

Essex Waste Partnership

# REDUCING AND MANAGING WASTE IN ESSEX

What people  
told us



## Easy Read version



**Easy  
Read**

**RETHINKING**  
OUR WASTE

Working together for Essex

Essex County Council  
Essex District, Borough  
and City Councils

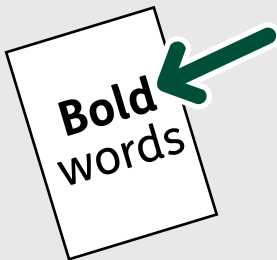
# Easy Read



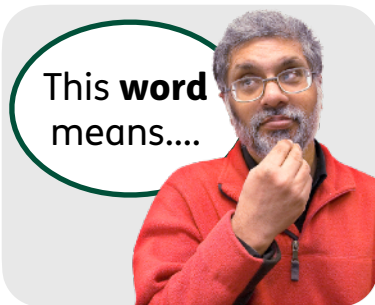
This is an Easy Read version of a report. It may not include all of the information but it will tell you about the important parts.



This Easy Read report uses easier words and pictures. Some people may still want help to read it.



Some words are in **bold** - this means the writing is thicker and darker. These are important words in the report.



Sometimes if a bold word is hard to understand, we will explain what it means.



Blue and underlined words show links to websites and email addresses. You can click on these links on a computer.

# What is in this report

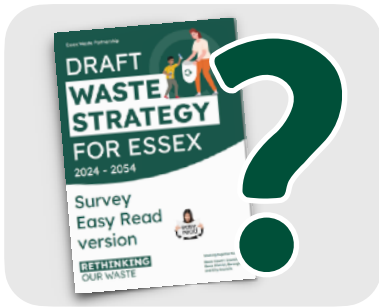
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# About this report



This report is from the **Essex Waste Partnership**.

The **Essex Waste Partnership** is made up of the councils in Essex. The group does not include Southend and Thurrock councils.



Last year we asked people what they thought of our **Waste Strategy**.



Our **Waste Strategy** is a plan that explains how we will manage the waste made in Essex for the next 30 years.



This report will tell you what we found out.

# Understanding the Waste Strategy



When we say **waste**, we mean any item that we do not need anymore.



When we throw the item away it becomes waste.



Some waste can be recycled into new items.



It is important to manage waste in the right way. Managing waste in the wrong way is bad for the **environment**.

The **environment** is where we live. It includes the land, the sea, the air and everything that lives in and on it. For example, plants, animals and fish.



Too much waste is also bad for the environment.



We want to:

- Make sure we manage waste in Essex in the right way.



- Reduce the harm that managing waste has on the environment.



- Reduce the amount of waste in Essex.

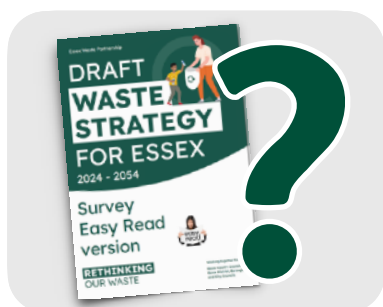


- Reuse and recycle as much as we can.



To help us do this we wrote a plan. We called it the Waste Strategy.

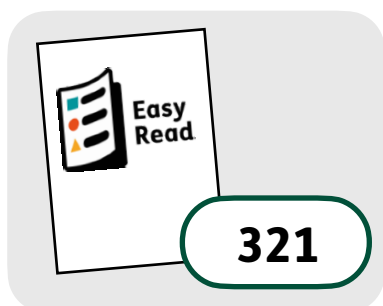
# What people told us



We asked people what they thought of the Waste Strategy.



4224 people took part in the full survey to tell us what they thought.



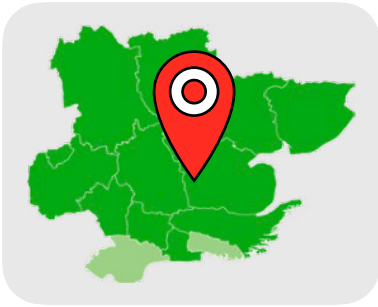
321 people took part in the Easy Read survey.



Some people also contacted us by email to tell us what they thought.



Most of the people who told us what they thought about the Waste Strategy were:



- People who live in Essex.



- People from organisations in Essex.



We asked people what they thought about each part of our plan.

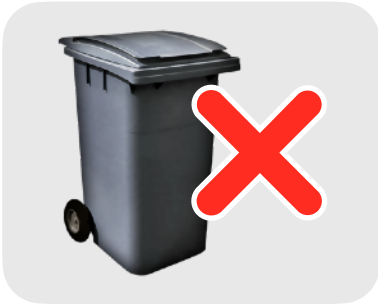


People could also fill in comments about each part of our plan.



All the feedback has been looked at and will help make the final version of the Waste Strategy.

## Our goal



Our goal is to be a **zero waste** county.

**Zero waste** means reusing and recycling waste instead of throwing it away.



Zero waste also means using **Recovery** for any waste that is left over.

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



By working together, we want to reduce waste, protect the environment and reuse as much as we can.



We asked people whether they agreed with our goal.

## What people said



About 7 out of every 10 people who took part in both surveys said they agreed with our goal.

People also made comments in the surveys, like:



- Zero waste is too difficult to achieve.



- Waste services need to be easy to use.



- Businesses should do more to reduce the waste they make, like packaging.

# Our targets



**Targets** are things we are committed to achieving. They are the big things that we want to make happen.



Our waste management targets are the same as the government's waste management targets.



We asked people whether they agreed with our targets.

## What people said



Nearly 5 out of every 10 people who took part in the full survey said they agreed with our targets.



Nearly 3 out of every 10 people who took part in the full survey think we should do more to achieve our targets.



Nearly 7 out of every 10 people agreed with our targets in the Easy Read survey.



People also made comments in the surveys, like:

- Our targets are too difficult to achieve.



- Waste services need to be easy to use.



Other people said our targets should be higher and we should try to achieve them sooner.

## Our aims



**Aims** are the things we should do to make the changes happen more quickly.



We asked people whether they agreed with our aims.

## What people said

In the full survey:



- Nearly 5 out of every 10 people said they agreed with our aims.



- Nearly 3 out of every 10 people think we should do more to achieve our aims.



Nearly 7 out of every 10 people agreed with our aims in the Easy Read survey.



People also made comments in the surveys, like:

- Our aims are too difficult to achieve.



- Zero waste is not possible.



Other people said our aims should be higher and we should try to achieve them sooner.





# Moving to a Circular Economy



A **Circular Economy** is a way of living that reduces the amount of waste we make.



A Circular Economy involves:

- Designing and making items that can be reused and repaired, instead of thrown away.
- Designing and making items that are easy to recycle.



Part of our Waste Strategy is to help Essex have a Circular Economy.



We asked people to tell us whether they agree with moving to a Circular Economy.

## What people said

About 6 out of every 10 people who took part in the full survey said they agreed with a Circular Economy.

Nearly 8 out of every 10 people agreed in the Easy Read survey.



People also made comments in the surveys like, they were concerned about the cost of changing to a Circular Economy.

People also made other comments in the surveys, like:



- A Circular Economy would be too difficult to achieve.



- People who live in Essex would need more education, training and support.



# Using the Waste Hierarchy



The **Waste Hierarchy** system is a way to rate waste options based on how they affect the environment.

Avoiding waste in the first place is rated as the best option for the environment.

Landfill is rated the worst.



Using the Waste Hierarchy system means we will:

- Help people living in Essex reduce their waste.
- Help people living in Essex reuse and repair more.



Using the Waste Hierarchy system means we will also:

- Help people living in Essex recycle more.

- Send less waste to landfill.



- Use Recovery to treat waste that cannot be recycled to make energy.

We asked people what they thought about us using the Waste Hierarchy system to manage waste.

## What people said

In the full survey:



- About 7 out of every 10 people agreed with avoiding waste and reusing things as ways to manage waste.



- Nearly 8 out of every 10 people agreed with recycling as a way to manage waste.



- Nearly 8 out of every 10 people agreed with sending less waste to landfill.



- About 6 out of every 10 people agreed with sending food waste to recovery, to make energy.



- Nearly 7 out of every 10 people agreed with sending waste that cannot be recycled to recovery, to make energy.



Nearly 8 out of every 10 people who took part in the Easy Read survey agreed with the Waste Hierarchy.



People also made comments in the surveys about avoiding waste, like:

- Businesses need to do more to reduce waste, like packaging.



- Waste collection services should collect waste more often.



- They are concerned about the cost of helping people to reduce their waste.

People also made comments in the surveys about reusing things, like:



- It needs to be easy and cheap to get things repaired.

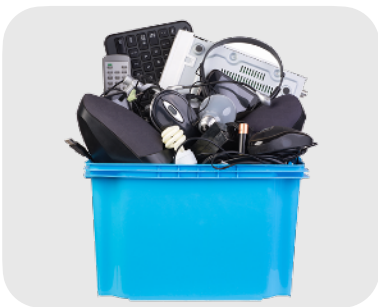


- People need to change the way they think about waste, and not throw so much away.

People also made comments in the surveys about recycling, like:



- Recycling services need to be easy to use.



- Waste collection services should take more things that can be recycled.



- People should not have to pay to have their garden waste collected.



People also made comments in the surveys about sending waste to landfill and recovery, like:



- There should be more information available that is easy to understand.



- They were concerned about how the environment would be affected.

## Work together



We want to work together with other organisations to manage waste in Essex.



We asked people what they thought about how we want to work together.

## What people said



Nearly 8 out of every 10 people who took part in the full survey agreed with working together to manage waste.



Nearly 9 out of every 10 people agreed in the Easy Read survey.



People also made comments in the surveys, like:

- It needs to be easy to use recycling centres.
- They were concerned about the cost of organisations working together.



## Educate



We want to show people how they can reduce waste and recycle more.



We asked people what they thought about how we want to do this.

## What people said



Nearly 8 out of every 10 people who took part in the full survey agreed that we should show people how they can reduce waste and recycle more.



Nearly 9 out of every 10 people agreed in the Easy Read survey.



People also commented in the surveys that we need to get better at listening and learning from people who live in Essex.

## Keep you up to date



We want to check the Waste Strategy is still working every 5 years.



We said we should make changes to the Waste Strategy every 5 years if we need to.



We want to keep people up to date on what we are doing and how it is going.



We asked people what they thought about how we plan to keep them up to date.

## What people said



Nearly 7 out of every 10 people who took part in the full survey agreed that we should keep everyone up to date with what we are doing and how it is going.



Nearly 9 out of every 10 people agreed in the Easy Read survey.



People also commented in the surveys that we need to review the Waste Strategy more often than every 5 years.

## Other comments



We asked people if there was anything else we should think about in the final Waste Strategy.

## What people said

People made comments in the surveys, like:



- Waste management and recycling services should be easy to use for everyone.



- They were concerned about whether the Waste Strategy would mean waste management costs more money.

# Looking after the environment



We wrote a report about how the Waste Strategy will help look after the environment.



We included questions about the report in the survey.

288 people answered the questions.

## What people said



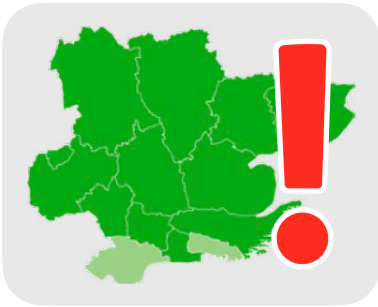
Just over 5 in every 10 of those people said the report was right about how the Waste Strategy would affect the environment.



Some people said they did not have enough information to answer questions about the report.



There was a lot of support for using ways to make energy from waste that cannot be recycled.



Some people were concerned about where waste facilities like recovery and landfill would be based.



# Find out more



You can look at our website here:  
[www.essex.gov.uk/wastestrategy](http://www.essex.gov.uk/wastestrategy)



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