

ORWP 2022-2023 Annual Report

Introduction

This is the annual report for the Oxfordshire Resources and Waste Partnership (ORWP) for 2022-2023. ORWP is a collaborative partnership between and funded by the 6 constituent local authorities (LAs) in Oxfordshire who are responsible for both household waste collection and disposal in the County:

- Cherwell District Council
- Oxford City Council
- Oxfordshire County Council
- South Oxfordshire District Council
- Vale of White Horse District Council
- West Oxfordshire District Council

ORWP is governed by a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) and a Joint Municipal Waste Management Strategy (JMWMS), called 'The Oxfordshire Resources and Waste Strategy 2018-2023'¹, which sets out our 3 strategic aims, the national policy picture, performance, resident responses to the consultation and the strategy for improving resources and waste management for household waste in Oxfordshire.

Our key aims are to:

- Keep household waste growth to zero (per person per year)
- Increase the amount of household waste we recycle to 70% by 2030
- Send less than 3% of our household waste to landfill by 2020

In order to support delivery of the key aims, ORWP has 6 objectives (updated during 2022) covering the waste hierarchy (Obj 1 and Obj 2); working with our residents to improve services (Obj 3); the circular economy (Obj 4), improve the local environment (Obj 5) and health & safety (Obj 6).

The Partnership structure consists of a number of groups with Members and Officers working at various levels to deliver against the common objectives of ORWP as outlined in the JMWMS. More detail can be found in the Appendix.

Priorities and Progress (2022-2023)

2022-2023 has been a busy year, building on the previous year's work. Key activities included the development of the new ORWP Vision, JMWMS activity, national engagement, the SCRAP fly-tipping campaign, Persistent Organic Pollutants (POPs) and ongoing communication activity by all Partners. More detail is below:

1. National Representation and Consultations

The changes proposed under the Government's national Resources and Waste Strategy (2018) and the Environment Act (2021) are significant in both scale and impact on how recycling and waste for households and businesses is managed.

¹ www.oxfordshire.gov.uk/sites/default/files/file/waste-and-recycling/OxfordshiresResourcesandWasteStrategy.pdf

The focus is currently on household waste in the main and represents a substantial shift in how local authority (LA) waste services will be funded and delivered. This will be through policies such as Extended Producer Responsibility for Packaging (pEPR); a Deposit Return Scheme for drinks containers (DRS) and Consistency of Collections.

The Government has run 2 sets of national consultations across these policy areas; in 2019 and 2021, to which ORWP responded. The sector has been waiting since late 2021 for the Government's response to the Consistency of Collections consultation, which is due to set out the Government's mandate on what is collected across England for recycling, and how it should be collected. Funding leveraged through the EPR scheme is due to support the changes LAs are expected to make under Consistency. However, because of the delays and without the detail, forward planning and budget setting continues to be a challenge for all Partners.

ORWP activity on this includes:

- Active engagement through national groups and meetings and events, representing ORWP. This included the National Association of Waste Disposal Officers (NAWDO) and their Policy and Advisory Committee, Defra Local Authority Engagement Forum, South East Waste Partnership Group and the District Council's Network (DCN). The DCN Chief Executives Group is currently chaired by the Chief Executive for Cherwell District Council (Yvonne Rees); this has provided ORWP with a broader platform from which to engage nationally on waste and recycling policy.
- Consultations and Calls for Evidence that ORWP responded to:
 - Landfill Tax
 - Review of Waste Carrier, Broker, Dealer Regime
 - Digital Waste Tracking
 - Inclusion of EFW in UK ETS
 - Environmental Targets
 - Non-HH waste charges at HWRCs
- Co-signing of a lobbying letter to Defra Secretary of State on the impacts of the ongoing delays to the remaining national consultation responses at the time (DRS, Consistency and Waste Prevention Programme) from Government.

2. Environment Act implications for ORWP

- Briefings for Members and Officers on progress, delays and likely implications of key policy areas viz. pEPR, DRS, Consistency of Collections and Waste Prevention.
- Direct engagement with Defra on the details of national policies as noted in the previous bullet and possible impacts and opportunities for ORWP Partners.

3. JMWMS action plan targets and delivery

- JMWMS action plan review and prioritisation.

4. Deliverable projects:

- The Hertfordshire Fly-tipping Group developed the SCRAP² campaign which has been adopted by over 120 local authorities in England.

² SCRAP acronym is Suspect - Check - Refuse - Ask - Paperwork: comms campaign to raise awareness of the Duty of Care for householders to manage their waste correctly and appropriately; www.oxfordshire.gov.uk/flytipping

- The ORWP-sponsored project ran over 3 phases from March 2022 to November 2022 and activity included online campaigns (phases 1 and 3) and printed publications (phase 2).
 - Phases 1 and 3 primarily used social media; both targeted (paid for) and organic (free) approaches, utilising multiple channels such as Facebook, Twitter, Instagram and Google Ads. In phase 3, printed banners for the 7 Household Waste Recycling Centres were also created; these remain up at the sites as part of ongoing messaging.
 - Phase 2 included a month-long bus advertising campaign, posters at Oxfordshire libraries, articles and adverts in local digital newsletters and magazines (eg. District/Parish news/Your Oxfordshire) and CCTV signage for Enforcement Teams.
 - Beyond the end of phase 3, and to further support an ongoing drip-feed of messaging, an advert in the 23-34 Council Tax Leaflets has also been sent to all Oxfordshire households.
 - Final report due in 2023.

Additional work undertaken:

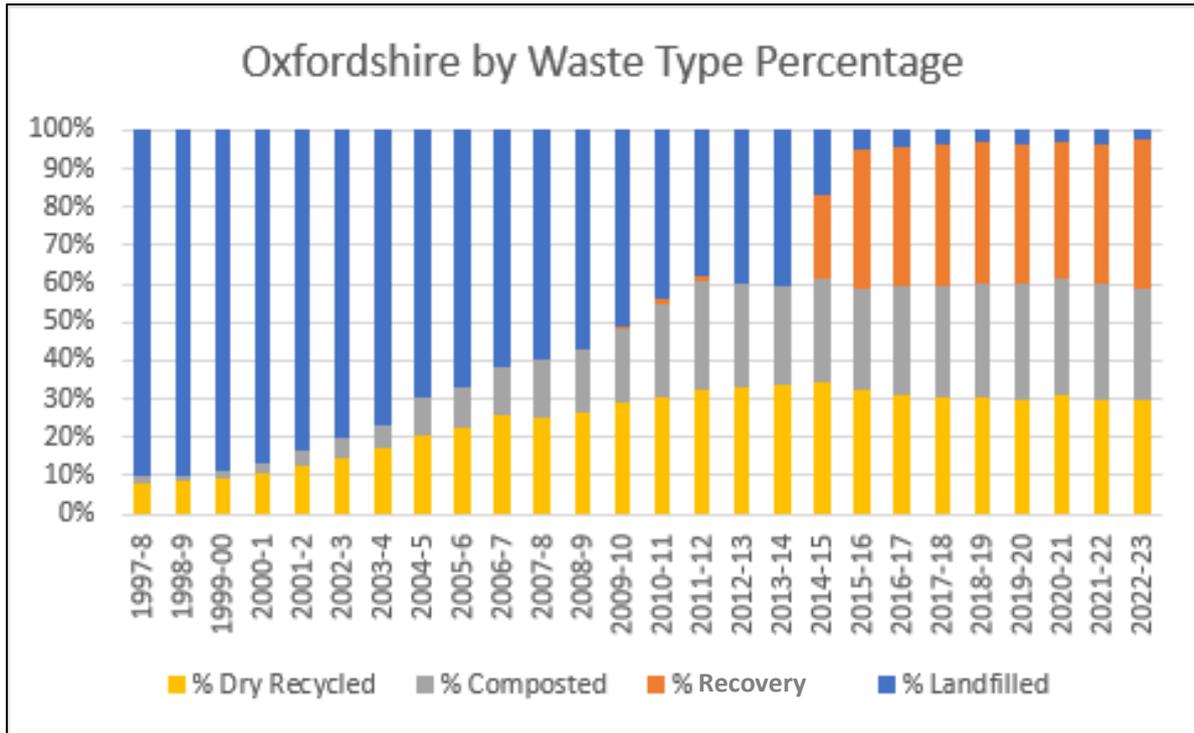
- Review and update of ORWP Vision: update to vision within the JMWMS, agreed with Members March 2022

‘As the Oxfordshire Resources and Waste Partnership, our vision is to reduce Oxfordshire’s carbon emissions, especially through positive resource management. We will continue to work with our residents and businesses to reduce Oxfordshire’s waste as much as possible; while reusing, repairing and recycling as much as we can of what is left before it goes to energy recovery.

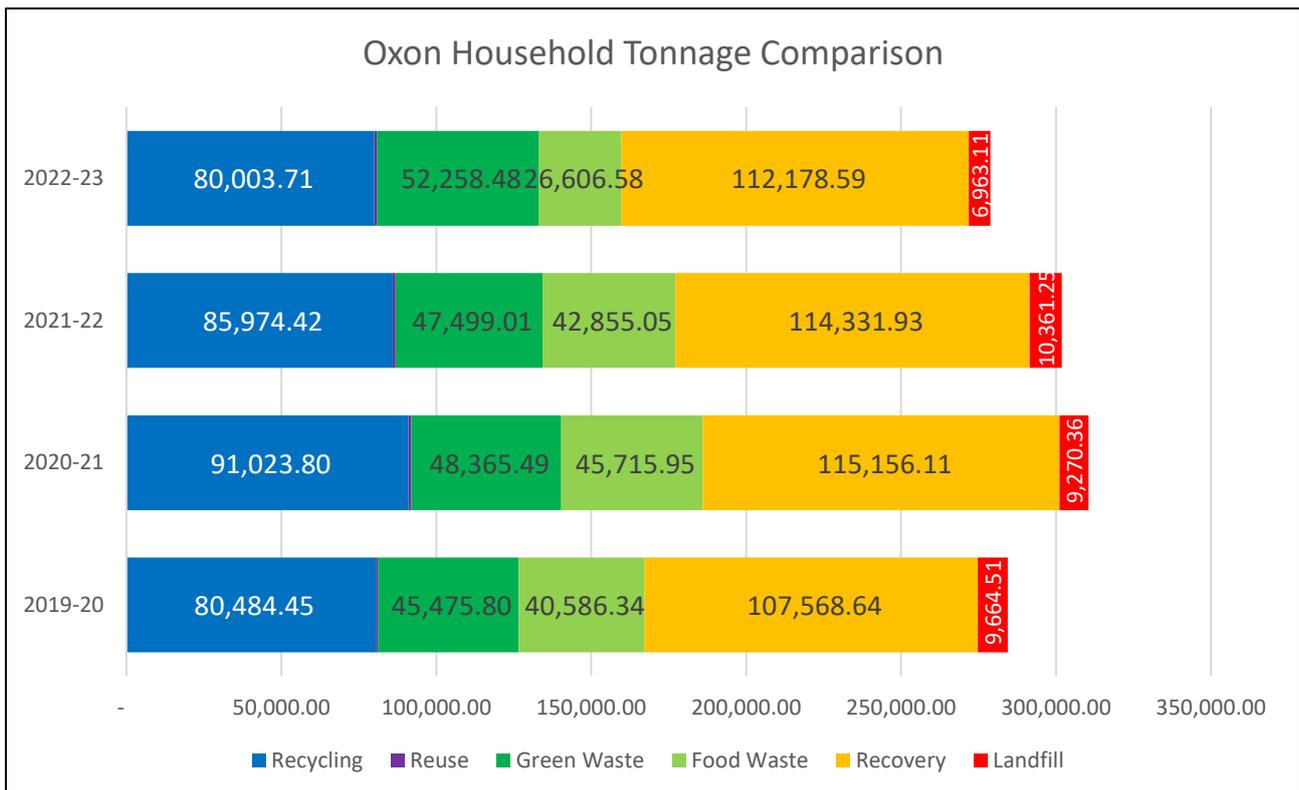
We will use this circular economy approach to support the creation and delivery of wider environmental, economic and social benefits for our communities.’

- Establishment of new Health & Safety Working Group in May 2022.
- Supporting Partners on individual key projects and tasks.
- Hosting of a joint meeting between ORWP Partners and the Hampshire waste partnership (Project Integra) on Podback (national coffee pod recycling initiative). Cherwell District Council are launching the scheme May 2023.
- Attended multiple meetings of the Oxfordshire Chief Executive group on national policy and impacts for Partners; with a request for future updates as needed.
- Persistent Organic Pollutants: Significant engagement and work on Persistent Organic Pollutants (POPs) during this period. This included supporting all ORWP Partners to put plans in place to ensure compliance by the deadline, plus a Partnership letter to the Environment Agency highlighting key issues and concerns; the confirmation of compliance letter to the Environment Agency for all Partners confirming arrangements and a compliant disposal solution being in place for all ORWP collection authorities from 01.01.2023. Ongoing support for day-to-day operational delivery and links with external bodies (such as NAWDO) to keep ahead of any future developments.
- Partnership governance and structures maintained

Partnership Performance and Data



The graph above (Oxfordshire by Waste Type percentage) clearly shows the significant improvement in diverting waste from landfill to energy recovery since the late 1990's. It also shows both the early improvement but also more recent, plateauing of the recycling rate. While this plateau is reflected in national trends; ORWP Partners have been working hard to both support residents to recycle better, focusing on putting the correct items in the recycling bin; and to reduce their waste arising through various communications campaigns and direct engagement. This work will continue during 2023-2024.



The graph above (Oxon Household Tonnage Comparison) shows a notable reduction in food waste tonnages for 2022-2023. This is due to a service change made by Cherwell District Council in providing separate collections for food and green waste; where previously these were co-collected and recorded under the 'Food Waste' category for previous years.

Green waste tonnages for 2022-2023 were lower as a result of the hot and dry summer of 2022.

Planned activity for 2023-2024

Working together, we will deliver the 2023-2024 priorities, including:

- Delivery of the Joint Municipal Waste Management Strategy objectives
- Modelling the likely impacts – services and finance - of Environment Act policies (pEPR, DRS, Consistency) for Partners; once full suite of consultation responses and detail received
- Continue engagement with the national programme, and with representative bodies (eg. DCN, NAWDO, etc) and others (eg. Future Oxfordshire Partnership (FOP))
- Review and deliver the final report for the Oxfordshire SCRAP Fly-tipping campaign
- Progress review on future in-County waste infrastructure
- Progress review on Partnership financial mechanisms and Structures
- Responding to appropriate consultations and calls for evidence
- Supporting Partners on issues such as POPs and future service changes
- Supporting delivery of future projects eg. Material Focus funding bid on disposable vapes
- Support the development and delivery of communications and engagement, and waste prevention
- Refreshing the JMWMS; building in the strategic waste prevention and communications approaches for the partnership
- Annual Report for 2023-2024

Appendix:
The structure of ORWP:



Partnership Board

The Partnership Board consists of the Portfolio Holders from each Partner, supported by the Strategy Group. Chair of the Board is held for two years, in alphabetical order by Partner Authority, with the deputy being the Member from the next Partner to hold the Chair. The current Chair is Oxfordshire County Council (from Jan 2023) and the deputy is South Oxfordshire District Council; with the latter taking the Chair from January 2025. The Board meets at least 3 times a year, after the Strategy Group have met; with additional meetings as required.

Strategy Group

The Strategy Group is made up from Directors and senior officers from each Partner, each with an overview of strategic waste matters for their local authority. The group meets at least 3 times a year, prior to the Partnership Board meetings and also with additional meetings as required.

Working Groups

Working groups meet regularly throughout the year, and at varying intervals. Additional 'Task and Finish' groups are formed as needed.

- *Operations (Ops) Group*: comprising technical officers from each Partner
- *Waste & Recycling Projects (Projects) Group*: comprising recycling officers from each Partner
- *Health & Safety Working (H&S) Group*: comprising appropriate operational officers from each Partner
- *Enforcement Officers*: comprising enforcement officers from each Partner

Partnership Manager

The Partnership Manager (PM) is a role that is jointly funded by all ORWP Partners, hosted by Oxfordshire County Council. The PM is required to advance the Partnership Principles and Partnership Objectives.