

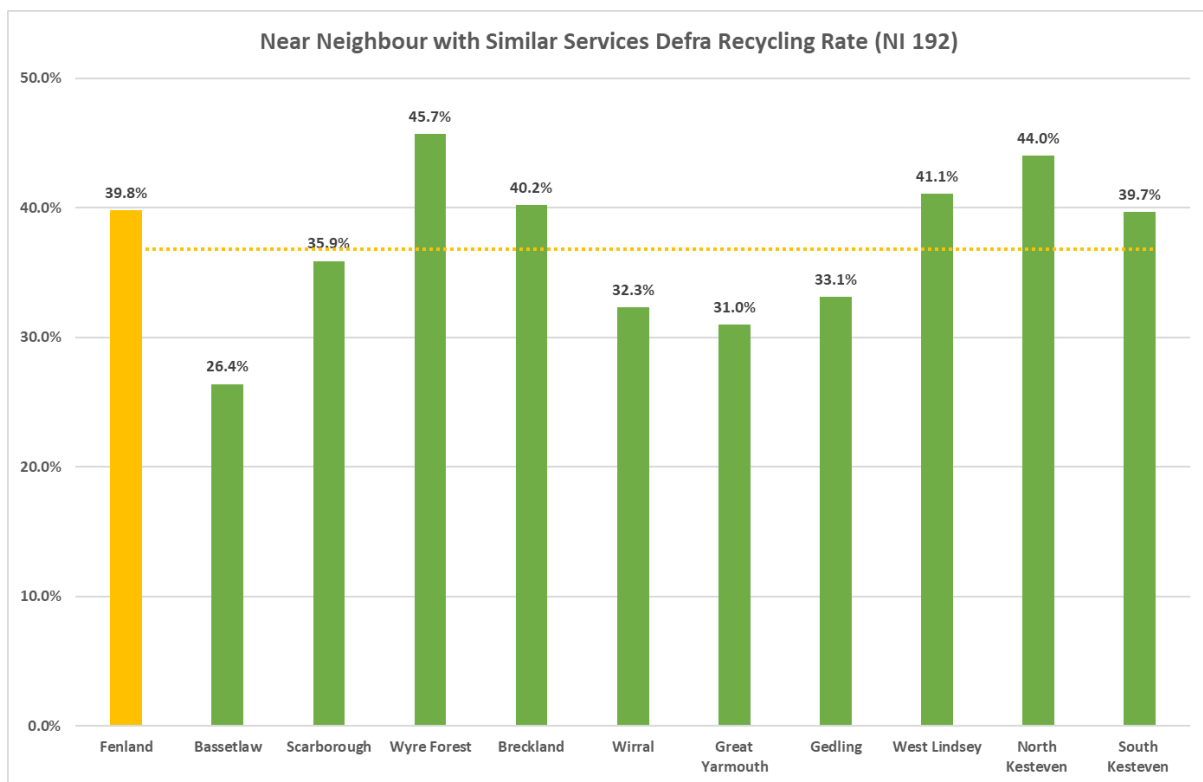
October Environmental Services Portfolio Holder Update

Defra have published the recycling data for 2021/22 using the historic National Indicator 192 methodology, where street sweepings and street litter are included within the domestic residual waste data, but flytipping is deducted.

An evaluation of this shows that **nationally Fenland is 200 out of 333 authorities** (including counties and unitary authorities) **with a recycling rate of 39.8%**, where the national average was 44% for all authorities and **the average for collection authorities is 42.9%**.

This falling recycling level for Fenland in 2021/22 reflected the changes as the nation moved away from the behaviours of the pandemic and lockdowns. More recently, we are seeing rates affected by the cost-of-living changes along with packaging producers reducing their packaging weights in advance of Extended Producer Responsibilities.

Figure 1. Recycling Rates 2021/22 for Near Neighbour Authorities with Similar Services



When we compare Fenland's performance with authorities using Near Neighbours (NN) Methodology, where socio-economic and demographic criteria is considered, we see that Fenland performs well.

The **average recycling rate of the NN authorities with chargeable garden waste is 36.9%**; the orange line in figure 1 above.

Based on comparison with authorities that have similar socio-economic and demographic criteria, and similar services, our customers perform in an above average fashion.

In figure 2 below, we can see that for 2021/22 Fenland had a better recycling rate than Peterborough, where both authorities have chargeable garden waste services.

The other RECAP authorities offer a free garden waste service that allows for food waste to be added to the garden waste collection.

Fenland cannot request food waste within the chargeable garden waste service.

Defra has plans for weekly food waste collections starting in 2026 for English local authorities, which if implemented would see an increase of up to 10% in recycling rates for authorities such as Fenland.

Figure 2. RECAP Authority Recycling Rates 2021/22

