additional quantitative and qualitative measures will be required. Further work is required to develop a suite of measures and insight that will demonstrate how we are delivering against this aspiration. This will take place during the first year of strategy adoption.
How often will we measure it?	The frequency of reporting will be dependent on the suite of measures developed.
What will measuring this tell us?	Our ambition to be 'zero waste' will demonstrate our transition towards a Circular Economy where the maximum use is extracted from resources and minimum waste is generated for disposal.

Target	We will reuse, recycle or compost 65% of waste by 2035
Why is it Important?	The waste hierarchy sets out the order in which options for waste management should be considered based on environmental impact. Once waste is generated reuse is the best option followed by recycling and composting. Following the waste hierarchy and increasing the amount of waste we reuse, recycle and compost helps to protect the environment.
How will we measure it?	We will use weight data detailing how much reuse, recycling, composting and residual waste is collected by Essex Councils to calculate the % of waste that is reused, recycled, or composted. Our target is to reuse, recycle or compost at least 65% of local authority collected waste by 2035.
How often will we measure it?	Performance against this target will be reported annually.
What will measuring this tell us?	It will tell us if reuse, recycling, and composting services are being used by Essex residents and businesses. It will indicate if Councils are providing accessible and comprehensive recycling services to residents and businesses. It will indicate if residents and business are reducing the purchase and use of unrecyclable items and switching to recyclable alternatives.
Further Information	This is a Government target set for the Country as a whole, we propose to adopt this for Essex. See the

	Government's Circular Economy Package policy statement for further detail.
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Ambition	We aim to reuse, recycle or compost at least 70% of waste by 2030
Why is it Important?	<p>The waste hierarchy sets out the order in which options for waste management should be considered based on environmental impact. Once waste is generated, reuse is the best option followed by recycling and composting.</p> <p>Following the waste hierarchy and increasing the amount of waste we reuse, recycle and compost helps to protect the environment.</p> <p>We believe Essex can go further than the national target and is therefore aiming to achieve higher performance quicker.</p>
How will we measure it?	<p>We will use weight data detailing how much reuse, recycling, composting and residual waste is collected by Essex Councils to calculate the % of waste that is reused, recycled, or composted.</p> <p>Our ambition is to reuse, recycle or compost at least 70% of local authority collected waste by 2030.</p>
How often will we measure it?	Performance against this target will be reported annually.
What will measuring this tell us?	<p>It will tell us if reuse, recycling, and composting services are being used by Essex residents and businesses.</p> <p>It will indicate if Councils are providing accessible and comprehensive recycling services to residents and businesses.</p> <p>It will indicate if residents and business are reducing the purchase and use of unrecyclable items and switching to recyclable alternatives.</p>
Further Information	This target was a recommendation of the Essex Climate Action Commission .

Target	We will send no more than 10% of waste to landfill by 2035
Why is it Important?	The waste hierarchy sets out the order in which options for waste management should be considered based on environmental impact. Landfilling waste is at the bottom of the waste hierarchy and should therefore be avoided. By not sending waste to landfill we will reduce the environmental impacts of waste management.
How will we measure it?	We will use weight data detailing how much reuse recycling, composting and residual waste is collected by Essex Councils and how much of this is sent to landfill sites. We will use this to calculate the % of waste that is sent to landfill. Our target is to landfill no more than 10% of local authority collected waste by 2035.
How often will we measure it?	Performance against this target will be reported annually.
What will measuring this tell us?	It will tell us if reuse, recycling, and composting services are being used by Essex residents and businesses. It will show that Essex Councils have been successful in moving the treatment and disposal of local authority collected waste up the waste hierarchy to less damaging alternatives.
Further Information	This is a government target set for the Country as a whole, we propose to adopt this for Essex. See the Government's Circular Economy Package policy statement for further detail.

Ambition	We aim to send zero waste to landfill by 2030
Why is it Important	The waste hierarchy sets out the order in which options for waste management should be considered based on environmental impact. Landfilling waste is at the bottom of the waste hierarchy and should therefore be avoided. By not sending waste to landfill we will reduce the environmental impacts of waste management. We believe Essex can go further than the national target and are therefore aiming to achieve higher performance quicker.
How will we measure it?	We will use weight data detailing how much reuse, recycling, composting and residual waste is collected by Essex Councils and how much of this is sent to

Appendix 10 Targets and ambitions definitions

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	landfill sites. We will use this to calculate the % of waste that is sent to landfill. Our ambition is to send zero waste to landfill by 2030.
How often will we measure it?	Performance against this ambition will be reported annually.
What will measuring this tell us?	It will tell us if reuse, recycling, and composting services are being used by Essex residents and businesses. It will show that Essex Councils have been successful in moving the treatment and disposal of local authority collected waste up the waste hierarchy to less damage alternatives
Further Information	This target was a recommendation of the Essex Climate Action Commission .

Target	We will ensure that all Essex residents will have access to separate food waste collections by 2026
Why is it Important?	Over 25% of the residual waste collected in Essex by Councils is food waste. This waste is currently sent to landfill where it produces methane, a powerful greenhouse gas. If food waste can be collected separately, it can be used in Anaerobic Digestion facilities to produce biogas, a renewable energy, and fertiliser. This is the best treatment option for food waste. Providing food waste collection services to all households will help to eliminate food waste to landfill tackling the problem of landfill emissions head on.
How will we measure it?	We will use the food waste collection round data held by councils, together with the Valuation Office Agency household data to calculate the % of households that have access to a food waste collection service. Our target is to ensure all residents have access to food waste recycling services by the end of 2026.
How often will we measure it?	Performance against this target will be reported annually.
What will measuring this tell us?	It will tell us that the right waste collection systems are in place to reach our reuse, recycling, and composting targets.
Further Information	The provision of food waste collection services is a government target for the country. See the Environment Act 2021 for further information.

Target	We will ensure that all residents have access to comprehensive recycling services for plastic, paper and card, metal, glass, food, and garden waste by 2026
Why is it Important	Much of the residual waste collected in Essex could have been reused, recycled, or composted. This is not only a waste of valuable resources but is also detrimental to the environment. Achieving the targets and ambitions of the Waste Strategy for Essex require everyone to play their part. By ensuring comprehensive recycling opportunities are available to all we are maximising the opportunity for everyone to participate.
How will we measure it?	We will use the recycling collection round data held by councils, together with the Valuation Office Agency household data to calculate the % of households that have access to comprehensive recycling service. Our target is to ensure all residents have access to comprehensive recycling services by the end of 2026.
How often will we measure it?	Performance against this target will be reported annually.
What will measuring this tell us?	It will tell us that the right waste collection systems are in place to reach our reuse, recycling, and composting targets.
Further Information	The provision of comprehensive recycling services is a government target for the country. See the Environment Act 2021 for further information.

Essex Waste Partnership

This information is issued by Essex County Council on behalf of Essex Waste Partnership

To have your say on the draft Waste Strategy for Essex 2024-2054 and to see the full list of appendixes, visit <https://consultations.essex.gov.uk/rci/waste-strategy-for-essex-consultation/>

For help filling out the survey, call **0345 6037625**

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RETHINKING
OUR WASTE