

Wokingham Borough Council response to the recent Environment Lobby

Following a recent Environment Lobby in Parliament, I wrote on behalf of constituents to Wokingham Borough Council to ask what they are doing to improve waste management locally. I have now received the enclosed response from them:

Date: 22 July 2019



**WOKINGHAM
BOROUGH COUNCIL**

The Rt Hon Sir John Redwood MP
House of Commons
London
SW1A 0AA

Customer & Localities
Place Based Services
P.O. Box 157
Shute End, Wokingham
Berkshire RG40 1WR
Tel: (0118) 974 6000

Dear Mr Redwood,

LETTER FROM THE RT HON SIR JOHN REDWOOD MP RE. ENVIRONMENTAL LOBBY

Thank you for your letter dated 28th June to the Chief Executive who has asked me to respond as the appropriate Officer. We are very mindful of the impact that badly managed waste has on the wider environment, and especially in relation to plastics, and are committed to address this. We have been working with our Waste re3 partners; Bracknell Forest and Reading Councils and our Contractor FCC to ensure that we reduce waste and increase recycling with the following as some of our more recent projects:

2010 – Within the re3 partnership we started to send approx. 25,000 tonnes per annum to energy from waste – This has seen us reduce landfill from 48% of our waste with a potential of 1% – 2% in 2019/20.

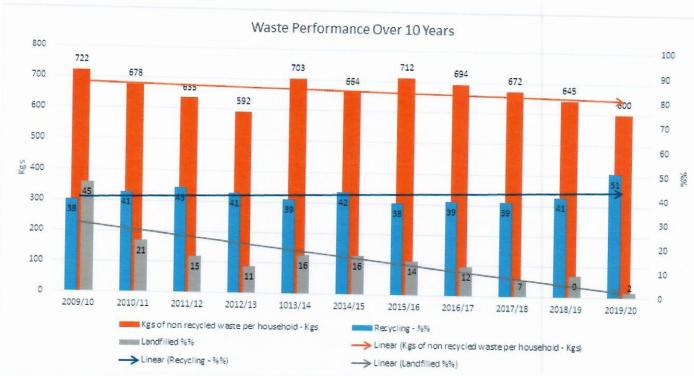
2012 – Waste containment (blue bags) introduced delivering a 20% reduction in collected residual waste

2017 – The addition of pots, tubs, trays, foil and tetrapak from the kerbside taking more single use plastics from the waste stream.

2019 – The introduction of food waste recycling started in April which is expected to raise our overall recycling rate by 7% and with other initiatives like wood recycling from the household waste recycling centres, we increased our overall recycling rate to 54% on the first two months of the year.

On top of this, the Council has declared a "Climate Change" emergency and are now planning a strategy to be carbon neutral by 2030.

See below our recycling performance over the past 10 years:



I hope that the above addresses your concerns and we are proud to announce that this year to date, our waste to landfill has been even lower than last year at around 0% of total waste.

Yours sincerely,

CLARE LAWRENCE
Assistant Director Place Based Services