

Waste Compositional Analysis Summary

Background

Gloucestershire County Council is working with the environmental consultancy Resource Futures to look at the composition of the residual waste produced by residents across Gloucestershire.

The work will provide the detailed makeup of the household waste, to establish how much paper, card, glass, plastics, metals and other recyclable materials are being thrown away. This information will help the districts to understand how residents are using the recycling services and where improvements could be made in the future. The work will provide an indication of the energy content of the waste.

Why do this research?

A similar project was carried out in 2008 and 2009. Changes since then mean that information is now out of date, each of the districts and the county council will benefit from new and updated information about the characteristics and make up of Gloucestershire's residual waste.

The improved understanding of the household waste will help the county council and each of the districts to better understand how residents are using their services and what changes or additional communication could be made to achieve greater recycling performance.

Where is the research taking place?

Samples will be collected from all districts in Gloucestershire. In total, waste will be included from around 900 households across all of the districts. Samples will be taken to a sorting facility near Stroud for analysis by Resource Futures.

What types of waste will be included?

Residual waste from wheelie bins will be collected from around 150 households in each of the six districts. Recycling is not being looked at. Residual waste samples from skips at each of the recycling centres will also be included and litter bin waste will also be looked at.

How does it work?

A team of professional researchers from Resource Futures will collect waste in sacks. Their collections will happen just in advance of the regular collection which will also take place as normal for the vast majority of households. Waste will not be identified by household, instead it will be grouped together from houses in the same area.

Waste samples will be collected in vans rather than the usual recycling vehicle, each van used will display signs which relate to the district from which samples are being collected. Waste samples will be taken to a secure depot, sorted by type and weighed. At the end of each day all waste collected will be disposed of in the normal way.

Will everything be kept anonymous and treated as confidential?

Yes. Any waste collected from residents will be treated with care and in complete confidence. Resource Futures will not collect information about any individual household. Instead, data will be recorded at the level of each street or local area.

Resource Futures has a long and proven track record of providing waste research. Their collection staff will all carry photographic identification and they will be able to show residents a letter of authority from the district/county council, explaining that they are authorised to carry out the work. Local police have been made aware before the work takes place and they will know where samples are being gathered each day and the registration of the vehicles being used.

We hope that you will support this work that we are conducting.

Who do I contact if I have any questions or would like further information?

If you wish to discuss any aspect of this work, please get in touch with **Andrew Pritchard (Gloucestershire County Council, 01452 427014)** for further information or to raise any concerns that you may have.