re3

Annual Environmental Report

2024 – 2025

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Annual Environmental Report
2024 – 2025

This is the nineteenth Annual Environmental Report (AER) published by re3, highlighting the activities of the partnership and how the waste received has been managed throughout the previous contract year.



Cover image:
Special thanks to Monika Bulmer for providing the winning photograph in our internal competition, which is featured on this year's AER front cover – capturing the MRF trommel in action.

A MRF trommel is a rotating cylindrical screen used in a Material Recycling Facility (MRF) to sort and separate waste materials. Think of it as a giant, slowly spinning sieve: as mixed dry recyclables enter the trommel, smaller items fall through holes in the mesh to be directed to specific processing systems. Meanwhile, larger items continue along the drum for further sorting at later stages of the MRF process.

About re3 and our commitment to sustainability

re3 is a waste management partnership formed in 1999 between Bracknell Forest, Reading, and Wokingham Borough Councils. The partnership was established to provide residents and businesses with sustainable, high-quality recycling and waste disposal services across the three local authorities.

To deliver this service, a 25-year Private Finance Initiative (PFI) was created. FCC Environment delivers this contract on behalf of the councils. FCC Environment is one of the UK's leading waste and resource management companies, operating over 100 contracts across 138 local authority areas. With a workforce of more than 4,222 employees, FCC recycles 1.5 million tonnes of waste annually, provides waste solutions for 7,652 businesses, and generates 167MW of energy from non-recyclable waste.

Each of the three councils manages its own waste collections, which are delivered to one of the two re3 facilities – Longshot Lane in Bracknell and Smallmead in Reading. The partnership also provides bottle banks across the boroughs, allowing residents to recycle glass with ease.

The purpose of this Annual Environmental Report is to give you an overview of re3's operations, including the volume of materials processed, the treatment methods used, and what happens to waste after it leaves our facilities.
The report also highlights key achievements during the contract year, from 1st April 2024 to 31st March 2025.

4,222

With a workforce of more than 2,250 employees, FCC recycles 1.5 million tonnes of waste annually



General Manager's Message

Hello, and welcome to the latest edition of our Annual Environmental Report. I have great pleasure in sharing this report with you to highlight the many activities and initiatives we have undertaken throughout 24/25 to support our local communities and environment.

We continue to treat waste as a resource, with a focus on reuse and landfill diversion. This year's report, again, showcases the fantastic operations that happen on a daily basis here at re3 and also the initiatives that re3 has continued and started during the previous contract year.

As well as continuing with the very popular re3grow compost and re3paint schemes which benefit the local residents and community organisations, we launched re3read, where local organisations can apply for a box of books or, HWRC visitors can help themselves to books from the book exchange section within the HWRC reuse area.
We continue to increase the options open to residents for recycling; coffee pods with pod back, the recycling of vapes and batteries and even now toothpaste tubes to name but a few. We continue to work with Precycle who specialise in reuse, and we are now working with the First Days children's charity. We also ran two successful pop-up reuse shops last year and look to continue that success in 25/26, with profits going to the Thames Valley Air Ambulance charity.

The main focus here at re3 will always be on the Reduction, Reuse and Recycling of waste. It is fantastic to be part of a team that can report a recovery rate (that's waste diverted from landfill) for the previous year of 93.6%!! This is an ongoing fantastic achievement that we should all be very proud of, everybody involved across the partnership, households, members of public, the Councils, collection crews and all staff here at re3. There is still more we want to do as we go into 25/26, we are always looking for ways we can improve even further.

In terms of the policy that drives what we do here at re3, the Government has committed to delivering a circular economy and we are waiting to hear what this means for the waste and recycling sector.

The whole partnership is actively managing and considering all the scenarios for the roll out of the Extended Producer Responsibility which will simplify the packaging on our shelves, the introduction of Simpler Recycling which has already been enacted with businesses now required by law to recycle household materials and a Deposit Return Scheme in England and Wales in 2027.
So, there is change ahead but by working together, as we do so well, we will reach the end goal and the UK will have simpler and more consistent approach to recycling, leading to higher recycling rates and a more circular economy.

Thank you again for all your help as we can't do what we do without it and I wish you all a happy and healthy 25/26

Scott Adams
re3 General Manager



93.6%

"The main focus here at re3 will always be on the Reduction, Reuse and Recycling of waste. It is fantastic to be part of a team that can report a recovery rate (that's waste diverted from landfill) for the previous year of 93.6%!"

Scott Adams
re3 General Manager

Projects

re3read

Giving Books a Second Life and Supporting Communities

This programme ensures that many pre-loved books stay within the local community, where they are offered free of charge to nurseries, schools, care homes, libraries, and other community settings. By promoting reuse and encouraging literacy, re3read fosters a love of reading while supporting both education and sustainability.

A Successful Partnership with First Days Charity
During the trial phase, re3read formed successful collaboration with First Days Children's Charity (an organisation supporting families suffering from financial hardship. A valuable 866 books have been donated so far, helping nurture a passion for reading within the community and generating £2147.68 of Social Value.

These donations also enabled First Days to establish the Book Den – a free library in Wokingham open to all families. The Book Den provides a diverse selection of books, from baby-friendly picture books to teen novels, and offers a welcoming space where families can swap and donate books. The initiative aims to transform the perception of reading from something children have to do, into something they want to do.

Extending the Impact of re3read
Books donated through re3read also reach families directly, with genres ranging from interactive pop-up books for young children, revision guides for older students and also books for adults too. In addition, re3read benefits visitors to re3 Recycling Centres, where bookshelves at Longshot Lane (Bracknell) and Island Road (Reading) offer free books to residents, giving these stories a new lease of life.

3,118

Since the scheme was started on 6th March 2025 an impressive **3,118 books** have found a second home. Contributing to **£15,465 of social value**.

Environmental and Community Benefits
The re3read initiative is a testament to re3's ongoing commitment to the circular economy, sustainability, and community support. By redistributing pre-loved books, we not only promote literacy but also help reduce carbon emissions and conserve natural resources.

Producing a single new book can generate between 1 to 4kg of CO_2e, but by redistributing 3,000 books, we can save around 2 tonnes of paper and protect approximately 34 trees.

Through re3read, we're creating positive change by giving books a second life – enriching minds, reducing waste, and supporting the environment.

Broadening Reuse with Precycle
To further enhance book reuse, re3 collaborates with Precycle, who plays an essential role by collecting books from both Household Waste Recycling Centres (HWRCs). These books reach a global reuse market, complementing the local efforts of re3read and ensuring that more books find new homes worldwide.

"The re3read book scheme has been an absolute game-changer for our nursery! It has provided us with a much larger and more diverse selection of books, making reading even more exciting for the children. The scheme has also allowed us to create a lending system, enabling children and their parents to take books home, fostering a love for reading both at nursery and beyond. Parents and children alike love the freedom to choose their own books, and the variety available has been incredible.

We are extremely grateful for this initiative, as it not only enriches our nursery but also allows us to allocate funds to other essential areas while still ensuring children have access to wonderful books.

It's a win-win for everyone, and we can't thank re3read enough for making this possible!"

Louise Otty
The Lodge Nursery, Owner





★★★★

Awards shortlisted for last year

Last year, re3 was proud to be shortlisted for several prestigious industry awards, including the Let's Recycle Awards and the National Recycling Awards (NRW). Our nominations recognised the strength and innovation of our projects across multiple categories:

- **Innovation of the Year**
  Virtual Tours
- **Best Local Authority Recycling Initiative**
  re3 Community Compost
- **Best Local Authority Recycling Initiative**
  Virtual Tours
- **Local Authority Success**
  re3 Community Compost Grow Scheme
- **Digital Innovations**
  Virtual Tours
- **Partnership Excellence**
  Public/Private sector – Soft Plastic Recycling Trial

Although we were not selected as winners, we were up against strong competition, and being shortlisted is a significant achievement and a testament to the impact of our work.

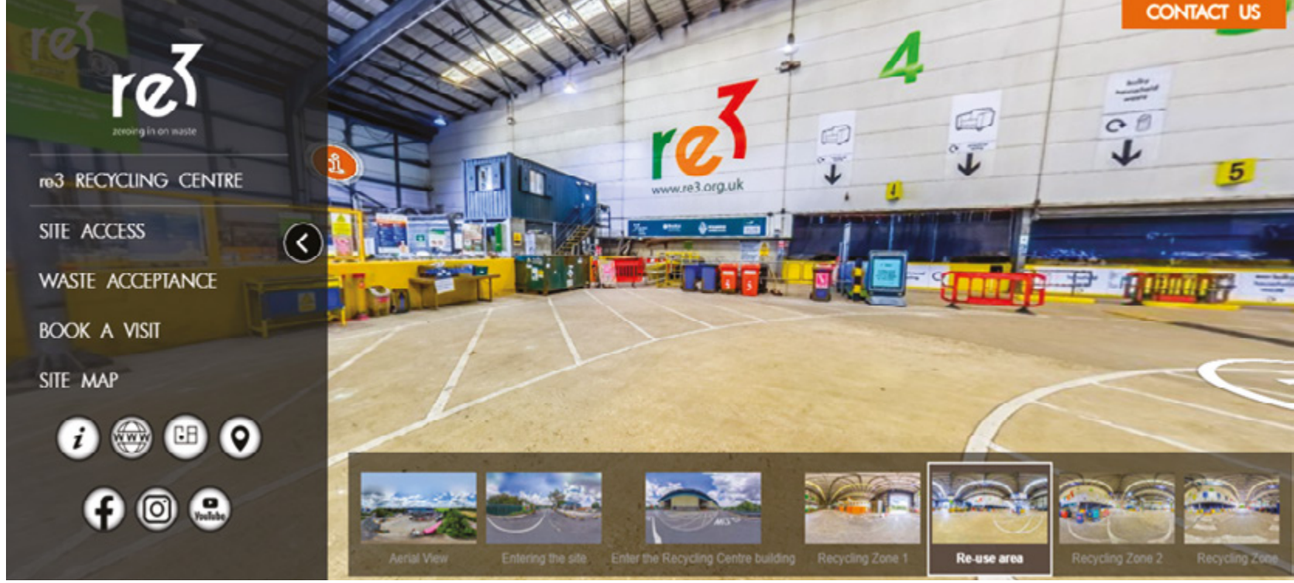
Re3grow

Launched in March 2022, the re3Grow Community Compost Scheme was created to do more than just share compost – it was designed to inspire community spirit, boost recycling awareness, and give something back to local groups across the re3 area. With garden waste recycling already a popular service at our Recycling Centres, offering compost made from that very same recycled waste brings the cycle full circle. It's a simple, tangible way for residents to see the benefits of recycling right in their own neighbourhoods.

From April 2024 to March 2025, the scheme has donated 1,277 bags of compost – that's around 51,080 litres – to 127 community organisations, directly and indirectly benefiting more than 27,184 people. Beyond the environmental benefits, these donations have also created an estimated £11,748.00 in social value across the re3 region.

The impact has been wide-ranging and meaningful: from enriching community allotments and growing produce for local food banks, to supporting school sensory gardens and helping individuals grow their own food. The compost has also played a role in social and therapeutic horticulture sessions and helped make outdoor spaces greener, more vibrant, and more inviting for everyone.





Virtual Tours

At the start of 2024, re3 launched a series of virtual tours showcasing the Longshot Lane and Smallmead Recycling Centres, as well as the re3 Materials Recycling Facility (MRF). These immersive 360° experiences give residents the opportunity to explore each site in detail, helping them better understand what to expect and prepare for their visits with greater confidence. The tours aim to ease any uncertainty or anxiety that can be associated with visiting recycling centres for the first time.

The virtual tour of the MRF also plays a key role in supporting re3's public engagement efforts. Due to safety protocols and age restrictions, only a limited number of residents can physically tour the sorting facility. This online experience opens up access to a wider audience – particularly schools and community groups – offering a realistic, behind-the-scenes look at how recycling is processed in our area.

Each tour is packed with helpful information, including interactive site maps, photographs, videos, and aerial and internal 360° views of key operational areas. The content is mobile-friendly and easily accessible via the re3 and partner council websites, as well as through Google Street View. This makes it easier than ever for residents to learn about their local recycling services – all from the comfort of home.

58,000

During the last contract year, the Longshot Lane virtual tour was accessed more than 53,000 times, while the Smallmead tour attracted over 58,000 views, demonstrating strong public interest and the value of digital engagement in waste education.



Reuse Pop Up Shops

Last year, we hosted two successful Pop-Up Shops – one at Longshot Lane and one at Smallmead. At Longshot Lane, 178 items were sold, with 1,019kg of items given a second life. At Smallmead, 248 items were sold, diverting 1,686 kg of materials up the waste hierarchy.

Building on this success, we plan to hold more Pop-Up Shops in the coming contract year, helping even more items find new homes and reducing the amount of waste sent for disposal.



Recycling App

The re3 partnership has introduced the Scrapp app to assist residents in recycling more effectively. This free mobile application offers instant, location-specific recycling guidance by allowing users to scan product barcodes or search items directly. With a database of over 36 million products, Scrapp provides clear instructions on how to dispose of various items correctly, helping to reduce contamination in recycling bins. Additionally, the app includes features such as bin day reminders and access to local waste services, further encouraging proper recycling habits. The Scrapp app is available for download on both the App Store and Google Play.

Social Value

Social value represents the positive contribution that businesses make to economies, communities, and society at large. It helps identify key areas where organisations can generate meaningful impact. It is now gaining significant traction across the public and private sectors, including local councils and procurement processes.

Central Government now explicitly evaluates social value when awarding major contracts, applying a minimum 10% weighting where the value exceeds the public procurement threshold.

At re3, we use the Thrive platform to record and monitor our social value performance. Thrive allows us to identify, capture, and report on our impact using a defined framework and set of metrics. This framework is built around the Impact Evaluation Standard (IES) – a consistent set of rules that adds rigour and credibility to our reporting practices. The IES includes metrics, proxy values, and guidance documents aligned with HM Treasury guidance, and is fully auditable and traceable to the Government's Social Value Model (PPN06/20).

During the contract year re3 produced £16,158,282 million pounds worth of Social Value, over £400,000 more than the prior year which is a huge achievement. This value was created in a number of ways: Economically through the spend in both Local and Non Local communities; Environmentally from the overachievement in Landfill diversion and the number of hours spent on raising environmental awareness; Socially via the community donations in the form of money to charities but also with the donation of items to local groups via our community compost scheme and book scheme; Raising Equal Opportunities through the vast amounts of training provided at the contract.

Metric total social value highlights

£2,105
Equal opportunity

£26,250
Wellbeing

£231,858
Fighting climate change

£15,898,070
Tackling economic inequality

£16,158,282
Grand Total

Future of the waste industry

The waste and recycling sector is navigating major policy changes. In November 2024, Defra has introduced Simpler Recycling legislation that aims to make it easier for households to recycle correctly, while ensuring greater consistency across the country. Under the new rules, core materials such as plastic bottles, plastic containers, paper, card, cans, tins and glass should be collected at the kerbside from all households by 31 March 2026 and flexible plastic to be added by 31 March 2027. This change is designed to reduce confusion for residents and increase the amount of waste properly recycled. While some flexibility remains for local authorities to justify co-collection, the overall goal is a more streamlined, user-friendly system that supports higher recycling rates and aligns with national waste targets.

The Deposit Return Scheme (DRS) is the next piece of legislation which will encourage recycling by offering refunds on returned drink containers, is moving forward with a planned rollout in October 2027, excluding Wales. Alongside this, ongoing devolution reforms in England may reshape waste services by creating larger regions through local council mergers.

Looking ahead, 2025 is a crucial year as new policies set the foundation for a more sustainable, circular economy. While these changes mark important progress, it will take time before their full impact is felt across households and communities.

MRF Sampling

Recycling Sampling Overview

In accordance with the Environment Agency's updated 2024 regulations, all recycling facilities must implement systematic sampling of)Mixed Dry Recycling (MDR) to ensure compliance, traceability, and quality control. At our facility, we conduct sampling for every 75 tonnes of MDR received from each local authority – Bracknell Forest, Reading and Wokingham. This approach ensures that incoming materials are consistently monitored for composition and contamination, supporting both operational efficiency and regulatory compliance.

Sampling Methodology

Sampling is carried out on both incoming and outgoing materials to provide a comprehensive view of material quality and processing effectiveness. The materials targeted for sampling include paper, cardboard, plastics, and metals. Each sample is assessed for purity, contamination levels, and material type distribution. This data is essential for maintaining high recycling standards and for identifying areas where public education or operational improvements may be needed.

75

At our facility, we conduct sampling for every 75 tonnes of MDR received from each local authority – Bracknell Forest, Reading and Wokingham.

Staffing and Frequency

Two trained staff members are dedicated to the sampling process, operating four days per week. Their responsibilities include collecting representative samples, recording data and ensuring that all procedures align with Environment Agency guidelines. This consistent staffing ensures that sampling is thorough, timely, and reliable, forming a critical part of our quality assurance framework.

Environmental and Regulatory Benefits

By adhering to these sampling protocols, we contribute to broader environmental goals such as reducing landfill use, improving recycling rates, and minimizing contamination. Accurate sampling data also supports the Environment Agency's enforcement and monitoring efforts, helping to identify non-compliance and promote best practices across the sector. This proactive approach aligns with the UK's 2025 waste legislation, which mandates separation and recycling of key waste streams including plastics, metals, paper and card.

Supporting Local Authorities and Public Awareness

The data collected through our sampling efforts is shared with the Council's waste collection teams to help them understand the composition and quality of the recycling they collect. This information is vital for shaping public awareness campaigns, improving household recycling habits and ultimately increasing recycling rates. By working collaboratively, we aim to foster a more sustainable and informed recycling ecosystem.

Performance Monitoring

Both the contractor and the client maintain continuous oversight of contract performance through the monitoring of 71 Key Performance Indicators (KPIs). These KPIs cover a broad spectrum of operational areas, ranging from waste disposal efficiency to compliance with health and safety protocols across both sites.

In instances where performance falls below the agreed standards, financial penalties may be applied. Persistently underperforming KPIs that attract repeated penalties are subject to formal review. This may result in revised operational procedures to address performance issues and drive improvements.

Daily and weekly inspections are carried out to ensure compliance with contractual obligations and the effective operation of the Recycling Centres. These checks include monitoring visitor numbers, assessing the capacity and functionality of collection points, overseeing site cleanliness and environmental standards, and ensuring adherence to environmental permit conditions at both locations.

Regular analysis of monthly KPIs and annual reporting allows both the contractor and client to quickly identify and respond to areas requiring improvement. This proactive approach supports enhanced operational efficiency and service delivery – not only for the client but, crucially, for members of the public using the sites.

> **Daily and weekly inspections are carried out to ensure compliance with contractual obligations and the effective operation of the Recycling Centres.**







631,145

The combined number of visitors to the two re3 Recycling Centres reached 631,145 – an increase of 48,237 compared to the previous year

Customer satisfaction

During the 2024–25 contract year, the combined number of visitors to the two re3 Recycling Centres reached 631,145 – an increase of 48,237 compared to the previous year. With such high footfall, we naturally receive both complaints and compliments, both of which are invaluable in helping us continuously improve the visitor experience.

Complaints Handling

At re3, all complaints are treated with the utmost seriousness. Each written complaint submitted by a member of the public is acknowledged within three working days, followed by a detailed written response within ten working days. This process enables us to investigate every complaint thoroughly and if necessary, take steps to prevent similar occurrences in the future, thereby improving service quality and customer satisfaction.

In 2024–25, we received 57 complaints, representing a 24% increase from the previous year. However, this must be viewed in context – our visitor numbers grew by 48,237, which partially explains the rise. We remain committed to learning from each case to further improve the site experience.

Compliments Received

While complaints help us identify areas for improvement, compliments play an equally important role. They allow us to recognise what is working well and inspire our teams by acknowledging their efforts and dedication.

In the 2024–25 period, we received 61 direct compliments, up from 46 in the previous year. This positive feedback reflects the consistent hard work and professionalism of our on-site staff, and we are proud of the recognition they've earned.

User Satisfaction Survey

Every year, re3 conducts the Annual User Satisfaction Survey, giving residents from the three Councils the opportunity to share their views on various aspects of our Recycling Centres. The survey evaluates areas such as:

- Customer service
- Site cleanliness
- Queue management
- Staffing

As with the previous year, the 2024–25 survey was distributed via the online booking system. A total of 4,463 surveys were completed:

- 2,361 for Longshot Lane
- 2,102 for Smallmead

The results were extremely encouraging, with some categories showing improvements in satisfaction levels. Notably, overall satisfaction remained very high, with:

Longshot Lane scoring 90% (previously 91%)

Smallmead maintaining a strong 92%

These results are among the highest ever recorded and are a testament to the outstanding work of our teams.

Looking Ahead

While we are proud of these achievements, we are not complacent. We have reviewed the valuable feedback from the public and are planning to implement several suggested improvements in 2025/26. Our focus remains firmly on delivering an excellent experience for every visitor.

Health and Safety

Health and Safety remains one of the most critical aspects – if not the most critical – of operations at re3. During the past contract year, a total of 69 minor accidents were recorded across both sites. Of these, 32 incidents involved residents injuring themselves while handling their own waste during unloading.

Alongside accidents, re3 also monitors near misses, which are incidents that had the potential to cause harm to individuals or the environment. This year, 212 near misses were reported – a reduction from the previous year.

However, it's important to note that over a third of these incidents were related to public behaviour, most frequently involving children being outside of vehicles – something that is strictly prohibited at both Longshot Lane (Bracknell) and Smallmead (Reading) Recycling Centres due to the high volume of site traffic.

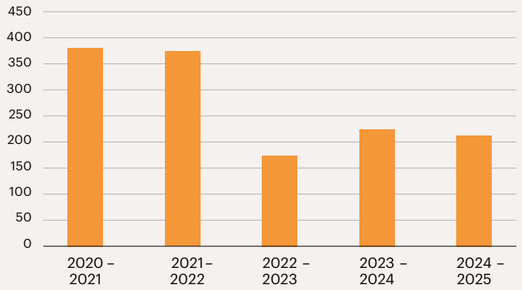
- There has been an increase in the number of site visitors, which naturally raises the number of incidents.
- Public non-compliance with site safety rules continues to be a significant concern.

The graphs below show the number of near misses and accidents reported each contract year at Longshot Lane and Smallmead since 2020.

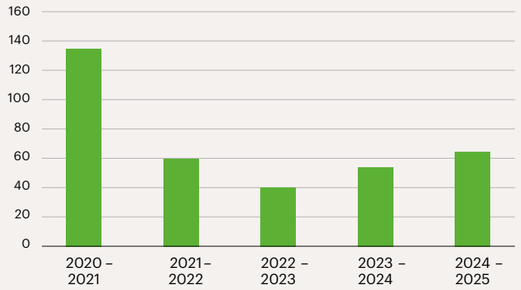
The number of near misses and accidents across our sites has reduced over the years due to several key improvements:

- Regular toolbox talks, safety briefings, and inductions that raise awareness of workplace hazards.
- Staff becoming more proactive in identifying and addressing risks before they escalate.
- Focused training on hazard recognition and safe working practices, which has helped reduce unsafe behaviours

Near Misses



Accidents



The revised Behavioural Based Safety Programme, "All Safe" has officially launched

This enhanced programme is designed to foster a proactive safety culture by placing a strong emphasis on workforce engagement and effective communication. At its core, All Safe aims to strengthen the relationship between local Supervisory Teams and their site personnel, encouraging open dialogue and mutual accountability to reinforce positive safety behaviours across all Sites.

A key innovation of the revised programme is the introduction of a digital conversation card – a simple yet powerful tool that enables real-time recording of safety conversations and engagement activities. This digital approach not only ensures better tracking and visibility of interactions but also helps identify trends, share learning, and support continuous improvement in safety performance.

By focusing on meaningful engagement and consistent, constructive conversations, All Safe seeks to move beyond compliance and create a genuinely collaborative environment where safety is everyone's responsibility – and where positive behaviours are actively recognised and reinforced.

Fire Safety and Prevention

Fires continue to pose a significant risk in the waste management industry. According to the National Fire Chiefs Council (NFCC), over 1,200 fires occurred in bin lorries and waste sites across the UK in the past year, marking a 71% increase from the previous year. This surge is largely attributed to the improper disposal of lithium-ion batteries, often referred to as "zombie batteries," which can ignite when damaged or crushed during waste processing.

While specific figures for major fires at waste facilities from April 2024 to March 2025 are not yet available, the NFCC's data underscores the escalating fire risk within the waste management sector. This trend highlights the critical need for proper disposal of batteries and other hazardous materials to mitigate fire hazards. At re3, the 2024–2025 contract year saw 13 on-site fires – 3 at Longshot Lane and 10 at Smallmead – many of which were linked to the incorrect disposal of batteries. This marks an increase from the 2023–2024 contract year, which saw 11 fires, down from 15 the year before.

On site fires

Smallmead **10**

Longshot **3**

To help prevent onsite fires, re3 currently provides dedicated vape and battery bins at its sites, which residents are encouraged to use. We have also promoted safe disposal practices for these items through our social media platforms.



Waste:
Where does it come from?

During the contract year April 2024 – March 2025, the amount of contract waste that came through both facilities totalled 177,128 tonnes: a 2.6% increase on the previous year's 172,569.

Food waste is an area in which tonnages have increased: rising 8.7% on the previous year, across the re3 Partnership.

Council where the weekly blue bag collection system for residual (non-recyclable) waste was replaced with a fortnightly bin collection in August 2024.

Recovery Rate

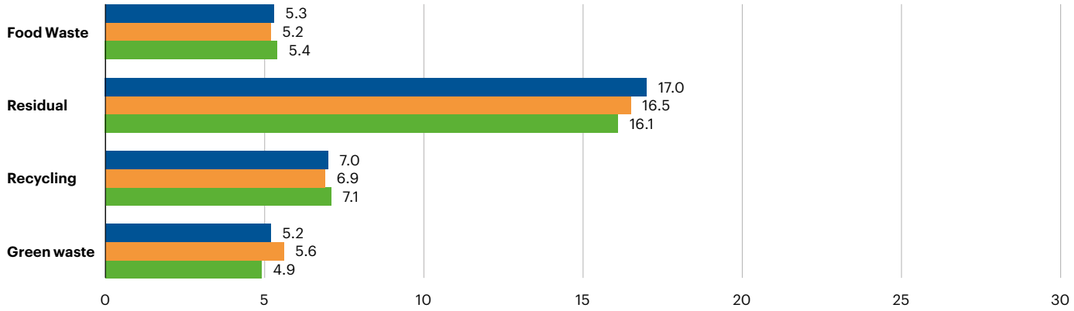
For the 2024–25 contract year, the recovery rate was 93.6%. This figure includes all waste sent for recycling, Energy from Waste (EfW), reuse, composting, and beneficial use, based on the total material processed through both re3 facilities and elsewhere.

Whilst lower than previous years, this figure still reflects a significant diversion from landfill and the continued commitment of the re3 team to responsible and sustainable waste management. The data will help us identify opportunities for improvement as we work towards increasing recovery and reducing environmental impact moving forward.

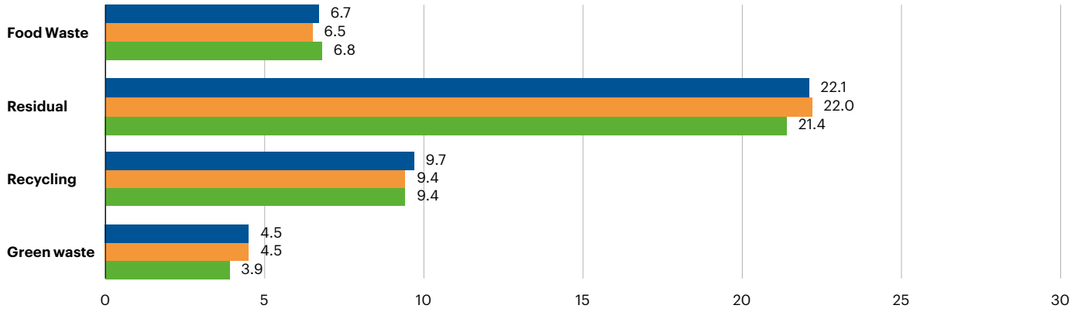
Council Kerbside Tonnages

2024 – 2025 | 2023 – 2024 | 2022 – 2023

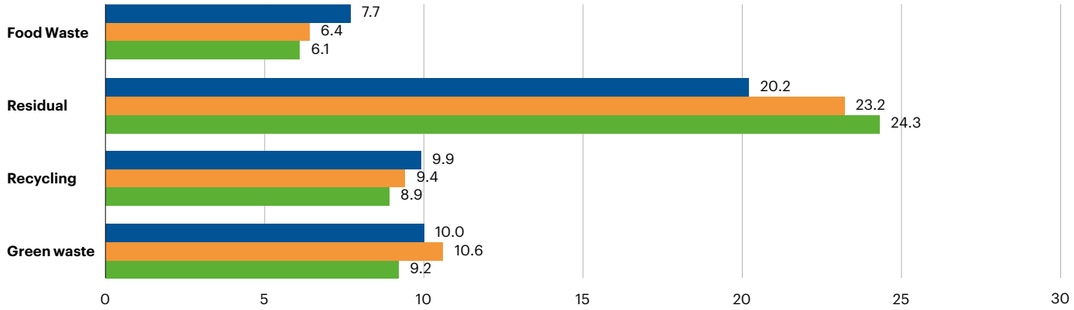
Bracknell Forest – Thousands of Tonnes Collected



Reading Borough Council – Thousands of Tonnes Collected



Wokingham Borough Council – Thousands of Tonnes Collected



Recycling Centres

DIY waste

Under the updated Controlled Waste Regulations 2023, from 31 December 2023, Recycling Centres must allow residents to dispose of up to 100 litres of DIY waste – or one bulky sanitary item – free of charge, up to four times within any four-week period.

At re3 sites, materials such as rubble, soil, plasterboard, and asbestos will continue to be assessed by the Meet and Greet team. Any DIY waste exceeding the 100-litre allowance will remain chargeable at the standard rate.

This free allowance applies to residential waste only and is not available to commercial traders. Our booking system has been updated to accommodate recent changes to DIY waste bookings. Residents can now declare their DIY waste before arriving at the site, ensuring a more efficient check-in process.

re3paint

Both water and oil-based paints are received at the two re3 Recycling Centres. Through the re3Paint scheme, residents can donate partially used water-based paint for reuse. When paint is dropped off, our site teams inspect it to ensure there's a reasonable quantity and that it's in good condition.

The scheme enables residents and community groups to collect free paint, supporting local projects while also helping to reduce paint waste and its environmental impact.

In 2024/25, the re3Paint scheme continued to thrive, with 1,480 containers – equivalent to 6.6 tonnes of paint – taken for reuse by members of the public and community organisations.

re3paint Community Paint Reuse

Trade Waste Scheme

Both re3 facilities offer micro businesses the opportunity to dispose of waste. Some recyclable materials are accepted free of charge.

Launched in 2019, the scheme was designed to provide small local businesses with a legitimate and convenient way to manage their waste – particularly for those without access to suitable disposal options.

With 100 local businesses currently holding a permit, the scheme saw an impressive 19,653 items brought in last year alone, ranging from paper and cardboard to large electrical items. Businesses benefiting from the service include carpenters, gardeners, and even antenatal classes, with more applicants on the waiting list, eager to join.

To be eligible for a permit (or to join the waiting list), businesses must:

- Have no more than 10 employees
- Operate primarily within the re3 area
- Hold a valid waste carrier's licence

Businesses also have the option to use the Single Drop Scheme, which allows them to make a single visit within any six-month period. This provides a convenient solution for traders who may not require regular waste disposal but still need a legitimate and cost-effective way to manage their waste.





Left: Longshot Lane Re-use Area
Right: Smallmead Re-use Area

Reuse Services

Reuse Areas are available at both re3 Recycling Centres, providing residents with the opportunity to drop off items that are still in good condition. By donating reusable goods, residents help divert waste from landfill while also supporting charitable and community-based organisations.

Since 2011, re3 has partnered with Sue Ryder, donating suitable items that meet the charity's quality criteria. These items are collected and sold in Sue Ryder shops, helping to raise vital funds to support people in need of care.

Sue Ryder palliative, neurological and bereavement support

'We have had a fantastic partnership with re3 for over ten years now which is very much valued by everyone here at Sue Ryder.

For the year of 2024/2025 we made £10k in sales, this money will help to pay for up to 300 hours' worth of care by our SR nurses in one of our hospices or out in the local community. Our vision is that no one should face death or grief alone.

Also, by keeping all of these items out of landfill, this helps to support our sustainability goal of reuse, repurpose, recycle.

Our thanks to everyone at re3 for your continued support'.

Jane Bullen, Sue Ryder

Podback

re3 has partnered with Podback, a not-for-profit recycling scheme created by the UK's leading coffee pod brands – Nescafé Dolce Gusto, Tassimo, and Nespresso. Through this partnership, used coffee pods are sent to specialist facilities where they are fully recycled.

At these facilities, pods are shredded to separate the coffee grounds, which are then processed via anaerobic digestion to generate renewable energy and fertiliser. The plastic components are melted down and repurposed through injection moulding, while the aluminium is smelted and transformed into new products – ranging from packaging to car and building components.

Podback



Waste:
Storage and Transport

Longshot Lane, Bracknell

The Longshot Lane site plays a vital role in the re3 waste and recycling network, receiving materials from the Bracknell Forest and Wokingham collection teams. These materials are delivered to the on-site transfer station, which has the capacity to handle up to 100,000 tonnes of waste and recyclables each year.

Mixed Dry Recycling (MDR) collected at Longshot Lane is transported to the Smallmead Materials Recycling Facility (MRF), where it's sorted into separate recycling streams for further processing. In addition to its primary role, Longshot Lane also serves as a flexible backup storage site, providing essential overflow capacity when Smallmead experiences high volumes, particularly during peak times.

Smallmead, Reading

The Smallmead transfer station is the largest facility within the re3 network, with the capacity to handle up to 200,000 tonnes of waste annually – double that of Longshot Lane. This scale is essential, as it receives residential waste from all three councils, including food waste, glass, and residual waste and other wastes such as street sweepings.

In addition to serving as a central hub for waste transfer, the Reading site is also home to the Materials Recycling Facility (MRF), where Mixed Dry Recycling (MDR) is sorted and processed. The recycled materials are then continuously collected and transported to processors across the UK. With such a high volume of activity and a wide range of materials handled daily, the Reading site is one of the busiest and most vital components of the re3 infrastructure.







7,976

During the 2024 - 2025, re3 collected 7,976 tonnes of glass – representing a 2.9% decrease from the previous year

Glass

In the re3 area, kerbside glass collection is not currently offered by any of the three local councils. As a result, bottle banks and their associated collections form a vital part of the recycling service provided by re3. There are 135 bottle bank locations across the partnership, housing a total of 565 individual banks. Specifically, Bracknell Forest hosts 173 bottle banks at 44 locations, Reading Borough has 201 banks across 46 locations, and Wokingham Borough has 191 banks at 45 locations.

Previously, glass was sorted and collected by colour. However, in recent years, mixed-colour collection has been introduced, making recycling easier for residents. This system has enabled re3 to rationalise the number of containers and optimise collection schedules. As a result, it helps reduce costs, minimise the risk of overflowing banks, and lower the scheme's carbon footprint. Mixed glass collection also means fewer trips are needed to empty the banks, reducing unnecessary vehicle journeys.

To further improve efficiency, re3 uses MOBA software to plan faster and more effective collection routes. This technology helps lower fuel consumption and emissions by generating optimised routes, tracking collections, recording container weights and locations, and logging any incidents. Continuous monitoring allows us to review and adjust routes as needed, ensuring a responsive, efficient, and environmentally friendly service.

During the 2024 - 2025, re3 collected 7,976 tonnes of glass – representing a 2.9% decrease from the previous year. The busiest month for collections was January, which is consistent with the post-Christmas and New Year period.



Waste:
How we deal with it

Hopper	Waste is collected from the input Bay and tipped by a loading shovel into the hopper
Pre-Sorting	Large non-recyclable items are removed from the belt
Trommel	Rotating drum segregating the material by size
Disc Screen	Items which are too small to be processed are removed (including glass)
Air Knives	Air knives remove four types of plastic, two types of fibre and paper
Eddy Current Separators	Electric current removes aluminium
Over Band Magnet	Collects steel cans
Robot	Picks, segregates and remove any contamination from our plastics streams
MRF Picking Team	Any items which are not suitable for recycling are removed by our team
Baler	Bales the recyclate ready for distribution

The MRF: (Materials Recycling Facility)

The Materials Recycling Facility (MRF) has continued to operate exceptionally well. During 2024 - 2025 it processed 26,654 tonnes of household recycling – an increase from the 25,432 tonnes handled the previous year. Since opening in 2008, the composition of Mixed Dry Recycling (MDR) has evolved significantly. This change is driven by a combination of shifting public attitudes – with more people actively recycling – and industry changes in packaging design. As the cost of raw materials increases, producers have reduced the amount of material used in packaging, resulting in lighter products. Consequently, while the volume of recyclable materials continues to grow, their overall weight is gradually decreasing. This trend underscores the ongoing need for efficient and adaptable recycling systems like the re3 MRF. All recyclable materials collected at the kerbside in Bracknell Forest, Reading, and Wokingham are processed at the re3 Materials Recycling Facility (MRF) at Smallmead.

The materials currently processed include:

- Newspapers and pamphlets (News & Pams)
- Cardboard
- Steel and aluminium cans
- Plastic bottles, pots, tubs, and trays
- Paper
- Aerosol cans

All items, except for News & Pams and Mixed Paper, are baled into separate streams, then inspected by offtakers before being transported for further recycling. Non-recyclable materials are separated out during processing and sent to Energy from Waste (EfW) facilities.

Quality Control and Monitoring

To maintain high recycling standards, the MRF carries out continuous sampling and monitoring of materials both before and after processing. This helps assess the performance of each council and identify any challenges, such as contamination (e.g. non-target materials not accepted by off-takers).

Sampling also measures moisture content, as overly wet material can hinder mechanical processing and lead to rejections. If contamination or quality issues are identified, the affected material is often re-processed, and investigations are conducted to address any underlying plant or maintenance issues.







Plastics

Within the MDR, four types of plastics are segregated for offtake, accounting for 3,415 tonnes in total. The most common is PET Clear (such as fizzy drink bottles), at 1,371 tonnes; followed by PTT (mixed pots, tubs, and trays) at 1,194 tonnes; HDPE Jazz (detergent bottles) at 379 tonnes, HDPE Natural (milk bottles) at 471 tonnes and soft plastics at 33 tonnes (currently in trial stages)

Most plastic that leaves the facility undergoes a similar recycling process. Materials are further sorted by grade, then washed and either baled or shredded to produce pellets, which are used in the manufacture of new plastic products.

Year-on-Year Comparison of Plastic Offtake

Plastic Type	2023 Tonnage	2024 Tonnage
PET Clear	1652	1371
PTT	919	1194
HDPE Jazz	490	379
HDPE Natural	422	471
Soft Plastics**		33

** This is a manual process

Aluminium and Steel Cans

Compared to the previous contract year, there was minimal change in the total tonnages of metal components within the MDR. Aluminium cans increased by 2%, reaching 510 tonnes, while steel cans saw a 4% decrease, totalling 1,067 tonnes. Once separated within the MDR, both aluminium and steel undergo similar processing upon reaching the offtaker. This involves additional screening using trommels to remove any remaining contaminants, after which the materials are re-baled and sent for smelting to be repurposed into new metal products.

Cardboard, Mixed Paper and News & Pams (Fibre)

In the last contract year, there was a 6% overall increase in the volume of paper, cardboard, and News & Pams recycled through the MDR, reflecting a positive trend in fibre material recovery. This uplift equates to a total of 14,770 tonnes of fibre materials, compared to 13,902 tonnes in the previous year.

This total is comprised of:

- **1,230 tonnes of News & Pams (a 4.7% increase)**
- **9,425 tonnes of mixed paper (up by 4.1%)**
- **4,115 tonnes of cardboard (which saw the largest rise, at 12.1%)**

The increase may reflect both changes in consumer behaviour and packaging – resulting in a higher proportion of recyclable materials – as well as improved capture rates, stronger public participation, and more effective sorting processes at the facility. Continued performance in this area supports the broader aim of diverting recyclable materials from landfill and contributing to a circular economy.



26,654

Over the year the MRF Processed:

PET clear
1,371 tonnes

PTT
1,194 tonnes

HDPE Jazz
379 tonnes

HDPE clear
471 tonnes

Soft plastics
33 tonnes

News & Pams
1,230 tonnes

Mixed paper
9,425 tonnes

Card
4,115 tonnes

Ali cans
510 tonnes

Steel cans
1,067 tonnes

Residual waste
6,859 tonnes

Transport of Waste

General Waste

Each council collects residual waste from the kerbside and brings it to Longshot Lane or Smallmead transfer station

- The majority of residual waste goes to lakeside EWF to produce renewable energy
- If waste is not suitable for EWF then it will be taken to FCC Sutton Courtney landfill



Rigid Plastics

Rigid plastics are brought to the Longshot Lane and Smallmead Recycling Centres by the public and stored separately

Rigid plastics collected by an off taker → The plastic is then re-graded, washed, and ground or pelletised to meet specifications required by end markets in the UK, thus ensuring a circular UK solution for bulky mixed plastics



Green Waste

The kerbside collected waste from the councils is either brought to Smallmead and Longshot Lane for storage where it is combined with green waste from the Recycling Centres

Green waste transported to Sutton Courtney compost pad → Green waste is composted in open windrows. The final product is then brought back to site and either sold to the public or donated to community scheme



MDR

MDR from the kerbside is brought to the Longshot Lane and Smallmead transfer station

MDR is sorted in the Smallmead MRF → The sorted material is either baled or remains loose to be collected by off takers for re-processing into new material

Food waste

Food across the area is collected separately from the residual waste and is brought to the Longshot Lane or Smallmead transfer station

The waste is transported to Severn Trent Green Power Anaerobic Digestive Facility in Oxfordshire for processing → This produces biogas (methane) and compost. Biogas is used to create electricity and digestate can improve poor soil conditions



Waste Upholstered Domestic Seating (WUDS)

WUDS material is brought to the recycling centres by the public. It is stored separately from the other waste

Material is transported to FCC Sutton Courtney transfer station to be shredded. It is then transported back to Smallmead → Shredded WUDS waste is mixed with black bag waste before being sent to EFW

Waste:
What happens to it?

At re3, we take our duty of care seriously. Before any material leaves our site, offtakers are required to undergo a rigorous audit process. This includes providing documentation such as environmental permits, waste carrier licences, details of the treatment processes, and the final destination of the material.

Once trading begins, the initial desktop audit is followed by an on-site visit to the offtaker's facility. This allows us to verify that the actual processes align with what was declared during the audit and ensures that the materials are being recycled responsibly and in accordance with environmental standards.

This two-stage approach helps us uphold high standards of transparency, traceability, and environmental protection throughout the recycling journey.

Food Waste

Kerbside collection of food waste is a weekly service provided by all collection teams across the re3 area. The collected material is transported to both transfer stations, from where it is collected by Grundon and taken to Severn Trent Green Power, which operates an anaerobic digestion (AD) facility in Oxfordshire.

In the latest contract year, a total of 19,696 tonnes of food waste was collected. This marks a recovery from the previous year's reduction, which saw a drop of 4,848 tonnes. One of the primary reasons for the earlier decline was attributed to the ongoing cost-of-living pressures and inflation, which likely influenced consumer behaviour – leading to less food purchased and consequently less food wasted.

Anaerobic digestion is a process where food waste is broken down in oxygen-free (anaerobic) conditions to produce biogas and a nutrient-rich fertiliser. The process begins with the removal of contaminants. The cleaned food waste is then placed in sealed vessels containing bacteria that thrive in an oxygen-starved environment. As the bacteria break down the organic material, they emit biogas – rich in methane – which is captured and used to generate renewable electricity and heat. Meanwhile, the remaining digestate settles at the bottom and is processed into a fertiliser suitable for agricultural use.

From the 19,178 tonnes of food waste collected across the re3 area, Severn Trent Green Power was able to generate 8,187 MWh of renewable electricity. This amount of energy is enough to produce:

Tonnes of food waste Treated	Tonnes	19,178.00
Biogas Produced	m3	36,438.20
Energy Generated-Electric Equivalent	MWh(e)	8,745.17
Number of Kettles Boiled	Kettles Boiled	874,516.80
Hours of TV	Hours	174,903.360.00
Hours of Lightbulb	Hours	874,516,800.00
Fridge Freezers powered for a year	Fridge Freezers	29,150.56
Digestate fertiliser produced	Tonnes	26,849.20
Carbon benefit of digestate vs chemical fertiliser	Tonnes	832.33
Homes powered for a year	Homes Annually	3,239.00
Homes powered for a day	Homes Daily	1,182,217.00

In addition to electricity, anaerobic digestion of this amount would also:

- **Produce valuable fertiliser (~25,000 tonnes)**
- **Avoid 15,900+ tonnes of CO_2 emissions compared to landfill**

SEVERN TRENT Green Power

19,178

From the 19,178 tonnes of food waste collected across the re3 area, Severn Trent Green Power was able to generate 8,187 MWh of renewable electricity



Flexible Plastic Kerbside Collection

FlexCollect is the UK's largest pilot project focused on the kerbside collection of flexible plastics – items like plastic bags, wrappers, and film that have traditionally been difficult to recycle. Funded by the Flexible Plastic Fund and supported by Defra, UK Research and Innovation, and leading industry partners, the project aims to test and develop practical solutions for incorporating flexible plastic recycling into household waste services. The long-term goal is to inform and support the UK government's plan to roll out mandatory collections of flexible plastics by March 2027 under the Simpler Recycling reforms.

The re3 Partnership has been an active participant in the national FPF FlexCollect project, which is exploring the most effective ways to collect and process flexible plastic packaging.

The trial first launched in Reading in September 2023, with over 4,000 households participating by collecting flexible plastics in provided "survival" blue bags placed inside their regular recycling bins. In July 2024, the scheme expanded to include a further 6,000 households in Reading.

In March 2024, Bracknell Forest Council joined the initiative, extending the trial to an additional 10,000 households using the same method.

In total, the FlexCollect trial now includes 20,000 households across Reading and Bracknell Forest. This initiative provides re3 partnership with learnings and insights, helping us to understand the most efficient ways to collect flexible plastics at the kerbside.

The scheme allows residents to recycle soft plastics directly from their doorstep, eliminating the need to take these materials to supermarket collection points – a major convenience and incentive to participate.

The impact of the scheme has already been tangible. During the last contract year, re3 successfully recycled 33 tonnes of soft plastics. This not only diverts waste from landfill and energy-from-waste plants but also helps assess how to scale such initiatives nationally.

By engaging communities and making recycling more accessible, re3 and its partners are demonstrating that local action can play a major role in solving global environmental challenges. The FlexCollect project is a significant step toward a more circular economy, where resources are reused and recycled more effectively. Through its collaboration with national partners and local residents, re3 is helping lead the way in developing sustainable, scalable waste management solutions for the future.

Energy from Waste (EfW)

Energy from Waste (EfW) facilities offer a more sustainable alternative to landfill by recovering energy from residual waste. Instead of being buried, waste is combusted at temperatures reaching 1,000°C, generating heat that produces high-pressure steam to power a turbine and generate electricity.

Using EfW helps move waste up the waste hierarchy, reducing landfill use while producing low-carbon energy that can support local homes and businesses.

EfW facilities are strictly regulated by the Environment Agency to minimise environmental impact. Emissions are carefully treated and filtered to remove particulates and harmful gases before being released through the stack.

At re3, residual waste is sent to the Lakeside EfW facility in Colnbrook, a joint venture between Grundon Waste and Viridor. The plant processes up to 440,000 tonnes of waste annually, generating approximately 40 MW of electricity – enough to power around 55,000 homes.

re3 returned 68,632 tonnes of waste to the energy grid, generating the equivalent of 37.7 million kWh. This is enough to power:

12,500

Approx. 12,500 UK homes for a year
(based on average household use of ~3,000 kWh/year)

5,400

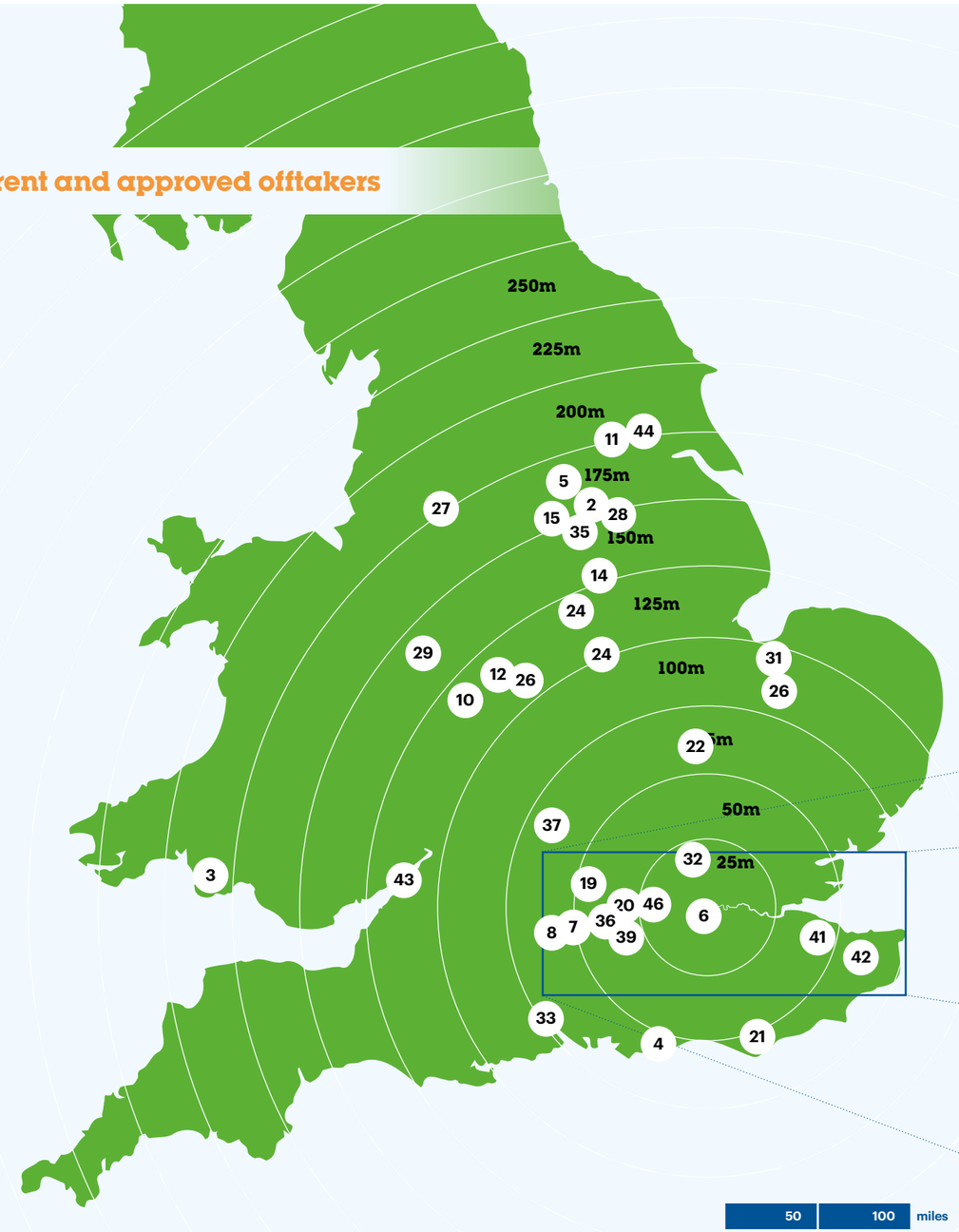
Or power 5,400 electric vehicles for a year
(assuming ~7,000 kWh/year per EV)

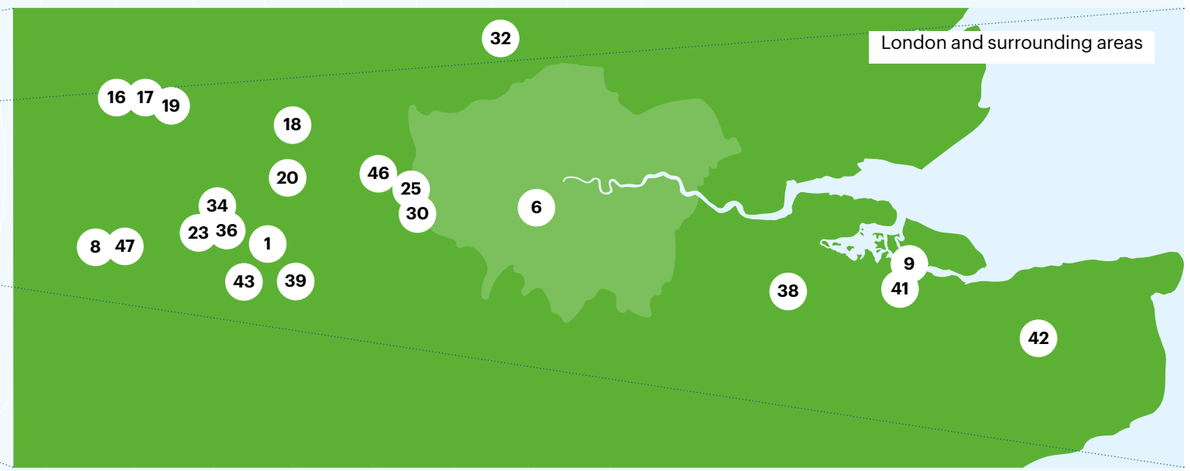
1,000

Or run a standard LED streetlight for over 1,000 years non-stop



Current and approved offtakers





1 A1
2 Allington
3 AMG
4 BCMY Ltd
5 Berrymans
6 Calor Gas
7 Collards Group Ltd
8 Computer Salvage
9 Country Style Recycling
10 Credential Environmental
11 Credential Environmental
12 Ecobat
13 Ekman*
14 Enva
15 FCC Blackburn Meadows
16 FCC Environment Sutton Courtenay Composting Facility
17 FCC Environment Sutton Courtenay Landfill
18 FlexCollect
19 Grundons
20 Grundons
21 Haulaway LTD
22 Invixon
23 J Mould
24 Jayplas
25 Lakeside Energy from Waste
26 Life Cycle Oil
27 Mercury Recycling
28 Morris Metals
29 Newport Paper
30 Oakleaf
31 Palm Paper
32 Pearce Recycling
33 Podback
34 Precycle
35 Promet
36 Select Environmental Services
37 Severn Trent Green Power
38 Smurfit Kappa
39 Sue Ryder
40 Sue Ryder
41 Sweep (Repic)
42 Synergy Recycling
43 Unimetals
44 Van Werven
45 VG Recycling*
46 W.N. Thomas & Sons Ltd
47 Waste Care Ltd

* Not shown on map

Offtaker Information

No.	Company	Market	Recovered from	Head Office Postcode	End Market Locations
1	**A1**	Batteries: Car/, Metal (Scrap Ferrous), Metal: Non-ferrous, Wire Copper, Metal/Wire	HWRC/MRF	RG41 4SP	UK
2	**Allington**	Residual	TS	DN4 5NU	UK
3	**AMG**	Steel Cans	MRF	SA15 2HD	UK
	AMG	Mixed Paper	MRF	Broker	UK/India/Malaysia
	AMG	Plastic Bottles, Pots, Tubs and Trays	MRF	Broker	UK
4	**BCMY Ltd**	Ink Cartridges	HWRC	BN17 7QU	UK
5	**Berrymans**	Glass	Bring Banks/HWRC	WF11 0HP	UK
6	**Calor Gas**	Gas Canisters	HWRC	SW18 1EG	UK
7	**Collards Group Ltd**	Plastic	HWRC	RG27 0PZ	UK
8	**Computer Salvage**	WEEE (Small)	HWRC	RG14 5EY	UK
9	**Country Style Recycling**	Plasterboard	HWRC	ME98SR	UK
	Country Style Recycling	Wood	HWRC	ME98SR	UK/Germany/Finland/ Sweden
10 & 11	**Credential Environmental**	Tyres	HWRC	WS10 7BG/ YO8 6DH	UK
12	**Ecobat**	Batteries: Household	HWRC	WS10 8JR	Germany/France/Spain/ Belgium
13	**Ekman**	Mixed Paper and Card	MRF	Broker	Germany/India/Vietnam/ Thailand/Malaysia
14	**Enva**	Engine Oil	HWRC	NG22 8UA	UK/Finland/Denmark
15	**FCC Blackburn Meadows**	Oil-Based Paint/Chemicals	HWRC	S9 1HF	UK
16	**FCC Environment Sutton Courtenay Composting Facility**	Green Waste	HWRC/TS	OX14 4PW	UK
	FCC Environment Sutton Courtenay Composting Facility (Transfer Station)	WUDs	HWRC	OX14 4PW	UK
17	**FCC Environment Sutton Courtenay Landfill**	Bulky Waste	HWRC	OX14 4PW	UK
18	**FlexCollect**	Flexible Plastic	MRF	Broker	UK
19 & 20	**Grundons**	Street Sweeping	TS	OX10 6PJ	UK
	Grundons	Clinical Waste	TS	RG10 9XY	UK
21	**Haulaway LTD**	Rigid Plastics	HWRC	BN26 6QY	UK
22	**Invixon**	Street Sweeping	TS	PE19 5UH	UK
23	**J Mould**	Soil, Hardcore, Wood, Plasterboard	HWRC	RG30 3XN	UK

No.	Company	Market	Recovered from	Head Office Postcode	End Market Locations
24	**Jayplas**	Plastic Bottles	MRF	LE11 0JN/ NN18 9EY/DE552DT	UK
25	**Lakeside Energy from Waste**	MRF Rejects, Residual	MRF	SL3 0FE	UK
26	**Life Cycle Oil**	Cooking Oils	HWRC	IP26 4JQ/ WS2 9SL	UK
27	**Mercury Recycling**	Fluorescent Tubes	HWRC	M17 1HW	UK
28	**Morris Metals**	Steel Cans	MRF	DN11 0PS	UK
29	**Newport Paper**	Paper and Cardboard	MRF/HWRC	Broker	UK/Germany/ Netherlands
	Newport Paper	Plastic Pots, Tubes and Trays	MRF	Broker	UK
30	**Oakleaf**	MRF Rejects	MRF	TW19 6AF	UK
31	**Palm Paper**	News and Pams	MRF	PE34 3AL	UK
32	**Pearce Recycling**	Mixed Paper and Card	MRF/HWRC	AL4 0JY	India/Vietnam
33	**Podback**	Coffee Pods	HWRC	Broker	UK
34	**Precycle**	Bric-a-Brac, Textiles/Shoes, Books/ Media, WEEE (Small), TVs/PCs	Bring Banks/ HWRC	RG30 1EA	Worldwide (Reuse)
35	**Promet**	Steel	MRF	S25 3AF	UK
	Promet	Aluminium	MRF	S25 3AF	UK/Greece
36	**Select Environmental Services**	Asbestos	HWRC	RG2 0QX	UK
37	**Severn Trent Green Power**	Food Waste	TS	OX7 4EB	UK
38	**Smurfit Kappa**	Mixed Paper	MRF	ME6 5AX	Various
39 & 40	**Sue Ryder**	Bric-a-Brac and Bicycles	HWRC	GU47 9DU	UK
41	**Sweep (Repic)**	TVs/PCs	HWRC	ME10 2QB	UK
42	**Synergy Recycling**	Gas Canisters	HWRC	CT4 7BA	UK
43	**Unimetals**	WEEE (Large), Fridges and Freezers	HWRC	BS11 9BT, GU46 6ED, NP20 2WE	UK
	Unimetals	Steels Cans	MRF	BS11 9BT, GU46 6ED, NP20 2WE	UK
44	**Van Werven**	Rigid Plastics	HWRC	YO86EG	UK
45	**VG Recycling**	Card	MRF	Broker	Netherlands/India
46	**W.N. Thomas & Sons Ltd**	Metal: Non-ferrous, Wire Copper, Metal/Wire, Car Batteries	HWRC	SL1 3QR	UK
47	**Waste Care Ltd**	Vapes	HWRC	RG19 4NB	UK

Website

During the last contract year, the re3 website received over 2.8 million hits, with more than 300,000 active users and over 900,000 page views.

The most visited pages were:

1. **Recycling centres**
2. **What to do with an item**
3. **Click & Tip services**
4. **Contact us**

In 2025/26, we plan to launch the re3 chatbot

It will help make information more accessible and improve support for our residents.







Energy and the Environment

The re3 Partnership is strongly committed to reducing its carbon footprint across both sites, prioritising the efficient and effective use of energy. Longshot Lane, with its office block, outdoor recycling centre, and transfer station, used 158 MWh. Meanwhile the Smallmead site which includes an office block, a transfer station, and a Materials Recovery Facility (MRF), which in total consumed 1,403 MWh of energy over the past year. In total, the two sites consumed 1,561 MWh, all of which was powered by 100% renewable energy and is also a decrease from last contract year's energy consumption.

In 2025, FCC Environment is projected to generate 187 MW of green electricity, contributing significantly to the UK's renewable energy mix.

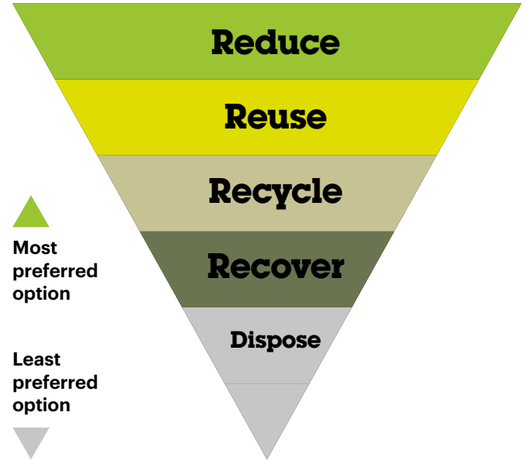
Between 2025 and 2030, the company aims to divert all organic waste from landfill, supporting national efforts to reduce methane emissions and improve soil health through alternative treatment methods.

By 2026, FCC expects to increase its renewable generation capacity to 213 MW, and its facilities will be carbon capture, utilisation, and storage (CCUS) ready, aligning with future decarbonisation technologies.

Additionally, FCC is working to install solar panels across 26 landfill sites, which will collectively generate 225 MW of electricity – enough to power over 65,000 homes.

187 MW

In 2025, FCC Environment is projected to generate 187 MW of green electricity, contributing significantly to the UK's renewable energy mix.



Landfill and the Waste Hierarchy

In waste management, following the waste hierarchy is essential. The first priority is to reduce the amount of waste we generate. When that isn't possible, the next best option is to reuse items wherever we can.

At re3, we support this approach by providing reuse bays at both of our sites, where the public can donate unwanted items. These items are either passed on to Sue Ryder for sale in their charity shops or to Precycle, a local organisation that works with charity partners around the world to give items a second life.

After reuse, the next steps in the hierarchy are to recycle and then recover energy from waste. However, some materials are ultimately not suitable for reuse, recycling, or recovery. In these cases, the waste is sent to FCC's Sutton Courtenay Landfill in South Oxfordshire.

Since the inception of the re3 partnership, the volume of waste going to landfill has significantly decreased, reflecting our ongoing commitment to reducing environmental impact and improving sustainable waste management.

FCC Environment

The re3 facilities are operated and managed by FCC Environment, a company accredited to ISO 50001, ISO 45001, and ISO 9001 – demonstrating a strong commitment to energy management, health and safety, and quality management. Regular audits are carried out to ensure ongoing compliance with all statutory and regulatory requirements in these key areas.

By the end of the 2024–2025 contract year, FCC Environment successfully recycled 1.5 million tonnes of waste. This figure includes material processed across 105 Household Waste Recycling Centres (HWRCs), 46 transfer stations, and 8 Materials Recovery Facilities (MRFs).

With this in mind, FCC Environment has been able to generate 500 kWh of energy from every tonne of waste, resulting in a total annual energy production of approximately 167 million kilowatt-hours (167 GWh).



Employee Recognition Scheme

FCC Environment operates an internal recognition scheme that encourages staff to acknowledge colleagues for outstanding teamwork, offering support, doing a great job, or contributing innovative ideas. As part of this initiative, employees who are recognised may be rewarded with a £10 voucher as a token of appreciation for their valuable contributions.

In addition, staff who go over and above may be entered by colleagues into our Achievement Awards with higher value recognitions on offer and twice a year the FCC business picks an Outstanding Achievement Winner and this person or team then features in our all-staff newsletter to inspire others.

To encourage staff to join our business we operate an active 'refer a friend' scheme to bring in new talent and to tackle the ongoing driver shortage across our sector, we offer staff the opportunity to secure an HGV license fully funded by the company.

Sword of honour

For the fourth consecutive year, FCC Environment has demonstrated excellence in health and safety by achieving a five-star rating in the Occupational Health and Safety Audit conducted by the British Safety Council. This rigorous audit evaluates performance against key best practice indicators and involves an in-depth review of more than 60 elements of health and safety management.

In addition to this achievement, FCC Environment was awarded its third prestigious Sword of Honour by the British Safety Council, a recognition reserved for organisations demonstrating exceptional standards. A further Sword of Honour was awarded following a maximum five-star audit at the Eastcroft Energy from Waste Plant, reinforcing FCC's commitment to the highest levels of safety and operational excellence.

Growth through acquisition

On 10 June 2024, our parent company FCC Servicios Medio Ambiente completed its acquisition of Urbaser UK, first announced in December 2023. The acquisition further strengthened FCC's position as a leading waste management operator and expanded FCC's services, enhancing value for customers. We welcomed to our family additional facilities for composting, material recovery, energy-from-waste and waste disposal, municipal recycling and waste collection, recycling centre management, and street cleansing services. We were also proud to welcome J&B Recycling and Waste Wise in our business as well as fully incorporating Severn Waste Services.

Fundraising in 2024

Throughout 2024, the team at re3 decided to support two incredible causes by fundraising for Alzheimer's Society Bracknell and YoungMinds. Over the year, the team organised a variety of fundraising activities, including sponsored silences, bake-offs, cook-outs, and even abseiling challenges. Thanks to the enthusiasm and generosity of everyone involved, a grand total of £2,008 was raised for these important charities.

Parkinson's UK
For every Parkinson's journey

YOUNGMiNDS
fighting for young people's mental health

Glossary

Air Knives
Air Knives direct pressurized air onto the surface of objects, usually as they move along a conveyor belt. They will separate the waste depending on size and weight.

Anaerobic Digestion (AD)
Anaerobic digestion is a sequence of processes by which microorganisms break down biodegradable material in the absence of oxygen. The process is used for industrial or domestic purposes to manage waste or to produce fuels.

Average Recovery Rate
This is a contractual measure of the proportion of waste diverted to Energy from Waste, Recycling, Beneficial Use and Composting.

Bring Bank Sites
An alternative name for the community recycling sites provided by the local authority/contractor and charities, for convenient public access to recycling services. These sites often consist of different recycling banks for different materials.

Broker
Facilitates transactions between buyer and seller.

Certifications
ISO 50001 - Energy Management
45001 - Occupational Health & Safety
14001 - Environmental Management
9001 - Quality Management

Composting
A natural process to recycle organic material into a fertilizer used to improve soil.

Contamination
Contamination occurs when non-recyclable items are placed in a recycling bag or bin, making it more difficult to process at the Materials Recycling Facility.

Contract Waste
Contract Waste is defined within the contract but broadly covers waste collected by the councils or their agents and waste deposited at the Recycling Centres or re3 bring banks by householders.

Disc Screen
The disc screen consists of rotating discs for separating wastes through the clearance between the discs depending upon the size and the weight of the waste while the wastes move on the rotation discs.

Environment Agency
The Environment Agency is a non-departmental public body, established in 1995 and sponsored by the United Kingdom government's Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs, with responsibilities relating to the protection and enhancement of the environment in England.

Eddy Current
A tool used in a Materials Recycling Facility (MRF) to separate aluminium cans.

ESG reporting
Refers to the disclosure of data related to a company's performance on Environmental, Social, and Governance (ESG) factors.

Energy from Waste (EfW)
Energy from Waste is the application of sound proven combustion engineering principles to a variety of technologies which reduce and sanitise the residual municipal waste fraction, after recycling and composting has taken place, in order to recover energy.

HWRC
Household Waste Recycling Centre.

FCC Environment
(Formerly Waste Recycling Group (WRG)) Parent company of re3 Ltd. FCC Environment is one of the leading waste management services companies in the UK and the fourth partner of the re3 partnership.

Kerbside Collection
Kerbside collection is a service provided to households, typically in urban and suburban areas, of collecting and disposing of household waste and recyclables.

Landfill Site
Designed, controlled, and managed disposal sites for municipal solid waste spread in layers, compacted to the smallest practical volume, and covered by inert material applied at the end of each operating day.

Materials Recycling Facility (MRF)
A recovery operation that separates mixed materials into their individual streams before transferring them to repressors.

Mixed Dried Recycling
Mixed Dry Recycling is a broad term used to describe a range of different types of clean recycling waste that can easily be reused or reformed into other goods, products, or broken down into their core materials.

MRF Picking Team
Members of staff whose role is to remove items of contamination from the mixed dry recyclables on the conveyors in the Materials Recycling Facility.

Recycling Centre
A facility where members of the public can dispose of household waste and recyclable materials.

Municipal waste/Municipal Solid Waste (MSW)
Municipal waste comes under the control of the Local Waste Disposal Authority and includes household waste and other wastes collected by a Waste Collection Authority or its agents.

Offtaker
The party who buys the product being produced by the project or who uses the services being sold by the project.

Overband Magnet
Overband magnets are suspended over conveyors in the MRF to separate steel cans.

Recyclables/Recyclate
Materials that still have useful physical or chemical properties after serving their original purpose and that can, therefore, be reused or remanufactured into new products.

Reprocessing
Series of operations that transform industrial materials from a raw-material state into finished parts or products.

Social Value
Social Value measures the positive value businesses create for the economy, communities, and society.

Trade Waste
Trade waste refers to any form of industrial waste or materials that are leftover when something is built, manufactured or service is provided.

Transfer Station
Transfer Stations are a where local waste collection vehicles and trades people disposing of commercial trade waste deposit their waste. The waste is held here prior to being bulk loaded into a transport vehicle and sent for reprocessing.

Trommel
The trommel screen is used to separate materials by size. The rotating drum rolls larger pieces over to allow all fines to flow down and through the trommel screen plates.

Waste Hierarchy
The "waste hierarchy" ranks waste management options according to what is best for the environment. It gives top priority to preventing waste in the first place. When waste is created, it gives priority to preparing it for re-use, then recycling, then recovery, and last of all disposal (e.g. landfill).

WEEE
Waste Electrical and Electronic Equipment

WUDS
Waste Upholstered Domestic Seating

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The information is provided by re3 Ltd, every care has been taken to ensure the accuracy and reliability of the contents.

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