

Merseyside Recycling  
& Waste Authority

# ANNUAL REPORT

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MERSEYSIDE RECYCLING & WASTE AUTHORITY

# Welcome to the MRWA Annual Report

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This is an important statement of what the Authority has achieved during the year and how we have addressed a variety of challenges. The Report follows last year's format, is produced in-house and is meant as a non-printed electronic document.

It has been an important year for us. In September 2017 we marked the formal commencement of the new Resource Recovery Contract (RRC) with Merseyside Energy Recovery Ltd (MERL). Under the contract the Authority sends residual household waste from a Rail Transfer Loading Station in Knowsley to an Energy from Waste (EfW) plant in Teeside. The EfW plant uses our waste to generate electricity for the national grid and high pressure steam for local industrial use.

Elsewhere we continued to manage the Waste Management and Recycling Contract (WMRC) through which Veolia provides 14 Household Waste Recycling Centres (HWRCs) across Merseyside. The HWRCs consistently achieved over 69% recycling rates which contributed to an overall recycling level for Merseyside of 38.9% (a decrease compared with the previous year's 41.1%).

The contract with Veolia also provides the Materials Recovery Facilities at Bidston and Gilmoor which ensures that waste is transported efficiently from waste transfer stations to disposal points. By the end of 2017/18 the Authority managed 419,225 tonnes of residual waste, as well as recycling over 159,475 tonnes through our facilities.

Our work with the public, whether through community groups (pictured below) or through our behavioural change and education programmes, remains important. The MRWA & Veolia Community Fund provides grants to community groups across the region to encourage them to minimise waste by moving it up the waste hierarchy and we've seen some inspiring and creative projects. Behavioural change and education through school trips to our two Recycling Discovery Centres and talks in the community through to our Recycle Right campaign raise awareness of waste as a resource and the need to maximise the use of finite resources.

The financial environment remains challenging and we continue to work with the City Region on implementing the outcomes of the previous year's Strategic Review of Waste Collection and Disposal across Merseyside and Halton. At the same time we continue to review our services going forward with a view to achieving efficiencies for the taxpayers of Merseyside.

We hope you enjoy reading through our Annual Report and find it interesting and useful.

Cllr Tony Concepcion - Chair

Carl Beer - Chief Executive



# Introduction

"To contribute to the economic, environmental and social well-being of Merseyside by promoting the best use of resources and ensuring that waste is sustainably managed."

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## Our Corporate Aims

### Deliverability

We will ensure that the waste delivered to us is managed sustainably.

### Sustainability

We aim to reduce the amount of waste produced on Merseyside, increase the proportion of waste reused and recycled and promote the sustainable management of waste through the Waste Hierarchy.

### Accountability

We will conduct the Authority's business effectively and efficiently and we will fulfil our obligations to the highest standards.

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Our Corporate Plan, Budget and Service Delivery Plans are approved by our Members annually and reports back to Members to confirm the success of outcomes for the year.

The following pages of this Annual Report summarise how effective the Authority has been in achieving its planned outcomes.





# Deliverability

## Contracts

District Councils delivered 359,726 tonnes of waste directly to the Authority through their residual household waste collection services. Additional amounts of non-recycled waste from the Household Waste Recycling Centres (HWRCs) and Materials Recycling Facilities (MRFs) meant the Authority handled 419,225 tonnes of residual waste. At the same time some 159,475 tonnes were recycled either at the HWRCs or via the MRFs.

The Resource Recovery Contract (RRC) provides the Authority with access to an Energy from Waste (EfW) plant in Teesside (see below) and a Rail Transfer Loading Station (RTLS) in Kirkby (see right). The facilities were in a commissioning phase from April 2017 until September 2017 as the operator Suez needed to ensure the effectiveness of the operations. During this period we had to work flexibly with our contractors to source alternative waste disposal where the commissioning tonnages were not sufficient to meet the Authority's need. Managing this requirement provided some significant logistical challenges, which we were successful in delivering against.



In September 2017 the RRC facilities came fully on-line and the majority of the Authority's residual household waste is now dealt with through the RTLS and EfW. The delivery of the RRC is a real success for the Authority and secures the future of disposal for Merseyside for the long term.

The second half of the year saw the launch of the Suez Community Fund, which supports local schemes to improve life within Kirkby, with long term support for community and environmental groups.

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# IN 2017/18 MERSEYSIDE AND HALTON RECYCLED 38.9% OF ITS WASTE

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## Managing Waste

The network of 14 Household Waste Recycling Centres (HWRCs), two Materials Recycling Facilities (MRFs), and four Waste Transfer Stations is operated for the Authority by Veolia under the Waste Management and Recycling Contract.

The HWRCs are particularly important as they are used directly by the public to access recycling facilities for household waste. During the year the public brought 178,531 tonnes of household waste to the HWRCs - of that the recycling performance was over 69%. The performance of the HWRCs is well in excess of the contractual performance requirements and makes a strong contribution towards Merseyside's overall recycling rate; although this has fallen to 38.9% for the year.





## Services and Infrastructure

We have been working with the City Region Leaders and Mayor throughout the year on how best to implement the outcomes of the Strategic Review of Waste Collection and Disposal commissioned by the Mayor and the lead Chief Executive.

The review by Local Partnerships concluded that for the City Region to deliver significant savings in waste management across the board there would be a need for councils to work together. These proposals are being considered by the City Region.

At the same time the review concluded that the Authority had very good value contracts in place and that the savings potential was limited. Despite this we have been working with our Waste Management & Recycling Contract provider Veolia to establish how service changes may be made, to achieve relatively modest savings without simply pushing the cost of dealing with waste onto District Councils. These proposals would be considered by the Authority's Members before any changes are agreed and implemented.



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**419,225** tonnes of residual waste managed

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**159,475** tonnes of recycling through our facilities

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**69%** materials recycled at Recycling Centres

## Looking after landfill

We manage seven former landfill sites to ensure that their long term environmental impact is minimised and meets all environmental standards.

At each of the former sites (including Bidston Moss, pictured) there is a range of equipment designed to monitor and mitigate the impacts of gas and leachate into the local environment. We test the levels of emissions and regularly review the effectiveness of the pollution control systems.

This year we reviewed the contracts for the management and maintenance of the Closed Landfill sites to ensure that the sites continue to be managed in the most efficient way, and our Environmental Monitoring System (EMS) remains accredited to the ISO14001 standard.

## Health and Safety

During 2017/18 we reviewed our approach to Health and Safety management. The successful EMS system provided a model for managing Health and Safety which has proved successful and helps to ensure that the Authority's approach is comprehensive.

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# Managing 7 former landfill sites





# Sustainability

## Waste Strategy

The Joint Recycling and Waste Management Strategy (JRWMS) remains in place and provides a strategic overview for the Authority's activities.

Following the Strategic Review and recognising that the government intends to publish a new National Waste & Resources Strategy in 2018, a planned refresh of the JRWMS has not yet started. However, it is recognised that this will need to happen in the medium term.

The Authority has launched the Liverpool City Region Circular Economy Club and plans to deliver a programme of activities and events through the online hub - [www.linkedin.com/groups/8685207/profile](http://www.linkedin.com/groups/8685207/profile).



CIRCULAR ECONOMY  
C L U B  
LIVERPOOL CITY REGION

## Behavioural Change

The Authority has changed the way it works with local communities to encourage waste reduction and prevention to help move waste further up the waste hierarchy.

The Behavioural Change Programme (BCP) provides a rigorous approach to targeting initiatives so that they achieve a measurable outcome. The BCP has brought together activities from across the Authority to encourage waste prevention, re-use, recycling and education and awareness.



## Recycle Right

We have developed this campaign to help the public across Merseyside and Halton ensure that they know what can be recycled and how best to recycle whether at home or out and about. There have been several successful roadshows across Merseyside (see picture, left) to deliver the message and to inform people about and encourage recycling. To find out more visit [www.recycleright.org.uk](http://www.recycleright.org.uk).



# 12 community projects funded to the tune of £115,000

The Community Fund for 2017/18 was developed before the start of the year so that when projects were agreed the Fund could be rolled out as soon as the financial year began.

Three-quarters of the Fund was awarded to schemes across Merseyside and Halton which delivered outcomes in more than one District; while the remaining share was delivered in smaller packages to schemes that delivered in a more localised area. The outcome of the funding is due to be reported on soon after the end of the year.

## Merseyside and Halton

The Children's Food Trust – Mersey Waste Munchers

Neighbourhood Services Company – Crafting and Education for Reuse and Recycling of Waste Wood

## Halton

Groundwork Cheshire, Lancashire and Merseyside – Project UP

## Knowsley

MerseyCycle – Learn to Bicycle Recycle

Knowsley and Liverpool: Centre 63 – ReMake Yourself Hub

## Liverpool

Granby Toxteth Development Trust – Recycle L1578 and Beyond

Liverpool Guild of Students – Leave Liverpool Tidy

## St Helens

Carmel College – Foundation Learning Sensory Garden

## Sefton

Emmaus Merseyside – e-Cycling

## Wirral

Tomorrow's Women Wirral – New to You

Wirral Change – Go Green

Wirral Hospice St John's – Supporting Patient Care through Recycling and Reuse

# Accountability

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## Governance and Performance

The Authority's governance arrangements are reviewed on an ongoing basis through the Primary Assurance Group (PAG) each year. The PAG reviews the way the Authority plans to achieve its corporate objectives, through the performance management framework and the service delivery plan, identifying whether there are areas of concern for Members and planning for future reviews and improvements.

The review of governance is set out in an Annual Governance Statement approved by Members at the first meeting after the year end. No significant issues were identified through the review.

## Financial Management

The Authority spent £73.7M in 2017/18, 94% of which was on contracts to manage waste and statutory services. The Authority's income from the Levy in the same period was £65.6M, the same as the previous years.

The balance of the funding came from the General Fund. A gap between expenditure and funding continues into 2018/19 despite the first increase in the overall Levy for eight years. Further Levy increases are inevitable to enable funding to be at sustainable levels.

## Business Services

The Business Services section provides the Authority with an effective and efficient administration. The section ensure skills, knowledge and training needs are understood and that the Authority has a staffing establishment that is informed and fit for purpose.





# Going Forward

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## How can you help?

The combination of a fully developed Energy-from-Waste plant and a network of Household Waste Recycling Centres (HWRCs) means that Merseyside's waste is well managed. However, that does not stop us from wanting to achieve more.

We want to work with the people of Merseyside to ensure that together we contribute to thinking about waste as a resource - so that waste prevention, re-use, and recycling become more important and that fewer of the Earth's precious resources are disposed of. Our message of waste prevention (don't buy what you don't need, purchase durable goods, repair what you can, and give unwanted goods to other people) are as relevant now as they've ever been.

Merseyside is well placed to improve upon its current recycling level of almost 39%. All the Districts have excellent kerbside collection systems, so have a look at your council's website, find out what you can and can't recycle and see when your collection date is. Remember to Recycle Right; it's important for us to keep contamination levels low as it helps recycling and ultimately saves money.

We ensure that recycling facilities are available to all Merseyside residents through our 14 Recycling Centres. They accept a wide range of material for recycling including: wood, rubble, large plastics, cardboard and carpets. Where you have items that are too big to bring to our sites then contact your local council who may offer a bulky waste collection service.

Food waste remains a huge issue nationally and locally. Wasted food costs an average family £800 a year. About two thirds of all our food and drink waste is avoidable. Our message is: before you go shopping check your cupboards, write a shopping list, only buy what you need.

These things may seem insignificant, but if we all pull together we can make Merseyside a place where nothing is wasted.

## Contact

For more information about what you can and can't recycle, and for advice about waste prevention, re-use, home composting and food waste, go to:

[www.recycleformerseysideandhalton.com](http://www.recycleformerseysideandhalton.com)

If you are a business or organisation interested in the circular re-use of materials how about joining the Liverpool City Region Circular Economy Club -

[www.linkedin.com/groups/8685207/profile](http://www.linkedin.com/groups/8685207/profile)

## Further information

This Annual Report is only a snapshot of what we do. For more information about MRWA go to:

[www.merseysidewda.gov.uk](http://www.merseysidewda.gov.uk)

All information was correct at the time of publishing.

Front cover photo credit: The Dream courtesy of Steve Samosa



# Merseyside - a place where nothing is wasted

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