

A Waste Strategy for BCP Council

2026-2036

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Introduction

Bournemouth, Christchurch and Poole (BCP) Council is a unitary authority formed in 2019. In 2024/25, we managed 188,967 tonnes of waste from 189,550 households and 3,300 businesses.

In England, household recycling rates have risen from 1% in 2000/01 to 44% in 2022/23 but have now plateaued below the 50% target set for 2020. New government targets for municipal recycling aim for 55% by 2025, increasing to 65% by 2035.

As a local council, we are legally responsible for the collection and disposal of household waste and recycling from the kerbside and for the provision and management of recycling centres for residents to deposit waste. We must offer commercial waste collections when requested.

To support sustainable waste behaviours, we engage residents and businesses in targeted waste campaigns and initiatives following the waste hierarchy to encourage reduction and reuse as a priority and promote good recycling habits.

What we do with waste and recycling after it is collected depends on factors such as the availability of local disposal facilities and a market demand for recycled products.

We must balance managing waste within council budgets, established legislation and policies to preserve resources and protect the local and global environment we live in.



The waste hierarchy

The good news is that England's management of waste is undergoing transformational change at the national level. There is an emphasis on creating a circular economy aimed at increasing waste reduction, reuse, and repair.

With much variation in waste services offered by councils across the country, new legislation will provide more consistent recycling collections for households and greater opportunities for recycling at work. New legislation will also influence the types of packaging used by producers, designing out waste and enhancing its recyclability.

The Environment Act 2021 has led to simpler recycling collections, a deposit return scheme for drinks containers and an extended producer responsibility for packaging scheme, where producers pay for disposal. The inclusion of energy from waste facilities in the emissions trading scheme



A circular economy

will encourage the decarbonisation of waste, diverting and recycling waste from the refuse stream to avoid financial penalties.

While councils have limited control over the amount and types of waste thrown away, these measures should help reduce waste, disposal of plastic and single use textiles and make recycling easier with less confusion for residents on how items can be recycled.

Ultimately the contents of rubbish and recycling bins will likely alter and methods of waste collection and disposal for households and businesses will need to adapt over the lifetime of this strategy.

This Waste Strategy for Bournemouth, Christchurch and Poole sets out a pathway for managing our waste over the next ten years, with consideration to the changes and challenges coming ahead.

What remains unchanged is our commitment, we will continue to work with our residents, businesses and communities to manage our waste in the most sustainable way that we can. We will reduce our waste through prevention, reuse and repair, recycle when those things are not possible and dispose of anything that is left in the most environmentally responsible manner available.

Where we are now

Waste collections

In 2024/25, we managed 165,200 tonnes of household waste from 189,550 homes.

We collect waste from standard households using the following collection arrangements:

Collection	Residual	Recycling	Food	Garden
Frequency	Fortnightly	Fortnightly	Weekly (Bournemouth and Christchurch)	Fortnightly subscription
Container (Litres)	1 x 180L	1 x 240L	1 x 23L outdoor container and 1 x 7L indoor kitchen caddy	1 or 2 x optional and chargeable 240L
Colour				

Additional bins can be allocated to households of 5 or more, 2 or more children in nappies or for medical reasons, subject to specific criteria.

The following containers are provided as standard to flat blocks, which make up 27% of households in the BCP area. The numbers of containers will depend on the number of flat units, and the overall capacity should approximately align to standard households:

Collection	Residual	Recycling	Food	Garden
Frequency	Fortnightly	Fortnightly	Weekly (Bournemouth and Christchurch)	Fortnightly - subscription
Container (Litres)	660/1100L	660/1100L	140L outdoor bin and optional indoor 7L kitchen caddy	1 or 2 x optional and chargeable 240L
Colour				

We do not collect extra waste on top or outside of bins or contaminated recycling bins.

All new, replacement or extra rubbish and recycling bins must be paid for by the resident, or landlord, if the property is rented. Exemption applies where bins are reported lost or damaged by our crews during collection or where a permanent resident of the property receives certain income-based benefits.

Our waste collection guidance sets out our collection policies and instructions on our [website](#).

In the kerbside recycling bin, we can recycle mixed paper, cardboard, cartons, cans, foil, glass bottles/jars and plastic bottles, tubs, pots and trays. All items should be loose, clean, dry and empty.

We offer a sharps collection, upon request for residents unable to return sharps waste to a GP or pharmacy.

Waste sites

We operate three recycling centres in Bournemouth, Christchurch and Poole where residents and businesses can deposit waste and recycle a wider range of items, including garden waste, electrical items, DIY waste, batteries, paint, wood, oil, coffee pods, printer cartridges and textiles.

Each recycling centre has a reuse area, where residents can leave items worthy of another life which are taken to sell at our reuse shop, new to you, currently located at Cabot Lane in Poole. We have 19 textile banks in accessible locations across the conurbation.

The three waste transfer stations we operate allow us to store and bulk waste and recycling where needed from kerbside collections and waste collected from the beach, before it is sent on for treatment or disposal.

Waste performance

In 2024/25, we diverted 89.72% of our 165,200 tonnes of household waste from landfill and achieved a recycling and composting rate of 43.9%, in-line with the national average of 44%. While high performing Councils are usually rural with higher quantities of garden waste to compost than in the BCP area, we know we can do better and want to improve our recycling performance.

Our recycling and composting rate has fallen from 53.9% in 2019/20, partially due to wood processing being reclassified from recycling to energy recovery and a reduction in collected recycling weight from lighter packaging. Household waste per person remains high at 407.18kg per year, compared to the national average of 377kg.

In 2024/25, we managed a total of 188,967 tonnes of municipal waste (waste from households and similar waste from businesses) and recycled 40.60% of it. The UK Government new targets are for municipal waste, so businesses must be encouraged to recycle too.

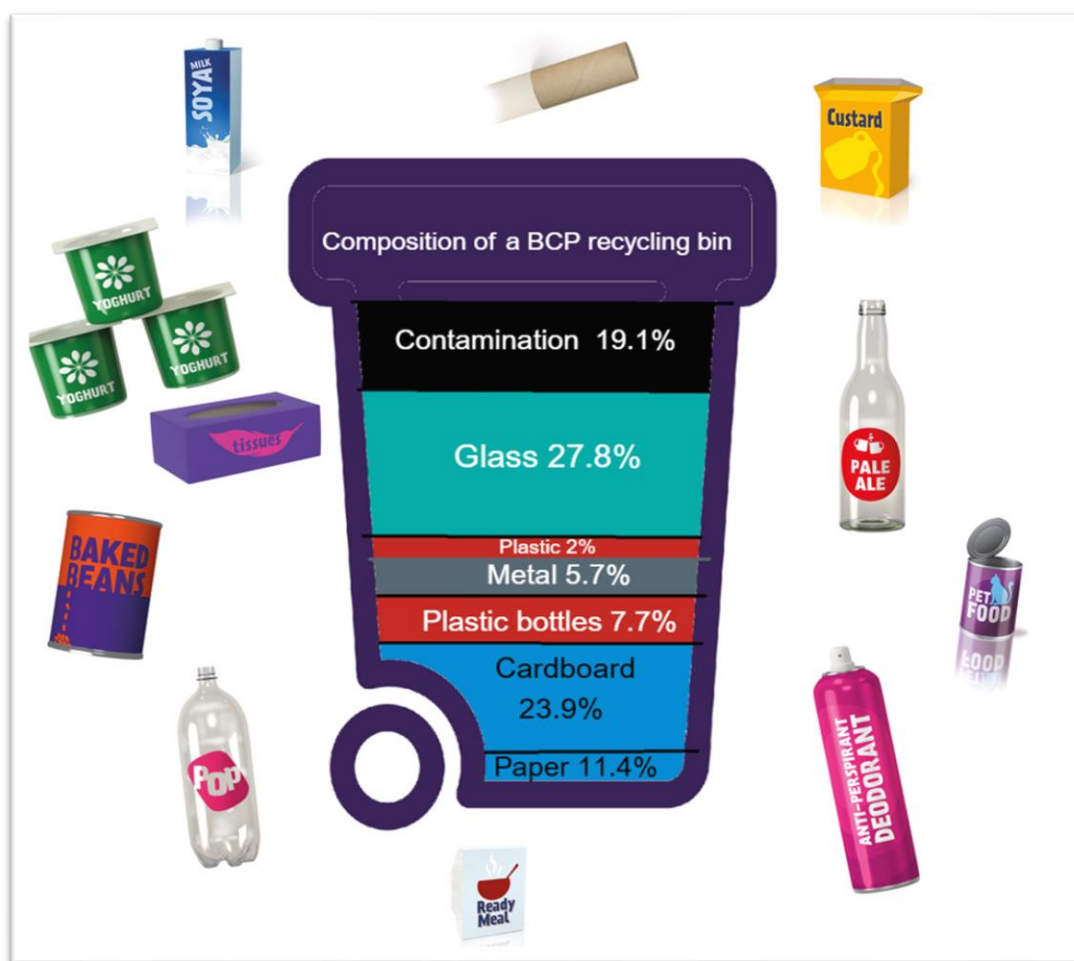
Waste analysis

In May 2022, we collected and weighed a sample of our residents' bins - a waste compositional analysis - to understand what types and amounts of waste are being put in our kerbside rubbish and recycling bins.

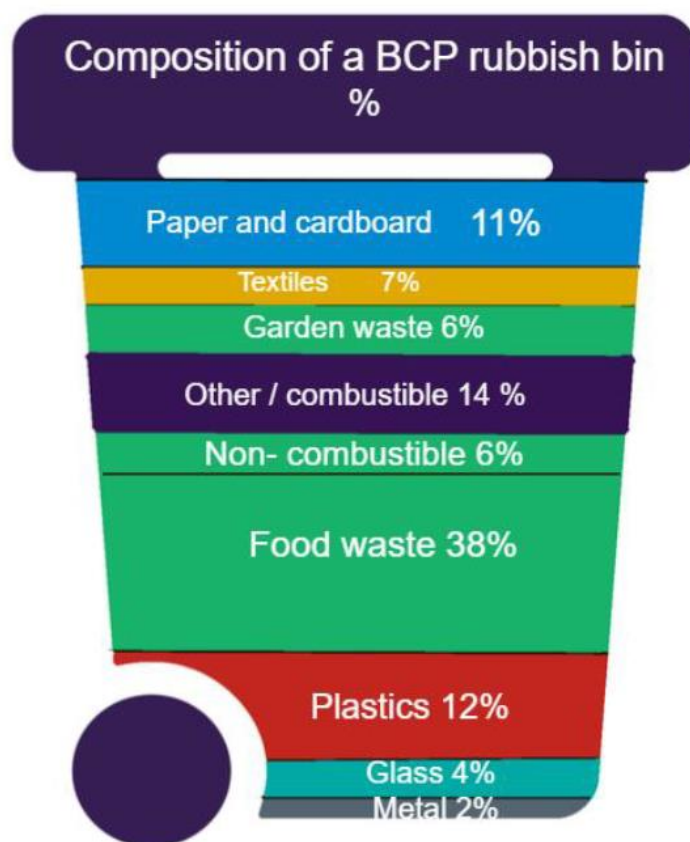
The good news is most households are recycling, 79% of households regularly put out recycling bins for collection, with an average of 3.1 kg per household per week recycled.

We can recycle mixed paper, cardboard, cartons, cans, foil, glass bottles/jars and plastic bottles, tubs, pots and trays in the kerbside bin.

There is still uncertainty from residents about what goes in which bin as a result, contamination in the recycling bin has continued to increase to 19%. This is what residents put in bins, not the amount collected. Our collection crews check bins for contamination, then tag and leave contaminated bins uncollected. Contamination is removed when our recycling is separated into different material types at the Materials Recycling Facility. Contamination is primarily caused by non-recyclable plastics, wet paper or card, and food waste.



BCP households produce on average 5.7 kg of rubbish each week.



Notably, 51% of this waste in the rubbish bins could be recycled at the kerbside, showing a huge potential for improvement. There is still a substantial amount of food waste (38%) in the rubbish bins in Bournemouth and Christchurch that could be collected separately for recycling. 76% of this food waste is avoidable, so could be reduced with better planning and use of food.

Food waste collection yields in Bournemouth and Christchurch are average in comparison to other local authorities of similar type but could be improved through better communications and service updates.

Diverting recyclable waste from the rubbish bin into the kerbside recycling bin is estimated to increase our recycling rate by 8% and offer £1m of disposal costs saving. Introducing food waste collections to Poole and all flats is anticipated to increase our recycling rate by 7%. Additional diversion would be achieved by redirecting food and garden waste from the rubbish to the correct bins.

Proportion that is recyclable	
Paper and card	5%
Garden waste	4%
Food waste	34%
Plastic	3%
Metals	1%
Glass	4%
Total recyclable content	51%

Resident satisfaction

The BCP Council's Residents' Survey 2023 reported 81% of respondents were satisfied with our waste collection service, a 1% decrease since 2021. When asked about our local tips and household waste recycling centres, 58% of respondents were satisfied. However, of the 64% of respondents that have used one of our recycling centres in the past year, 80% were satisfied with the service.

Carbon impact

In 2022, waste contributed 3% of the total greenhouse gas emissions within the BCP area. A 2024 carbon impact assessment highlighted expanding food waste collection across BCP would reduce total carbon emissions, through lower residual waste emissions and an increase in recycling. Vehicle emissions would slightly increase due to expanded collections, but overall environmental impact would be significantly improved.

What happens to our waste?

Residual waste is processed through Mechanical Biological Treatment (MBT), Energy from Waste (EfW) facilities or sent to landfill. There are currently no local energy from waste facilities and only one landfill site. Residual waste is therefore transported long distances for disposal, with the end destination dependent on available capacity, market conditions and economic contracts.

Mixed dry recycling is transferred to a Materials Recycling Facility (MRF) in Kent, where it is separated into different material streams for recycling. Recycling is a worldwide commodity that is bought and sold daily - as there is more recycled waste than is required by UK businesses, the value is therefore dependent on worldwide economic and trade conditions.

Food waste is processed at an anaerobic digestion (AD) plant in Dorset, producing biogas and bio-fertiliser, while garden waste is composted in open windrow at Hurn. A new biogas facility is being built at Hurn for additional food waste from the BCP and surrounding areas.

The council currently disposes and recycles 188,967 tonnes of waste under various contracts that are due to expire during the period of this strategy. The UK waste management model is for contracts to be put in place between waste collectors and waste disposal/recycling sites, sometimes through a third party.

We currently have contracts with 13 different suppliers to dispose of our waste and recycling, with some end destinations in the UK and some across the world.



Commercial waste services

There are nearly 15,400 businesses in our area, 89% of which are micro-businesses with fewer than 10 employees.



We offer commercial waste collections tailored to the specific needs of the business for refuse, recycling and food waste and have a customer base of 3,300. Commercial weighbridges operate at Bournemouth and Poole Recycling Centres, where businesses can dispose of general waste, wood, green waste, soil/rubble and recycling, in 100kg increments to offer a cost-effective solution for small amounts of waste.

Food waste and recycling collection uptake has increased since April 2025, when businesses with 10 or more employees were required legally to arrange separate collections for food waste and recycling. Businesses with under 10 employees will be required to arrange separate collections of recycling and food waste from 31 March 2027.

Additional services operated by our commercial team include bulky household waste collection, skip hire, and grab bags for smaller waste quantities.

Waste prevention campaigns

We encourage residents and businesses to reduce and reuse their waste where possible through various campaigns and initiatives including:

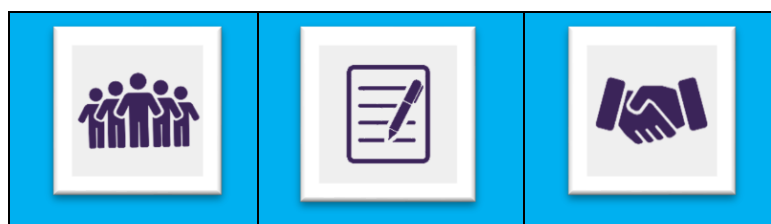
- The Schools Environment Award which promotes eco-friendly behaviours in primary schools
- Reusable nappies incentive scheme offering vouchers, cashback and starter kits to parents
- Love Food Hate Waste campaign to reduce food waste
- Zero waste projects map highlighting local sustainability initiatives such as Repair Cafés, Community Fridges, Toy Libraries, and reusable nappy retailers.
- Home composting to encourage garden and food waste reduction at source
- new to you reuse shop in Poole sells items collected for reuse from recycling centres, supporting waste diversion and reuse.

Waste budgets

In 2024/25, we spent £17.3m on waste collection and sites, plus £19.4m disposing of waste and recycling. The waste service generated £10m of income from our commercial waste, garden waste services and sale of some recycling. In 2025/26 the Council received £9.4m of funding from packaging producers through a new national tax on packaging producers.

The net waste management budget is now around £17.3 million per annum, although this can change quite quickly because of new national government policies and regulations, RPI/CPI, the weather (growing conditions), the country's economic status and events that affect the world economy.

Key drivers – why do we need to act?



Waste growth

Between 2022-2024, our population increased by between 0.6 -1% each year to 408,967. In the last five years, 6,000 new properties have been built in our area and with a government target of 2,958 additional builds each year, our population and waste are set to increase. This may result in the generation of an additional 25,674 tonnes of waste per annum in the BCP area by 2036, although other waste reduction policies will impact tonnage too.

National waste policies and legislation

Waste management in the UK is governed by legislation and policies that prioritise the circular economy, reduce landfill reliance, eliminate avoidable waste and increase recycling and resource efficiency. The Environmental Protection Act 1990, Landfill Tax and Waste (England and Wales) Regulations 2011 set out legal duties concerning waste management, waste reduction and recycling targets.

In December 2018, the Government published 'Our Waste, Our Resources: a Strategy for England'. This strategy and UK's Circular Economy Package that followed, set targets for at least 65% of municipal waste to be recycled by 2035, with no more than 10% ending up in landfill and the elimination of food waste to landfill by 2030.

The Environment Act 2021 specifies requirements for improved recycling collections, with the introduction of statutory food waste collections from every household and business, collection of a core set of materials for recycling, including plastic film by 2027 and separated paper and cardboard, unless separate collections are technically, environmentally or economically unpracticable. This act also introduced the legal framework for:

- Extended producer responsibility (EPR) for packaging, which makes businesses responsible for the full cost of dealing with the packaging they produce or import once it becomes waste, shifting the financial burden from councils, encouraging better packaging design and more sustainable material use. Councils need to demonstrate they are providing 'efficient and effective' waste services to receive funding.
- Deposit return scheme (DRS) where to reduce litter and boost recycling, from October 2027, a small deposit will be paid for a plastic drinks bottle or can, which is refunded when the container is returned to a shop or return point. This scheme may substantially reduce the number of plastic bottles and cans recycled by residents in our kerbside recycling bins.

There is an increasing momentum to ban types of waste from landfill, such as biodegradable waste, upholstered domestic seating due to chemicals used historically in their manufacture and potentially carpet.

The government is committed to eliminate avoidable plastic waste by 2042, with a plastic tax introduced in 2022, single use plastic ban from 2023 and the inclusion of energy from waste facilities in the emissions trading scheme in 2028, which will have substantial financial implications for councils unless we can reduce high carbon materials such as plastics, textiles and sanitary waste in our rubbish bins.

By the end of 2025, the government plan to establish a comprehensive Circular Economy Strategy for England, supported by the Circular Economy Taskforce, which aims to shift from a linear "take-make-dispose" model to a circular economy that maximises product and material lifespan through repair, reuse, and recycling. The taskforce will initially focus on the five priority sectors which are textiles, transport, construction, agri-food, chemicals and plastics.

As a result of these government policies, we will need to build in flexibility to contracts, demonstrate effective and efficient collections to receive EPR payments and adapt our waste and recycling services to accommodate legislative requirements and changes in the type and amount of waste we are required to collect and dispose.

Aligning with our corporate strategies

This Waste Strategy aligns with and supports our Corporate Strategy—A Shared Vision for Bournemouth, Christchurch and Poole. The corporate vision aims to connect people, nature, coast and towns to build sustainable, safe, and healthy communities.

The Waste Strategy is linked to the council's strategic priorities, which are built on values of openness, transparency, and accountability. Our approach ensures that people remain central to our services and decisions, guided by clear principles focused on place, environment, and community wellbeing. Highlighted as a specific focus area in our Corporate Strategy and rooted in this Waste Strategy is to *Ensure the BCP area has sufficient fit-for purpose waste infrastructure to manage all the waste it produces.*

In July 2019, we declared a climate and ecological emergency. This significant step demonstrates our commitment to addressing climate change and mobilising resources and community efforts towards a sustainable future. We are committed to making our operations carbon neutral by 2030 and for the Bournemouth, Christchurch, and Poole area to be net zero by 2045, 5 years ahead of the national target.

Waste disposal contracts

We need to retender some of our major waste disposal contracts as our current contracts end in August 2027. Retendering currently is risky and challenging as market conditions are changing and there is uncertainty around the impact of the government's new waste reforms on the type and amount of waste we need to collect. New government policy changes may substantially increase waste collection and treatment costs. This waste strategy will provide a framework to support compliance and contract procurement.

Planning and development

The Bournemouth, Christchurch, Poole and Dorset Waste Plan (2019) outlines strategies for waste facility development through 2033, focusing on the waste hierarchy, self-sufficiency, and environmental protection. Local planning policies specify that waste storage guidelines should be considered in new developments.

Enhance our service performance

From the waste analysis we can divert 51% of our waste from the rubbish bin for recycling or composting. This will action resource efficiency and deliver financial benefits in disposal costs. Reducing our waste and recycling as much as we can is right thing to do to help preserve our global natural resources for generations to come.

Consultation

A public consultation on this Waste Strategy was held in June 2025 to better understand the needs of residents and to seek their views on our proposed ambitions. This consultation was hosted online with the option for residents to request a paper copy and a total of 312 responses were received.

There was broad support from respondents for the ambitions. Residents were looking for recycling to be as straightforward and accessible as possible with clear instructions to minimise confusion regarding harder to recycle items. Residents were in favour of improving initiatives and schemes to facilitate the repair, reuse and rehoming of items but felt they needed further support to do this.

There was a strong view that services should be consistent across BCP and for better education and communication to help both residents and businesses understand how to recycle items correctly.

Our ambitions and supporting actions

Considering where we are now, the future factors that will likely impact waste in the BCP area and what residents have said in the consultation, seven ambitions and supporting actions have been developed, prioritising waste prevention and service improvements.

1. Engage and enable residents and businesses to reduce waste and recycle more

Our ambition is to support our communities to reduce their waste and encourage reuse and repair through education, engagement and services.



You told us:

- You strongly support education and communication to understand waste reduction and recycling.
- You would welcome more information on campaigns that support zero waste projects to assist with reuse and repair
- You would like to receive information of this type via email or on our website.
- You support the introduction of community-based reuse and repair initiatives to help reduce waste.
- You would like to see targeted campaigns focused at specific groups such as landlords, businesses and young people.

We plan to do this by:

- 1.1 Clearly communicating updates on the different materials that can and cannot be recycled in the kerbside recycling bin and at recycling centres
- 1.2 Promoting our comprehensive, flexible and bespoke commercial waste, recycling and food waste collections offered to businesses across the BCP area
- 1.3 Embedding the Reuse and Repair Declaration to support repair and reuse initiatives like the Repair Cafés and other organisations promoting repair and reuse across the BCP area through access to networks and space, and funds where available.
- 1.4 Relocating new to you reuse shop to a more accessible centralised location and considering opportunities to enhance the offer such as opening on additional days or running reuse or repair workshops.
- 1.5 Relaunching the School Environment Award for all schools, supporting them raising awareness about local and global environmental issues and empowering pupils to take charge of their future through environmental projects.
- 1.6 Exploring incentives for the use of reusable products such as sanitary products.

2. Use circular economy and waste hierarchy principles

The circular economy keeps items in use for as long as possible, a cycle of reuse, repair, and recycling to minimise waste and lengthen the lifecycle of products instead of a linear system where items are made, used and then thrown away. We will look for opportunities to support these practices in our own waste services and across the wider organisation.

We want to use the waste hierarchy across the board, not just when we have a legal obligation to follow it.

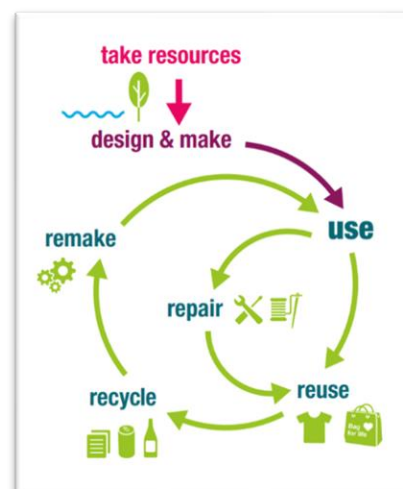


You told us:

- You would like more opportunities and support to repair, rehome and repurpose items.
- You would like to see more community- based reuse and repair initiatives.

We plan to do this by:

- 2.1 Embed the circular economy and waste hierarchy into strategy, policy, and service design across the council.
- 2.2 Prioritise reducing waste, reusing materials, recycling, and recovering energy from non-recyclable waste, while using landfills only when other options are not feasible.
- 2.3 Develop waste services to boost closed-loop recycling and keep materials in use instead of sending them to landfill.



3. Achieve waste and carbon targets

Our ambition is to meet waste targets set by government to recycle 65% of waste and send less than 10% to landfill by 2035. Contributing towards the council's commitment to carbon neutrality from our operations by 2030 and the Bournemouth, Christchurch, and Poole area by 2045, ahead of the UK's 2050 target.

You told us:

- You support the ambition to have sustainable waste targets.
- You would like to see challenging but achievable waste targets for household and businesses.

We aim to:

- 3.1 Achieve waste targets for landfill diversion (>90%) and recycling targets (>65%) by 2035
- 3.2 Contribute to our carbon targets by reducing vehicle and disposal emissions associated with waste and recycling.

We plan to achieve these targets through the supporting actions set out in this Waste Strategy.



4. Deliver effective and efficient waste collections

Our ambition is to deliver waste collection services that efficiently manage available resources and provide reliable and comprehensive collections for residents and commercial organisations.

You told us:

- Having a consistent food waste service across BCP was a priority.
- You would like to be able to recycle more items at home such as plastic bags and wrappers, small electricals and textiles.
- Your rubbish bins are not usually full by collection day, but your recycling bins are more often.
- You would be happy to further separate your recyclable items further at home
- Clearer instructions from us to make it easier to recycle at home.



We plan to do this by:

- 4.1 Delivering food waste collections to all in Bournemouth, Christchurch and Poole. Food waste collections will be introduced to Poole residents and flats in Bournemouth from April 2026. Bournemouth and Christchurch households without a food waste container can request one for free.
- 4.2 Relaunching food waste collections for Bournemouth and Christchurch residents, using targeted communications and service updates to improve ongoing participation in food waste recycling.
- 4.3 Reviewing the frequency of rubbish collections. Initial modelling suggests by collecting your rubbish less often (three or four weekly), we would increase our recycling rate by between 6-8% while reducing our carbon impact and costs.
- 4.4 Banning items in kerbside rubbish bins that can be recycled in other bins such as food waste, garden waste and recycling (where collections are available) Using a sticker on the rubbish bin or embossed into new rubbish bin lids as an educational tool.
- 4.5 Considering a twin stream recycling service, a system where your recycling is collected in two separate containers - one for paper and card (fibres) and one for glass, cans and plastic (bottles and containers). Right now, our modelling suggests separate collections would cost a lot more to operate and increase our carbon impact as more collection vehicles would be needed. We will continue to review twin stream recycling as this is the government's preferred option for recycling collections.
- 4.6 Expanding our kerbside recycling collections to include more materials, such as other types of plastics. Plastic bags and film will be collected for recycling from 2027.

- 4.7 Communicating updates on the different materials that can and cannot be recycled in the kerbside recycling bin and at recycling centres.
- 4.8 Reviewing recycling collection options for textiles, small electricals and batteries. Batteries will not be collected with other kerbside recycling due to the fire risk.
- 4.9 Align communal bin collections from flats with standard households where possible. When extra collections are required due to space restrictions, additional bins and collections will be charged for to recover collection costs.

5. Dispose of waste sustainably

Our ambition is to use waste disposal and recycling methods that reduce our environmental impact, conserve resources for future use, and where possible use the most modern waste management technologies.

You told us:

- You strongly supported this ambition
- You supported waste being treated within 100 miles of BCP



We plan to do this by:

- 5.1 Tendering waste disposal contracts that embed the waste hierarchy and minimise the use of landfill.
- 5.2 Using technologies that make us more efficient subject to market conditions and cost.
- 5.3 Prioritising waste site proximity where possible, so waste travels only as far as it needs to and reduces the significant carbon impact of transporting waste.
- 5.4 Compliance with government policies so we meet our legal requirements and redesigning services if needed to meet that compliance.
- 5.5 Considering environmental impact of available facilities.
- 5.6 Responding to market conditions and providing value for money for BCP Council and national taxpayer.

6. Use modern waste infrastructure

Our ambition is to improve our waste sites and infrastructure by using industry advancements and technological innovations, ensuring continued efficiency in our waste collection and disposal operations.

You told us:

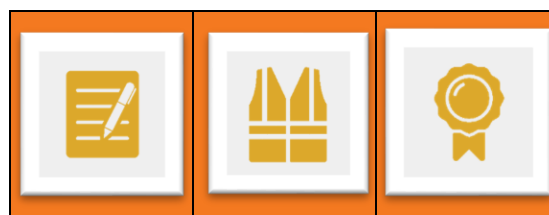
- You would like to see more items accepted at our recycling centres such as hard plastics.
- To have easy access to recycling centres without restrictive policies or booking systems.
- Provide more local reuse facilities.
- More educational opportunities and information at our recycling centres.

We plan to do this by:

- 6.1 Reviewing our recycling centre policies and van permit scheme to manage commercial waste abuse more effectively.
- 6.2 Setting up 'sort it' areas at recycling centres to help residents to separate their waste for reuse and recycling and making it easier to leave suitable items for the BCP re-use shop new to you.
- 6.3 Considering opportunities to reuse and recycle additional items at recycling centres such as paint, plastics, carpet.
- 6.4 Mapping out our requirements for long-term sustainable waste facilities and infrastructure in the BCP area for the next generation, which will include fit for purpose depot facilities, appropriate waste transfer capacity and a review of recycling centre locations.
- 6.5 Considering the use of underground bins in public areas and in locations where standard collection methods are not effective or efficient to overcome issues with space, bin blight, and offer collection efficiency. Work with planning teams to guide developers and identify opportunities for service growth.

7. Deliver futureproof and safe services

Our ambition is to ensure our services adapt with our legal requirements while safely operating our collection services and waste sites in compliance with our operational waste permits.



We plan to do this by:

- 7.1 Horizon scanning for future government policy and collaborating with other councils, industry networks and businesses to adapt.
- 7.2 Reviewing our bin replacement charging policy to ensure collections can operate safely
- 7.3 Banning items in kerbside bins that may cause fire such as vapes, batteries, small electricals. These can be taken to recycling centres for recycling.
- 7.4 Reviewing our site permits issued by the Environment Agency to ensure permit compliance and opportunities for service and site improvements.

Next steps

This Waste Strategy for BCP Council sets out a pathway for the next 10 years. We will embed the ambitions and supporting actions outlined in this strategy into our service and team plans for progression and delivery.

We will monitor success using the waste and carbon targets of Ambition 3 to:

- Achieve our waste targets of landfill diversion (>90%) by 2035
- Achieve our recycling targets (>65%) by 2035
- Contributing towards the council's commitment carbon neutrality from our operations by 2030 by reducing vehicle and disposal emissions associated with waste and recycling

It is likely within these timeframes that there will be huge changes in national policy and legislation, shifts in waste composition and tonnages, emerging technologies and evolving public attitudes towards waste, all of which will influence how we manage our waste services in the BCP area. For this purpose, this strategy must be flexible and adaptable with a review at least every five years or in the case of any substantial change in legislation.

Glossary

Anaerobic Digestion (AD) – A process that breaks down organic waste such as food waste to produce biogas - a renewable energy which can be used to generate heat and electricity and by products known as digestate which can be used as fertiliser and compost.

Bring banks – small recycling points located in public areas for items such as textiles which are not collected at kerbside.

Carbon Impact Assessment – Evaluation of greenhouse gas emissions from waste services.

Circular Economy – An economic model focused on reuse, repair, and recycling to minimise waste with the intention that maximum use is extracted from resources and minimum waste is generated for disposal.

Contamination – Non-recyclable or incorrectly sorted materials in recycling bins.

Deposit Return Scheme (DRS) – A system where consumers pay a deposit on plastic and aluminium drinks containers which is refunded upon return.

Emissions Trading Scheme (ETS) – A government-led system designed to reduce greenhouse gas emissions. It sets a limit (or "cap") on the total emissions allowed from certain sectors.

Energy from Waste (EfW) – Facilities that generate energy by incinerating waste.

Energy recovery - a waste treatment process used to recover energy and new raw materials from the waste. Recovery waste treatment processes include anaerobic digestion and Energy from Waste (EfW).

Environment Act 2021 – UK legislation introducing reforms such as Simpler Recycling, Deposit Return Scheme, and Extended Producer Responsibility.

Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR) – A policy approach where producers are responsible for the cost of dealing with the packing waste they produce. This means producers must help pay for recycling and disposal, encouraging them to design packaging that is easier to recycle and less harmful to the environment.

Kerbside Collection – Waste and recycling collected directly from households.

Landfill Diversion – The proportion of waste not sent to landfill.

Materials Recycling Facility (MRF) – A plant where mixed recyclables are sorted into separate material streams.

Mechanical Biological Treatment (MBT) – A process that mechanically and biologically treats residual waste.

Municipal recycling - Recycling of waste collected by or on behalf of a local authority. It includes household waste and some commercial or public sector waste (like from schools or offices) that is similar in nature and composition to household waste.

Organic Waste – Biodegradable waste including food and garden waste.

Procurement - The process of buying goods, works and services from third parties and in-house providers.

Recyclables – Materials that can be processed and reused, such as paper, glass, metals, and certain plastics.

Recycling rate – The percentage of total waste that is recycled or composted.

Residual waste – Waste that is not reused, recycled, composted or anaerobically digested.

Sharps collection – A service for collecting medical sharps waste from residents.

Simpler recycling - A government initiative introduced through the Environment Act 2021 to make recycling easier and more consistent across England. It requires all councils to collect a standard set of recyclable materials from households and businesses, including food waste and plastic film, by 2027. The aim is to reduce confusion, improve recycling rates, and support a circular economy.

Unitary authority - A type of local government that is responsible for all local services in its area. Unlike areas with separate county and district councils, a unitary authority handles everything from waste collection and housing to education and transport. BCP Council is a unitary authority.

Waste composition analysis – A study of the types and quantities of waste in bins.

Waste hierarchy - The waste hierarchy sets out the order in which options for waste management should be considered based on environmental impact.

Waste infrastructure - The buildings, equipment, and systems used to manage waste such as recycling centres, waste transfer stations, collection vehicles and bins.

Background Reports

Bournemouth, Christchurch and Poole kerbside waste and recycling compositional analysis:
M.E.L. Waste Insights Alfred H. Knight Group 2022

BCP Council's Residents Survey 2023

WRAP (2022) & (2025) Waste and Recycling Technical Support to BCP Council

Waste Strategy Consultation Report 2025