



Department of the  
**Environment**  
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# Northern Ireland Municipal Waste Management Statistics

*July - September 2010 – provisional estimates*



## Quarterly provisional figures

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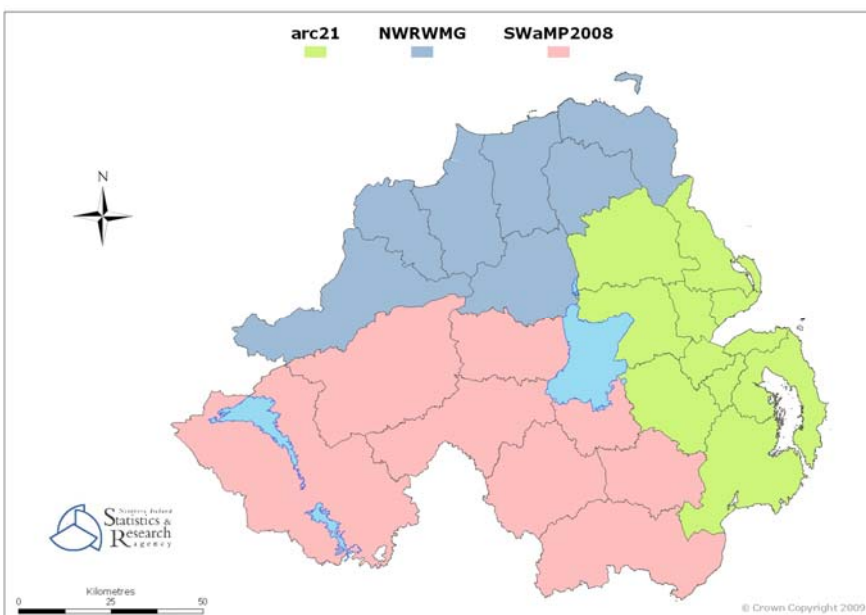
## Introduction

This is the July - September 2010 Northern Ireland Municipal Waste Management Statistics report, providing figures on the tonnage of municipal waste collected and managed in Northern Ireland. Municipal waste is waste under the control or possession of a district council and includes household waste. WasteDataFlow (WDF) is the web based system for municipal waste data reporting by UK local authorities to government. The data in this report is based on returns made to the WDF by district councils at the end of the quarter.

In Northern Ireland, there are 26 district councils which are split into three waste management groups. arc21 has the biggest population size with 53% of the population of Northern Ireland living in it followed by SWaMP2008 with 28% of the population and NWRWMG with 19% of the population. They are split as follows:

1. arc21 - Antrim, Ards, Ballymena, Belfast, Castlereagh, Carrickfergus, Down, Larne, Lisburn, Newtownabbey, North Down
2. North West Regional Waste Management Group (NWRWMG) - Ballymoney, Coleraine, Derry, Limavady, Magherafelt, Moyle, Strabane
3. Southern Waste Management Partnership (SWaMP2008) - Armagh, Banbridge, Cookstown, Craigavon, Dungannon, Fermanagh, Newry, Omagh

Map of the waste management groups in Northern Ireland



## Quarterly provisional figures

This report contains summary information on nine key measurements of municipal waste for the quarter, for the three waste management groups in Northern Ireland. Some of these measurements are known as key performance indicators (KPIs), and where appropriate this is highlighted in the tables and charts. Key performance indicators are used to assess progress towards achieving waste strategy targets. The accompanying Excel tables contain a further breakdown of each of the key measurements by district council. All the figures in the report and the accompanying tables are quarterly figures only and refer to the current period. Comparative figures for the previous year are based on the most up-to-date figures available via WDF and may differ from previously published figures.

### Statistical Note

This report has been prepared by the Northern Ireland Statistics and Research Agency (NISRA) along with NIEA. The data are provisional and may change when all returns have a completed validation at the end of the year. The data were downloaded from WDF on 10 January 2011. At that time, all the district councils had made a return, giving a 100% response rate. Please note the following throughout the report:

- Totals may not add up due to rounding
- For figures less than 0.5 or 0.5%, the value recorded is '0'
- The tonnages of recycled (including composted) and landfilled waste may not always equal the waste arisings because the recycling measures were defined to capture outputs from recovery processes which excludes reuse
- The tonnages of waste collected for recycling or disposal may not always equal the tonnages of waste sent to the same, because of contamination of recyclates and / or recovery from residual waste streams.

Please refer to the glossary for further clarification of the key terms and the user information section for further information on quality of data used and guidance to assist with interpretation.

### Quarterly provisional figures

As this is an environmental publication, no hard copies have been published. However, hard copies and alternative formats are available on request. Such requests and further queries on municipal waste statistics should be directed to Central Statistics and Research Branch (contact details below).

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## Municipal waste arisings

Figure 1 Municipal waste arisings by waste management group, KPI (j)

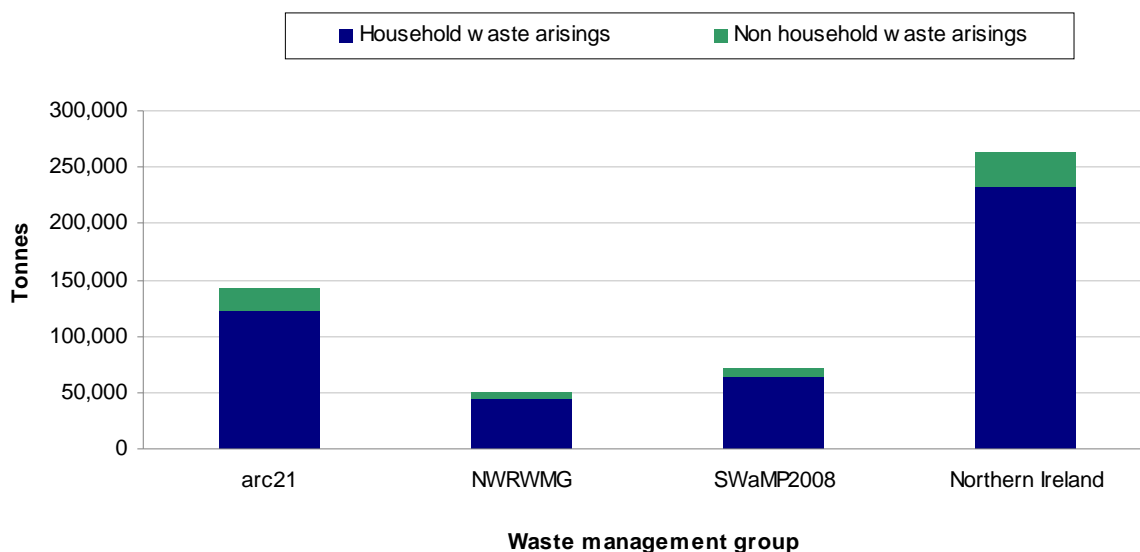


Table 1 Municipal waste arisings by waste management group, KPI (j)

	arc21	NWRWMG	SWaMP2008	Northern Ireland	Unit: Tonnes
Household waste arisings	123,216	45,156	63,394	231,766	
Non household waste arisings	18,775	4,168	7,129	30,072	
<b>Total municipal waste arisings</b>	<b>141,991</b>	<b>49,325</b>	<b>70,523</b>	<b>261,838</b>	
<i>Source: NIEA</i>					

- During the quarter, there were 261,838 tonnes of waste collected. Of this, 89% was household waste and 11% was non household waste.
- The biggest waste management group, arc21, collected 54% of the overall municipal waste during this quarter.
- The amount of municipal waste arising fell by 3.3% this quarter compared to that for July – September 2009 (270,732).
- Tables A1 and A2 in the accompanying Excel document show a further breakdown of these figures by district council.

## Municipal waste recycling and composting

Figure 2 Municipal waste sent for recycling and composting as a % of total municipal waste arisings by waste management group, KPI (e)

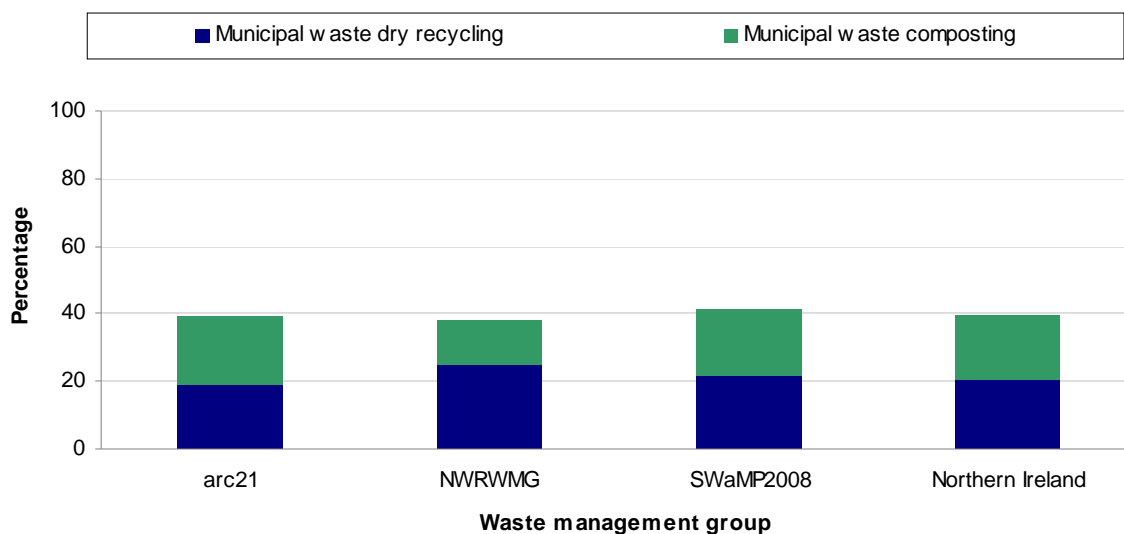


Table 2 Municipal waste sent for recycling and composting as a % of total municipal waste arisings by waste management group, KPI (e)

	arc21	NWRWMG	SWaMP2008	Northern Ireland	Unit: Percentage
Municipal waste dry recycling	18.8	24.7	21.9	20.8	
Municipal waste composting	20.3	13.4	19.7	18.8	
<b>Municipal waste dry recycling and composting</b>	<b>39.1</b>	<b>38.1</b>	<b>41.7</b>	<b>39.6</b>	
<i>Source: NIEA</i>					

- The percentage of municipal waste sent for recycling in this quarter was 20.8%, with the proportion sent for composting for the quarter equalling 18.8%.
- The total proportion of municipal waste sent for recycling and composting in this quarter was 39.6%. This is a rise of 3.4 percentage points compared to the July - September 2009 rate of 36.2%
- Tables A3 and A4 in the accompanying Excel document show a further breakdown of these figures by district council.

## Municipal waste landfilled

Figure 3 Municipal waste landfilled as a % of total municipal waste arisings by waste management group, KPI (f)

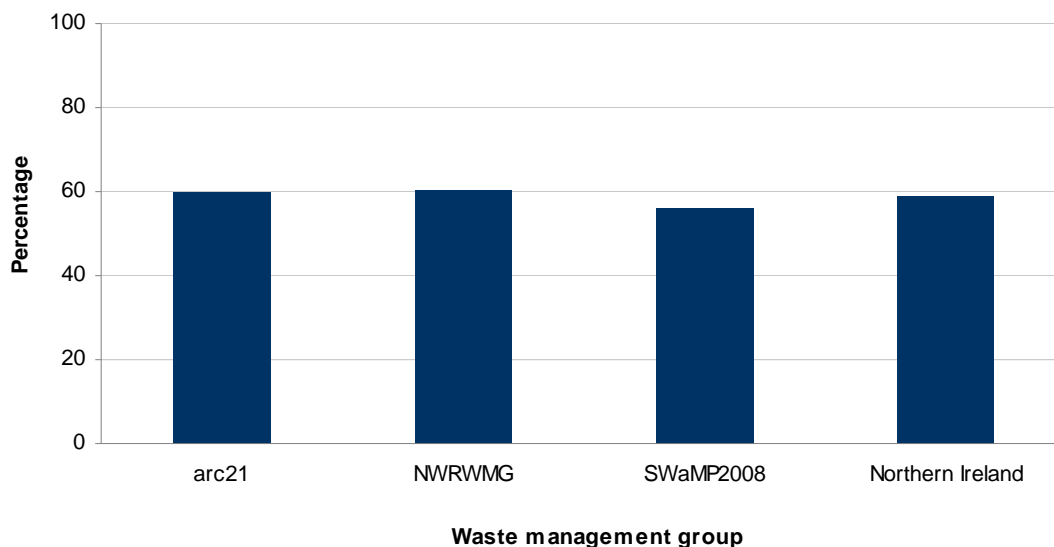


Table 3 Municipal waste landfilled as a % of total municipal waste arisings by waste management group, KPI (f)

	arc21	NWRWMG	SWaMP2008	Northern Ireland	Unit: Percentage
Municipal waste landfilled	59.9	60.3	56.3	59.0	
<i>Source: NIEA</i>					

- The total tonnage of municipal waste sent to landfill for this quarter was 154,610 tonnes.
- The percentage of municipal waste sent to landfill in the current quarter was 59.0%. This was 4.3 percentage points lower compared to that for July - September 2009 (63.3%).
- Tables A3 and A4 in the accompanying Excel document show a further breakdown of these figures by district council.



## Municipal waste collected for recycling by material types

Figure 4 Municipal waste material types collected for recycling

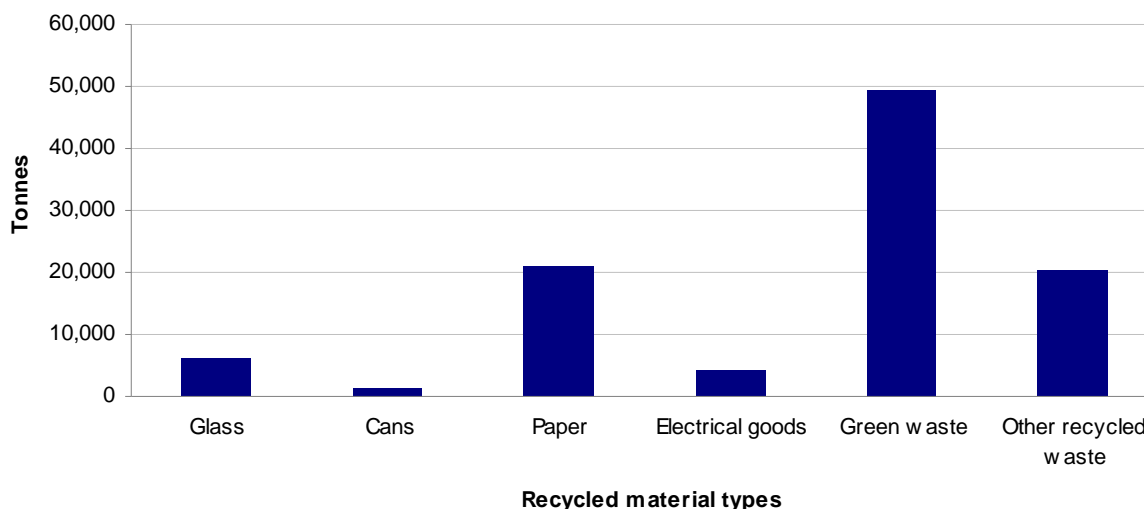


Table 4 Municipal waste material types collected for recycling by waste management group

	arc21	NWRWVG	SWaMP2008	Unit: Tonnes Northern Ireland
Glass	3,202	956	1,828	5,987
Cans	639	312	291	1,241
Paper	10,086	4,115	6,680	20,881
Electrical goods	2,197	621	1,245	4,063
Green waste	28,831	6,613	13,908	49,351
Other recycled waste	11,246	3,496	5,741	20,483
<b>All recycled waste collected</b>	<b>56,201</b>	<b>16,111</b>	<b>29,694</b>	<b>102,006</b>
<i>Source: NIEA</i>				

- Collected recycled waste is not always sent for recycling due to contamination of recyclates.
- During the quarter, 49,351 tonnes of green waste were collected which is 48% of the total recycled waste collected. In total, 20,881 (20%) tonnes of paper and 20,483 (20%) tonnes of other recycled waste were collected.
- Looking at the remaining material types, 6% of recycled waste collected was glass, 4% was electrical goods and 1% was cans.
- Tables A5, A6, A7 and A8 in the accompanying Excel document show a further breakdown of these figures by district council.

## Municipal waste collected for disposal

Figure 5 Municipal waste collected for disposal

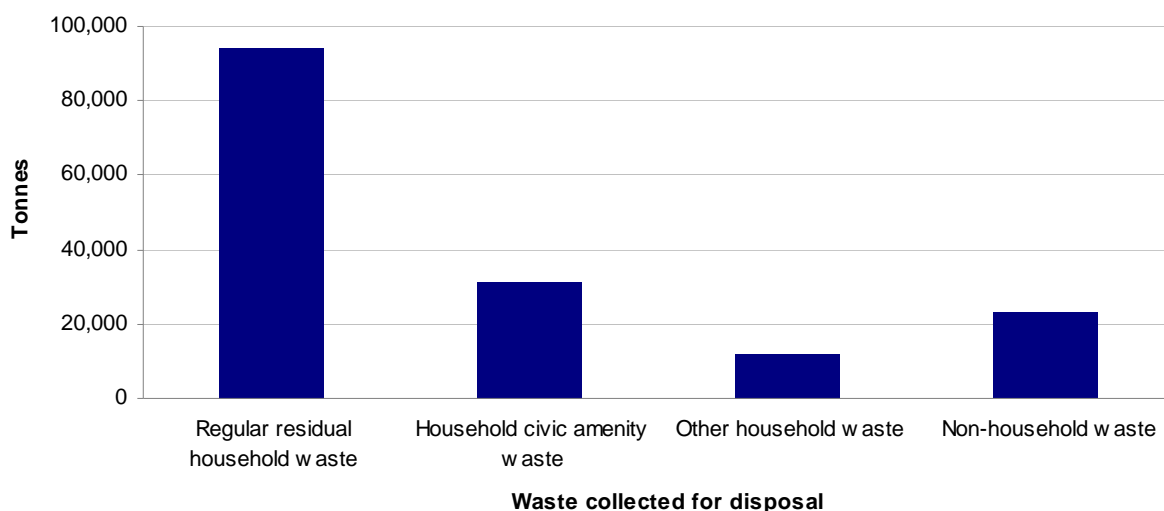


Table 5 Municipal waste collected for disposal by waste management group

	arc21	NWRWVG	SWaMP2008	Unit: Tonnes Northern Ireland
Regular residual household waste	50,371	19,298	24,524	94,193
Household civic amenity waste	13,965	8,085	9,000	31,050
Other household waste	7,065	2,579	2,015	11,659
Non-household waste	14,388	3,222	5,290	22,900
<b>All municipal waste collected for disposal</b>	<b>85,789</b>	<b>33,184</b>	<b>40,829</b>	<b>159,802</b>
<i>Source: NIEA</i>				

- Waste collected for disposal may not always be sent to landfill because of recovery from residual waste streams.
- There were 159,802 tonnes of municipal waste collected for disposal.
- The majority of the waste collected for disposal was from households (86%) with the remaining 14% collected from non households.
- Table A9 in the accompanying Excel document shows a further breakdown of these figures by district council.

## Household waste recycling and composting

Figure 6 Household waste sent for recycling and composting as a % of household waste arisings by waste management group, KPI (a)

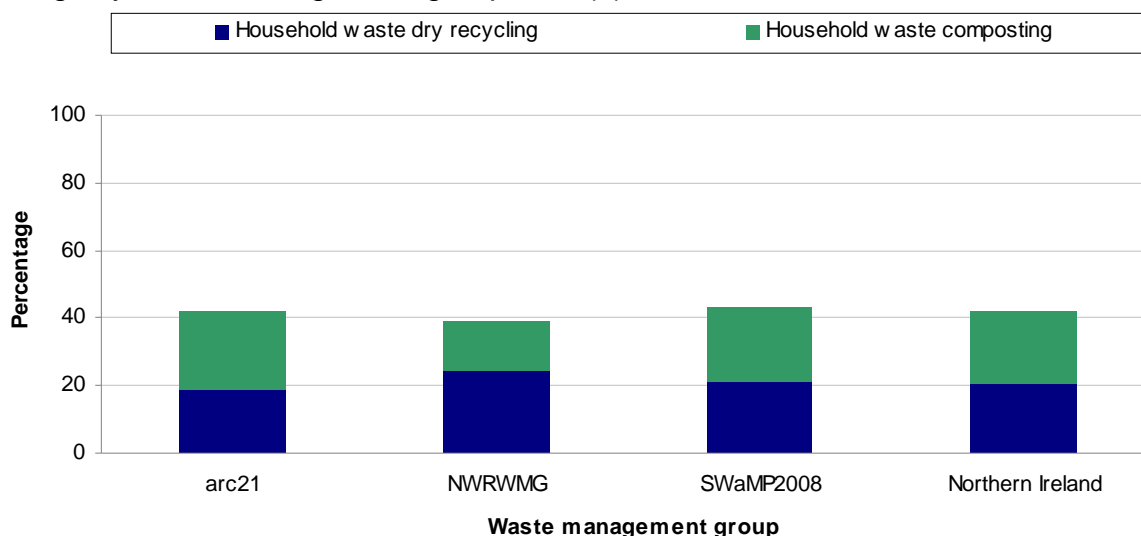


Table 6 Household waste sent for recycling and composting as a % of household waste arisings by waste management group, KPI (a)

	arc21	NWRWMG	SWaMP2008	Northern Ireland	Unit: Percentage
Household waste dry recycling	18.8	24.3	21.5	20.6	
Household waste composting	23.3	14.6	21.9	21.2	
<b>Household waste dry recycling and composting</b>	<b>42.2</b>	<b>38.9</b>	<b>43.4</b>	<b>41.9</b>	
<i>Source: NIEA</i>					

- The proportion of household waste sent for recycling in the current quarter was 20.6%. The proportion of household waste sent for composting in the quarter was 21.2%.
- The total percentage of household waste sent for recycling and composting was 41.9%. This is an increase of 2.5 percentage points on the July - September 2009 figure of 39.4%.
- Tables A10 and A11 in the accompanying Excel document show a further breakdown of these figures by district council.

## Percentage of household waste landfilled

Figure 7 Household waste landfilled as a % of household waste arisings by waste management group, KPI (b)

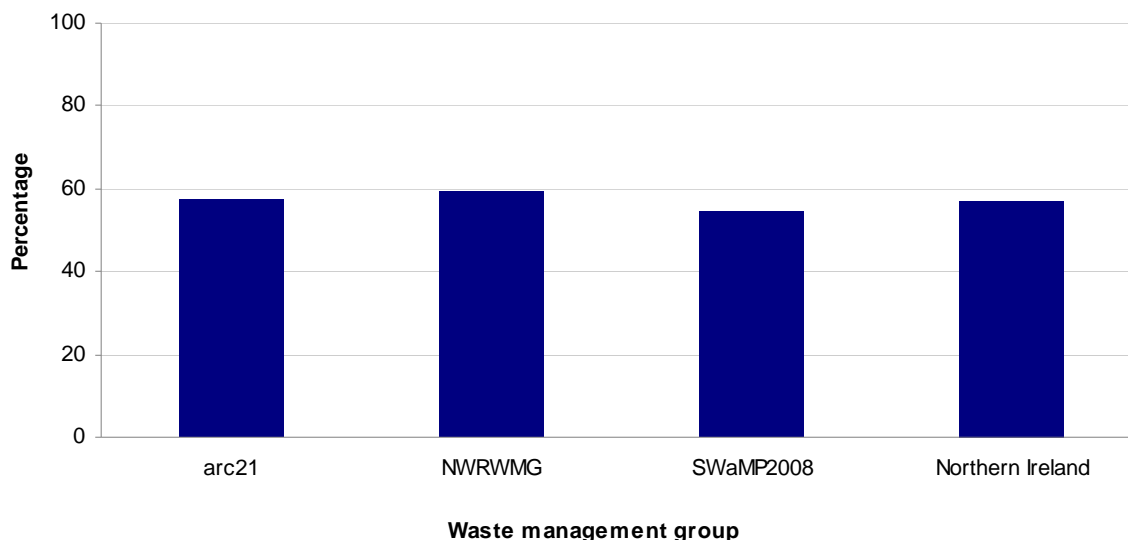


Table 7 Household waste landfilled as a % of household waste arisings by waste management group, KPI (b)

	arc21	NWRWMG	SWaMP2008	Northern Ireland	Unit: Percentage
Household waste landfilled	57.5	59.6	54.6	57.1	
<i>Source: NIEA</i>					

- The total tonnage of household waste sent to landfill for this quarter was 132,342 tonnes.
- The percentage of household waste sent to landfill in the current quarter was 57.1%. This is 3.4 percentage points lower compared to that for July - September 2009 (60.5%).
- Tables A10 and A11 in the accompanying Excel document show a further breakdown of these figures by district council.

## Household waste arisings per capita

Figure 8 Household waste arisings per capita by waste management group, KPI (p)

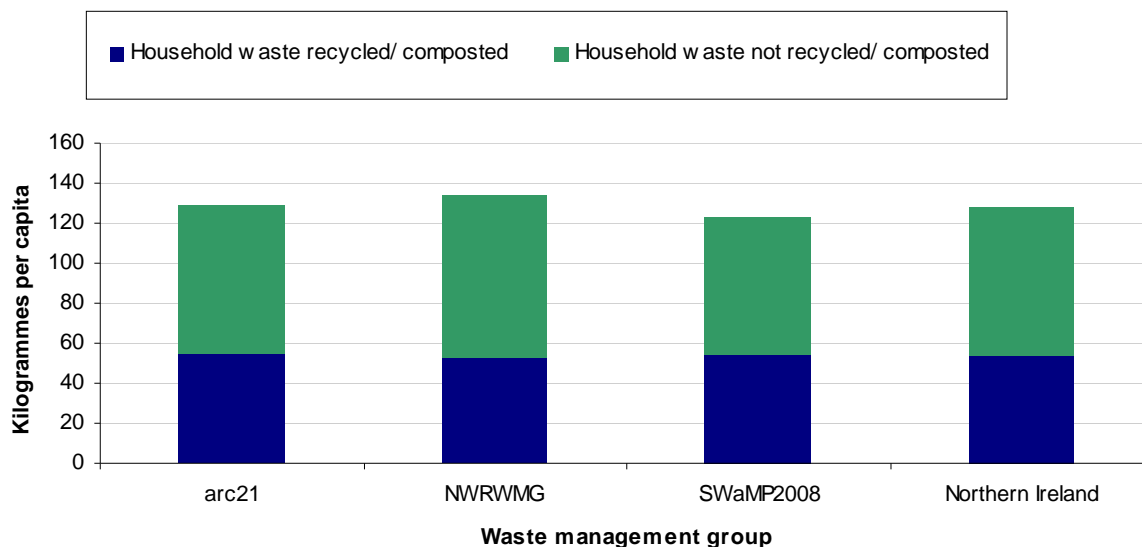


Table 8 Household waste arisings per capita by waste management group, KPI (p)

	Unit: Kilogrammes per capita			
	arc21	NWRWMG	SWaMP2008	Northern Ireland
Household waste recycled/ composted	55	53	54	54
Household waste not recycled/ composted	74	81	69	74
<b>Household waste arisings</b>	<b>129</b>	<b>136</b>	<b>126</b>	<b>130</b>
<i>Source: NIEA, NISRA Mid-Year Populations Estimates 2009</i>				

- On average, there was 130 kilogrammes of household waste arisings collected per head of population in Northern Ireland.
- Of this, 42% was recycled / composted and 58% was not recycled / composted.
- SWaMP2008 had the lowest household waste arisings per capita (126kg/ca) and NWRWMG had the highest (136kg/ca).
- Tables A12 in the accompanying Excel document shows a further breakdown of these figures by district council, and Table A13 provides a breakdown of household waste arisings per household, KPI (h).

## Biodegradable Municipal Waste (BMW) to landfill

Table 9 Biodegradable Municipal Waste (BMW) landfilled, KPI (g)

	arc21	NWRWVG	SWaMP2008	Unit: Tonnes Northern Ireland
BMW to landfill in quarter	45,083	16,766	21,131	82,980
10/11 allocation	251,256	89,460	129,221	469,937
% of annual allocation of BMW to landfill in quarter	17.9	18.7	16.4	17.7
% of annual allocation of BMW to landfill in year-to-date	37.2	40.5	34.6	37.1
<i>Source: NIEA</i>				

- Article 5(2) of the EC Landfill Directive (1999/31/EC)2 requires member states to reduce the amount of Biodegradable Municipal Waste (BMW) sent to landfill, setting challenging targets. In order to ensure compliance with these targets, the amount of BMW sent to landfill is monitored.
- For 2010/11, the allocation of BMW sent to landfill for Northern Ireland is 469,937 tonnes.
- In total, 82,980 tonnes of BMW were sent to landfill during the quarter. This equates to 17.7% of the annual allocation. In the year-to-date, 37.1% of the annual allocation has been used but this is subject to change pending the potential transfer of allowances and further end-year validations.
- Tables A14 in the accompanying Excel document show a further breakdown of these figures by district council.

## Glossary

Biodegradable waste	Any waste that is capable of undergoing anaerobic decomposition, such as food and garden waste, and paper and paperboard.
Bring site	An unmanned site with a container or a collection of containers for depositing recyclable waste
Civic amenity site	A manned site for depositing waste
Kerbside	A regular collection of waste from premises
Composting rate	The percentage of waste sent for composting. It excludes waste collected for composting that was rejected at collection or during sorting. It includes residual waste which was diverted for composting.
Dry recycling rate	The percentage of waste sent for recycling. It excludes waste collected for recycling that was rejected at collection, during sorting or at the gate of the recycling reprocessor. It includes residual waste which was diverted for recycling. It excludes waste sent for reuse.
Household waste	Waste collected by the district council from household sources, i.e. domestic properties including residential and nursing homes.
Municipal non household waste	Waste collected by the district council from non household sources.
Municipal waste	Waste under the control or possession of a district council.
Recycled material types	
Glass	Brown, clear, green and mixed glass
Cans	Aluminium, mixed and steel cans
Paper	Books, card, mixed and paper
Electrical goods	Large and small domestic appliances, cathode rays, fluorescent tubes, fridges and freezers and batteries
Green waste	Green and other composting waste
Other waste	All other recycled material collected including plastics, wood, tyres, furniture, construction, oils and other materials.
Waste arisings	The amount of waste collected in a given locality over a period of time.
WasteDataFlow	The web based system for municipal waste data reporting by UK local authorities to government ( <a href="http://www.wastedataflow.org">www.wastedataflow.org</a> )
Waste collected for disposal to landfill	
Regular residual household waste	Household regular collection
Household civic amenity waste	Household civic amenity collection
Other household waste	Healthcare waste, bulky waste, street cleaning and other household
Landfilled non household waste	Asbestos, beach cleansing, civic amenity sites waste, fly-tipped materials, gully emptyings, commercial & industrial, construction and demolition, grounds waste, highways waste, other collected waste and other
Waste sent to landfill	The amount of waste sent to landfill. It excludes residual waste which was diverted for recycling or composting. It includes household waste collected for recycling or composting which was diverted to landfill.
Key Performance Indicators (KPIs)	A set of measures used to gauge performance in terms of meeting waste strategy targets.

## User Information

This section contains some information about the quality of the data used in the Northern Ireland Municipal Waste Management Statistics Report including guidance to assist with interpretation.

### Description of the data

Data used in this report and the accompanying Excel tables are taken from WasteDataFlow (WDF), a web based system for municipal waste reporting by UK local authorities for government. The Excel tables provide users with flexibility to work with data and / or to combine it with other sources. The data are based on returns made to WDF (relating to approximately 40 questions on municipal waste management) by district councils within two months of the end of each quarter.

### Data Quality Assessment

High quality data are derived from WDF with full coverage for all district councils and incorporating various validation checks. As the data are derived from an administrative system, they provide a complete picture of district council controlled waste activity in NI and sampling errors associated with survey data are not, therefore, an issue. Validations are conducted for each individual question, with additional global validations carried out to ensure that total tonnage of waste types is equal to the sum of the component parts. Any discrepancies are queried with the data provider. Variance checks are employed as an integral part of the production process. Both large and very small discrepancies between the current and preceding quarter as well as the corresponding quarter from the previous year are all queried with the data provider.

### Redefinition of Municipal Waste

Following discussions with the European Commission relating to the amount of biodegradable municipal waste diverted from landfill (see KPI(g) in this report) the UK has agreed to revise its interpretation of municipal waste. The revised interpretation, which will bring the UK more closely into line with the approach understood to be taken by other Member States, will mean that much more commercial and industrial waste than previously will fall within the scope of the term 'municipal waste'. This is because the new definition is proposed to be based on waste types (as defined by European Waste



## Quarterly provisional figures

Catalogue codes) rather than who manages the waste (i.e. district council) as is presently the case. The implications of this change of definition was the subject of an open public consultation held by the Department of Environment in Northern Ireland between 25 June and 8 October 2010 following an earlier similar consultation by DEFRA for England and Wales. The consultation responses in these countries are currently being considered with the aim of producing specific policy proposals.

This report has retained the reference to municipal waste in the release title and contents to maintain consistency with previous releases. However, in due course municipal waste will be renamed to reflect that the publication reports on district council collected municipal waste only. This change in definition will have no impact on the WDF data that is reported.

### Guidance on using the data

- All figures in the report and the accompanying Excel tables are quarterly figures only and refer to the stated period. These quarterly figures are the best available at the time of publication however they are subject to change following further validation activities such as audits. If finalised figures are required by the user then those from the latest annual municipal waste management report should be used, bearing in mind they may not necessarily reflect the situation this year.

The latest annual report (2009/10) is available via the following link:  
[http://www.doeni.gov.uk/northern\\_ireland\\_municipal\\_waste\\_management\\_statistics\\_a\\_nnual\\_report\\_2009-11.pdf](http://www.doeni.gov.uk/northern_ireland_municipal_waste_management_statistics_a_nnual_report_2009-11.pdf).

- Despite the intensive validation carried out on the data prior to publication, any administrative system will always be open to a degree of clerical error. In addition, and as previously noted, data are not finalised until the production of the annual report. For these reasons, very small increases or decreases in figures (< 0.5%) are not highlighted in the commentary and should be interpreted with care.
- Some of the data in this publication are seasonal, such as composting tonnages. Therefore it is more appropriate to compare current quarter data with that from the same quarter of the previous year rather than the previous quarter.

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- Comparative figures for the previous year are based on the most current figures available from WDF and may differ from those previously published.
- The tonnages of recycled (including composted) and landfilled waste may not always equal the waste arisings because the recycling measures were defined to capture outputs from recovery processes which excludes reuse.
- The tonnages of waste collected for recycling or disposal may not always equal the tonnages of waste sent to the same, because of contamination of recyclates and / or recovery from residual waste streams.
- Whilst tonnages may be summed over District Councils and / or Waste Management Group to give totals for higher level geographies such totals may suffer from rounding errors when compared to any given totals.
- However where fractions or proportions, such as recycling rates, waste arisings per capita etc are stated for District Councils and / or Waste Management Groups, these indicators cannot be simply added or averaged to produce a rate for a higher level geography. However such information may be available on request.
- 'Towards Resource Management: The NI Waste Management Strategy 2006-2020' sets out targets for the management of municipal waste. The quarterly reports provide provisional information on several key performance indicators (KPIs) used to assess progress towards achieving municipal waste targets.

### Web links

Municipal Waste information for England

<http://www.defra.gov.uk/evidence/statistics/environment/waste/index.htm>

Municipal waste information for Scotland

[www.sepa.org.uk/waste/waste\\_data/municipal\\_waste.aspx](http://www.sepa.org.uk/waste/waste_data/municipal_waste.aspx)

Municipal waste information for Wales

[http://wales.gov.uk/topics/environmentcountryside/epq/waste\\_recycling/bysector/municipal/?lang=en](http://wales.gov.uk/topics/environmentcountryside/epq/waste_recycling/bysector/municipal/?lang=en)