

A city to be proud of

*An accessible, clean and
sustainable city*

More recycling less waste.

Scrutiny Committee

8 September 2026

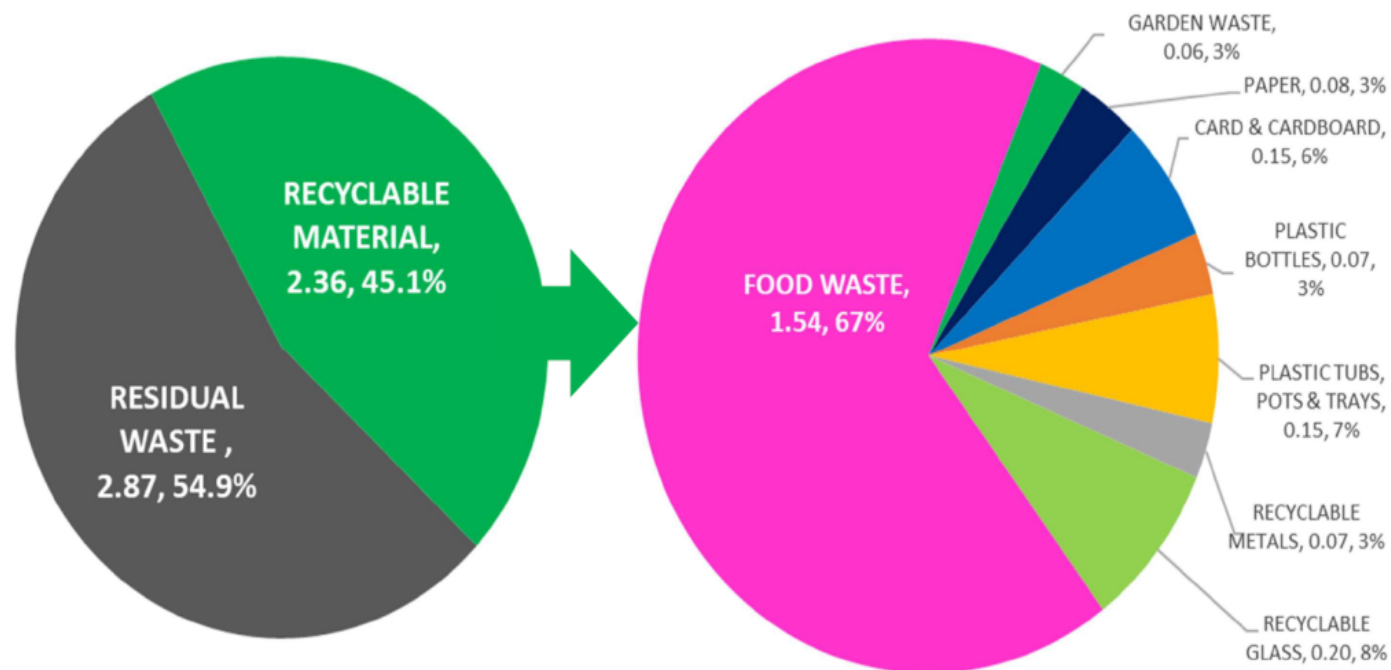


**Brighton & Hove
City Council**

What's in our rubbish bins? (on average)

Figure 17: Average recyclable content of Brighton & Hove residual waste (kg/hh/wk and %)

29.4% Food waste
13.6% Dry mixed recyclable
1.1% Garden waste



2.87kg rubbish 2.36kg recyclable material

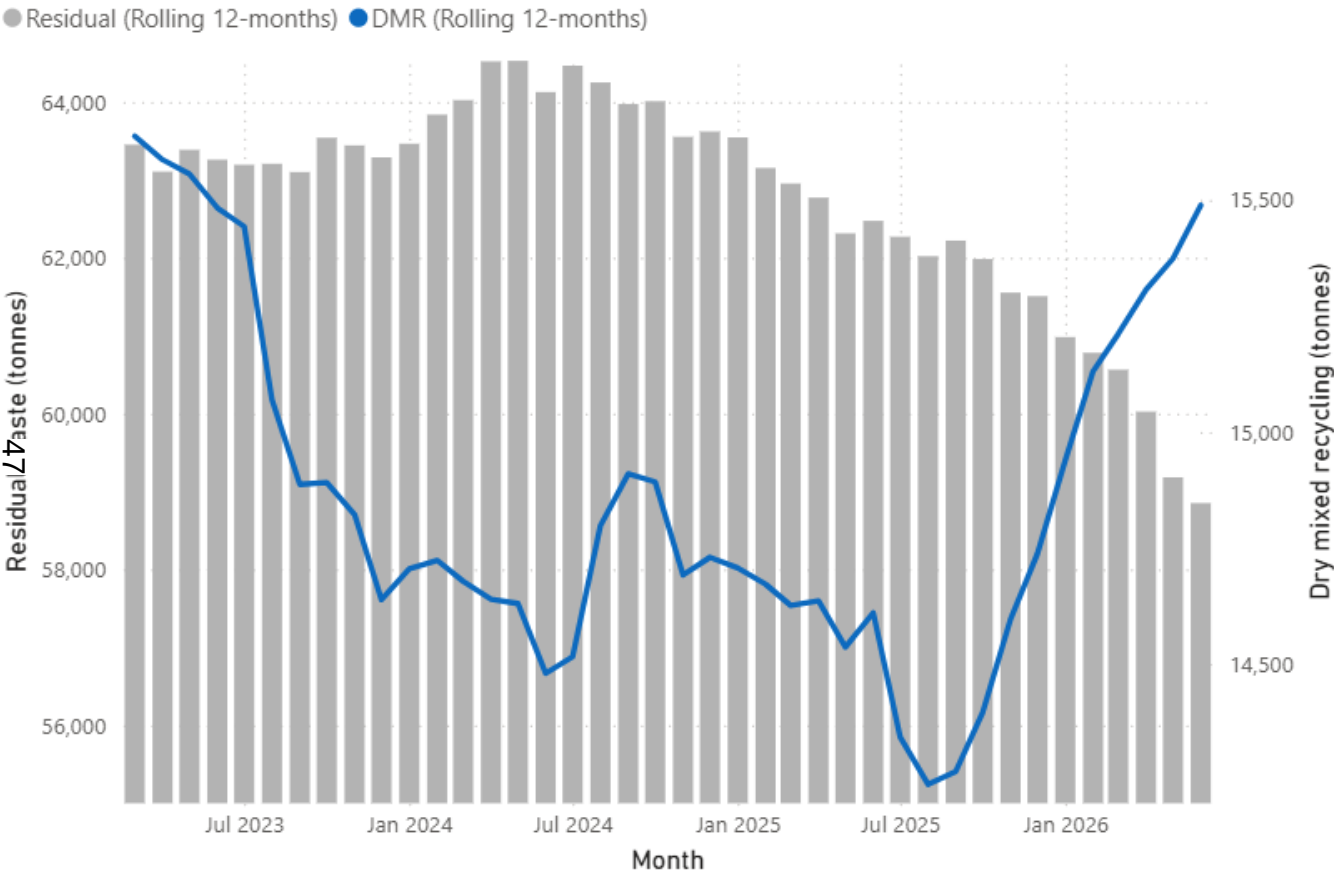
This means:
44.1% of contents of rubbish bins could be still be recycled

Source: Waste Composition Analysis March 2026 Alfred H Knight

What is happening to our waste?

Source: East Sussex CC
from AP21 Waste Data Flow

Residual waste is falling while recycling climbs



Rolling 12-months total. Residual waste (bars) down ~4,600t since 2023; DMR (line) up ~1,250t since mid 2025.

How the waste has changed, year on year

Metric	Jan-Mar 25	Jan-Mar 26	Change
Residual per hh	132.5 kg/hh	123.1 kg/hh	-9.3 kg/hh (-7%)
Recycling rate	24.5%	31.6%	+7.2pp
Dry recycling rate	18.8%	21.2%	+2.3pp
Composting rate	4.7%	9.3%	+4.6pp
Energy recovery rate	75.2%	68.6%	-6.6pp

Same quarter (Jan-Mar) 2025 vs 2026.
pp = percentage points

'Recycle Right': updated communications around recycling

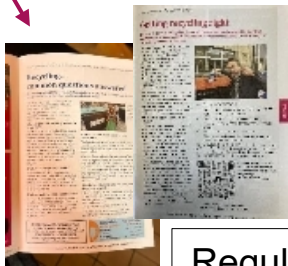


Be innovative
and creative

Expansion of carton
recycling & roll out
of WEEE bins



Regular Council Housing
'Homing In' articles



Regular
Brightonian &
Hovarian column



Bus stops

2025

F2F engagement



Bin Signage &
colour coded lids



Introduction of plastic
pots tubs and trays

Food waste – phased
roll out citywide



Recycling
points signage
review



Ongoing

2024

Set colour
coding of
recycling
streams
in all
comms



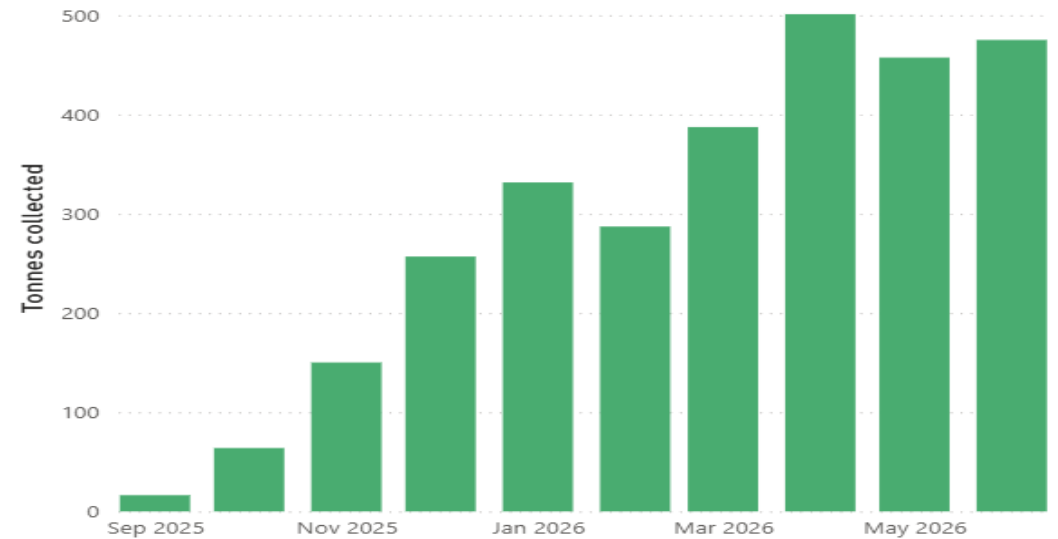
Increased social media

Impact of food waste collections

The 2026 waste composition analysis shows:

- **49% reduction in weight of food waste left in rubbish bins**
- The proportion of food waste in rubbish bins remains high at 29.4% as total household rubbish is 37.4% lower than in 2022
- With food increasingly separated and collected weekly, residual bins are less full, drier, less odorous or at risk of vermin

Food waste is increasing



Monthly tonnage since launch, from 16t in Sept 25 to ~475t by Jun 26

Food waste communications

- Engaging a consultant on food waste rollout led to clear communications, high participation and low levels of contamination on the kerbside.
- Lessons learned informing ongoing recycling communications.
- Flyer regarding recycling of plastic pots, tubs and trays distributed to all households in food waste rollout supported high awareness levels around the

Recycle Right, Recycle More: Cartons and foil

- Citywide communication to all households
- News stories, press releases & social media
- Utilise MyAccount data to push out messaging
- Updated signage for bins in communal areas
- Review of signage at Recycling Points
- Face to face events early 2027 in advance of AWC
- Briefing BHCC colleagues and citywide stakeholders to help disseminate information and support resident understanding
- Working with Community Engagement, Neighbourhood Officers, Council Housing teams
- Encouraging uptake of food waste recycling collections
- Addressing contamination of recycling which remains high.



Survey and engagement

April-May 2026 Behaviour Change Network surveyed residents

- Of the 1,674 respondents:
 - 91.8% knew that plastic pots, tubs and trays can now be recycled.
 - 72.2% are already using the new food waste collection service.
- 2 resident feedback sessions.

Ongoing:

- Further resident sessions to take place across the city to address concerns and support rubbish & recycling e.g. Medisort, food waste, ACs, bin capacity etc.
- Round re-designing - to ensure efficient collections across all waste streams
- Continued frontline staff engagement - for feedback, regular updates and training



Next steps: across Environmental Services

Addressing Contamination

Household rubbish / bagged waste & glass are the largest contaminants at 49.98% and 11.85% respectively

- Develop and implement a robust contamination policy & operational processes – Autumn 2026
- Use in-cab technology data to inform residents via website & directly via email when their recycling is contaminated
- All comms on new materials will address contamination issues - keeping recycling clean, dry & loose (no bags) and glass separate.



Elsewhere in the Service

- Additional capacity in Communal on-street service for recycling
- Partnering with other organisations for additional materials to divert from household rubbish.
Eg: Anglo Doorstep Collections

Service resilience

- Cabinet approval of £1.3m
- Improved collections – controller roles
- Fleet strategy and replacement programme
- Separation of commercial collections



