

# The Food Waste Recycling Action Plan Steering Group Annual Report

Year 1 – 2016-17



Working together to improve the capture,  
supply and quality of household and  
commercial food waste

# Foreword by the steering group chairman



**Ray Georgeson**

Chair of the FWRAP Steering Group

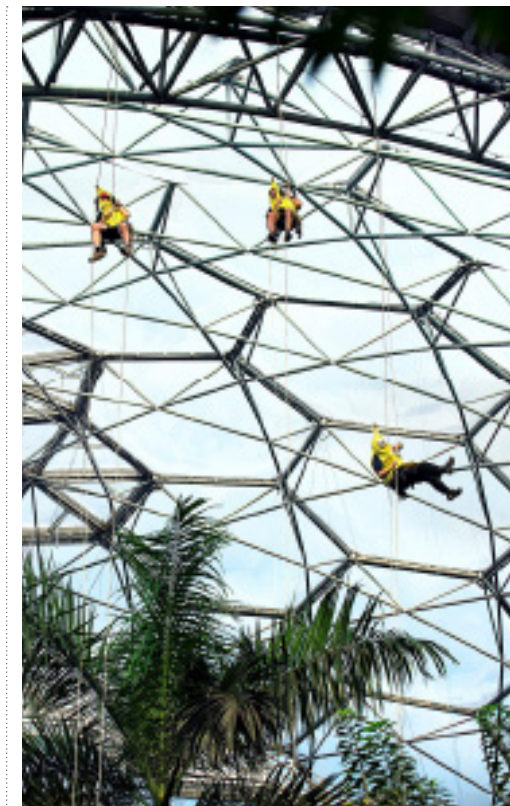
I'm delighted to be able to present this Annual Report highlighting the progress made in this first year of the Food Waste Recycling Action Plan (FWRAP). The FWRAP is delivered by a cross-industry Steering Group which has met four times in the past year. It is comprised of representatives from all parts of the food waste supply chain, ranging from the public and private sector collectors of food waste from households and businesses, through to the processors and generators of green energy that utilise the material and add value to the UK economy.

Together, supported by the expertise and staff of WRAP who lead the nation in seeking solutions to the food waste challenge, we have worked hard to collaborate more effectively and identify and reconcile the blockages in the supply chain that continue to suppress the potential for collection and recycling of food waste.

In the past year real progress has been made. Two particularly useful highlights have been the completion of the work on a Cost Benefit Analysis Tool and the new industry guidance designed to support AD operators in meeting the challenges of handling collected household waste. Both of these documents are free to download and they will serve as an enabler for local authorities and food waste operators to work through scenarios for identifying costs, savings and benefits from collecting more food waste. For me, they serve to illustrate the tenor of the work completed this year.

Meeting in a cross-sectoral environment such as the FWRAP Steering Group helps to improve communication and creates opportunities for collaboration. I am grateful to all members of the Steering Group and to WRAP for their solid commitment and support for the work to increase food waste recycling.

If you wish to get involved in the work of the FWRAP Steering Group, please get in touch.



**Figure 1:** Giant bananas abseiling from the rainforest canopies at the Eden Project, part of a nationwide high profile campaign to increase food waste recycling

# Highlights

- The FWRAP homepage has had 5,440 unique visits in the first year, with the action plan document being downloaded over 1,000 times.
- The FWRAP Steering Group is now formally a sub-group of the 'Framework for Greater Consistency in Household Recycling in England' through which we will be able to make an even greater contribution to the continued development of food waste recycling in England.
- WRAP has completed seven pilot studies assessing the business case for implementing separate food waste collections in seven partnership areas involving a total of 49 local authorities.
- WRAP has published a crucial new report 'Industry Guidance: Dealing with Household Food Waste at AD facilities – Management of Liners'. This now provides the industry with invaluable insight into a pressing current issue and opportunity area for positive change.
- WRAP has created and published the new Cost Benefit Analysis Tool for the food waste recycling industry, which has been downloaded 122 times.
- WRAP has also published the Gate Fees Report for 2016, which summarises the gate fees charged to local authorities for a range of waste treatment, recovery and disposal options. This incorporates some initial suggestions to improve the way the data is presented more clearly. All the agreed changes will be included in the next Gate Fees Report for 2017.
- For the first time a dedicated International Food Waste collection workshop was held at The Anaerobic Digestion and Bioresources Association's (ADBA's) July conference; this provided opportunities to engage with the sector through information sessions and drop in clinics to demonstrate tools and guidance developed under the FWRAP.
- The Renewable Energy Association (REA) has published a report which highlights the economic benefits of separate food waste collections. This has had good circulation to date with 500 hard copies distributed to industry leaders and, stakeholders and is now available online.
- The steering group for the Quality Action Plan (QAP) for compost and digestate launched new guidance for commercial food waste collectors on how they can improve quality. It has been promoted at industry events and newsletters, and is available online via various QAP members (ADBA, Chartered Institute of Waste Management (CIWM), Environmental Services Association (ESA) and Organics Recycling Association (ORG)).
- The Right Waste Right Place campaign will now include a food waste stream thanks to the ESA and supporting partners. Steps are underway to share and promote online resources.

**Over 5000** unique visits to the FWRAP homepage 

**Over 1000** downloads of the FWRAP plan 

**49** Local Authorities supported in 2016/17 

**122** Downloads of the Cost Benefit Analysis Tool 

# Progress on the five themes

1

## Developing the business case

With WRAP's support 49 local authorities have been able to assess the feasibility of implementing separate food waste collections. With the increased use of the Kerbside Costing Tool (nearly 500 visits since the plan's launch), and the reports published by WRAP and REA, evaluating the benefits of the various approaches is easier than ever before.



2

## Optimising food waste capture

There has been an excellent level of engagement from food waste collectors with the resources WRAP has designed to help them deliver efficient services with the best possible outcomes. This means there is now a suite of guidance relevant to both commercial and domestic scenarios, and the target for year 1 has been exceeded with over 100 cross-industry users. This has laid good foundations for increasing this effort in year 2 and beyond by implementing the successful measures and widening our audience.



3

## Communicating with householders and commercial food waste producers

Data from the Recycle Now website demonstrates a good level of traffic, with around 2,500 downloads of the targeted resources aimed at making recycling of food waste clearer for householders. Recycle Now ran a number of successful regional campaigns in key food waste recycling regions, designed to raise awareness of collections and the benefits of recycling food waste.



A wide range of promotional activities were undertaken including events where an engaging 'banana brigade' held awareness events at high-profile landmarks, including the Eden Project where giant bananas abseiled from the rainforest canopies while members of the public learnt about the extent of household food waste and the positive actions they can take. The activity from this part of the campaign in March/April in particular had some excellent positive outcomes: Five pieces of regional coverage, two pieces of regional broadcast, and three pieces of trade coverage secured – resulting in a total audience reach of 5,117,394 people.

4

## Ensuring quality as well as quantity

Huge progress has been made in creating evidence-based, practical industry guidance on dealing with contamination and the potential for accepting non-compostable liners at Anaerobic Digestion (AD) facilities.

These two focus areas will help decrease contamination whilst at the same time improving participation rates by reducing costs and barrier to recycling for the householder.



5

## Making contracts work

A key achievement this year has been the incorporation of the FWRAP as a sub-group of the 'Framework for Greater Consistency'. We are now well positioned to push through the legal work that will be needed to create the suite of contract documents that will help incentivise waste collectors to maximise the amount of food waste collected.



# Next steps

Building on the good progress in year 1, the focus of the steering group from year 2 onwards is a programme of direct engagement with both collectors and treatment plant operators to maximise the impact of the action plan, drive change throughout the sector and increase the amount of post-consumer food waste that is collected and recycled. There is still much to accomplish.

We will be working on increasing the use of the resource bank through an engagement strategy and profile-raising appearances at industry events, continuing to build the connections we have throughout the sector, and promoting the benefits of the action plan at every opportunity. We are looking forward to completing the suite of contract templates which will incentivise maximising food waste capture and influencing food waste processors and collectors to take action based on the available evidence. In time we also plan to widen our audience to include house-builders and fitted kitchen suppliers, to make a fundamental step-change in the way that we approach food waste collection from the home itself.

Nobody said or thought this was going to be easy. There are elements of the action plan where we will be deepening our resolve in year 2 in order to make changes with the wide-reaching benefit we envisaged. However with the strong foundations laid this year, we are in a better place than ever to have this kind of impact – the impact that is demanded by the imperative of climate change. We know that reducing food waste makes a significant contribution, and we are resolved to keep going, continue to collaborate, share our good practice, use the tools and support that is available, and do more to meet the clear public demand that we act together to reduce food waste.



To find out more or contribute a case study  
contact [foodwasterecycling@wrap.org.uk](mailto:foodwasterecycling@wrap.org.uk)



# Membership of the steering group

## Organisation

Agrivert

Anaerobic Digestion and Biogas Association (ADBA)

Andigestion

Association of Anaerobic Digestion Operators (AADO)

Biogen

Chartered Institute of Wastes Management (CIWM)

Environmental Services Association (ESA)

Local Authority Recycling Advisory Committee (LARAC)

National Association of Waste Disposal Officers (NAWDO)

Newcastle-under-Lyme Borough Council

## Organisation

ReFood

Ray Georgeson Resources (RGR)

Renewable Energy Association/Organics Recycling Association (REA/ORG)

Somerset Waste Partnership (SWP)

South Cambridgeshire District Council & Cambridge City Council

The Kent Resource Partnership

Tamar Energy Limited

Viridor

Waste Network Coordinators (WNC)

WRAP



## A Food Waste Recycling Action Plan for England

Working together to improve the capture, supply and quality of household and commercial food waste

[www.wrap.org.uk/foodwasterecycling](http://www.wrap.org.uk/foodwasterecycling)