

Councillor polling – waste collections and recycling

BECG and Cavendish Advocacy commissioned YouGov to survey local councillors across England on their views on standardised waste and recycling collections as per changes proposed under the new Environment Bill.

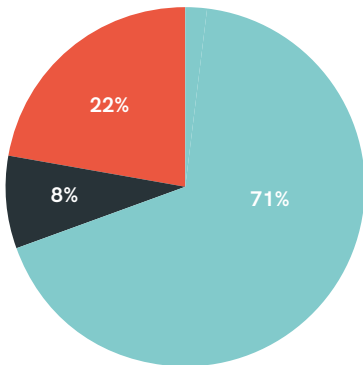
BECG and Cavendish Advocacy wanted to understand local councillor perceptions: including whether they thought the proposals, that were first outlined in the Resources & Waste Strategy, would increase recycling rates in their area, or increase costs for their local authority.

The majority of councillors (71%) believe their local authority would have to introduce additional costs and/or chargeable services if waste collection was standardised

Exactly half the councillors expect a new waste strategy will be required to meet standardised waste collection requirements.

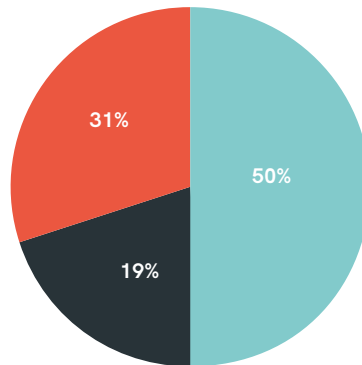
Just over half of councillors expect recycling rates to increase in their area.

Q1. Would your local authority have to introduce additional costs and/or chargeable services to meet these new standards?*



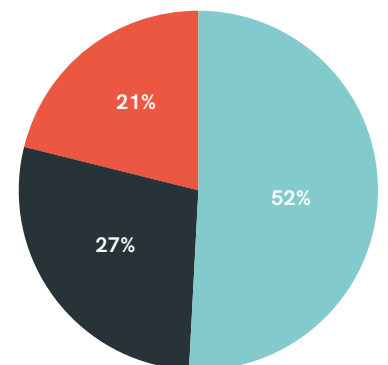
■ Yes
■ No
■ Don't know

Q2. To meet standardised waste collection requirements, will your local authority need to adopt a new waste strategy?



■ Yes
■ No
■ Don't know

Q3. Do you believe that standardising waste collections will boost recycling rates in your area?



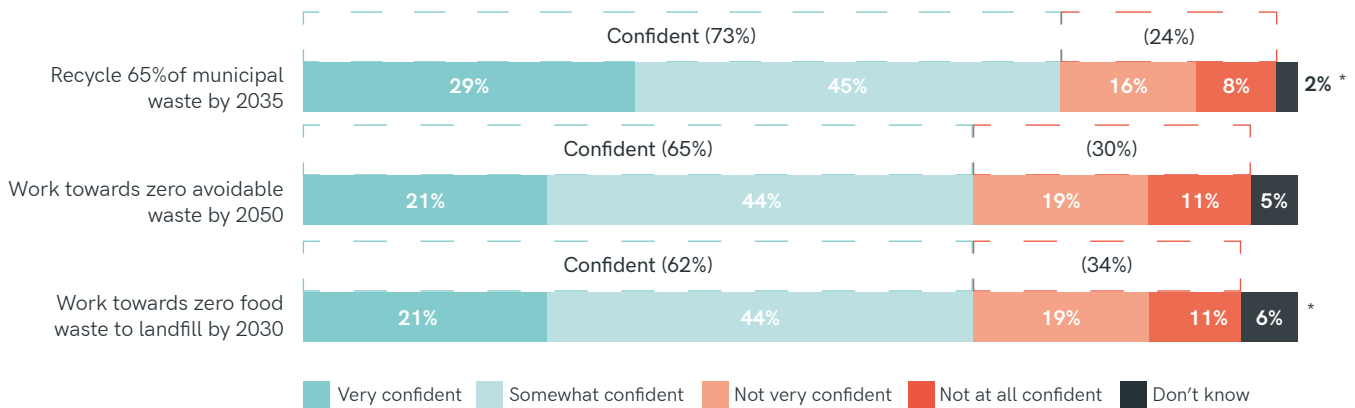
■ Yes
■ No
■ Don't know

* Please note that due to the rounding of percentages, not all charts add up to 100%

Base: All respondents (n=460)

Just under three quarters of Councillors are confident that their local authorities are on track to recycle 65% of municipal waste by 2035 (73%). Two thirds are confident in their local authority's ability to work towards avoidable waste by 2050, and to work towards zero food waste to landfill by 2030 (65% and 62% respectively).

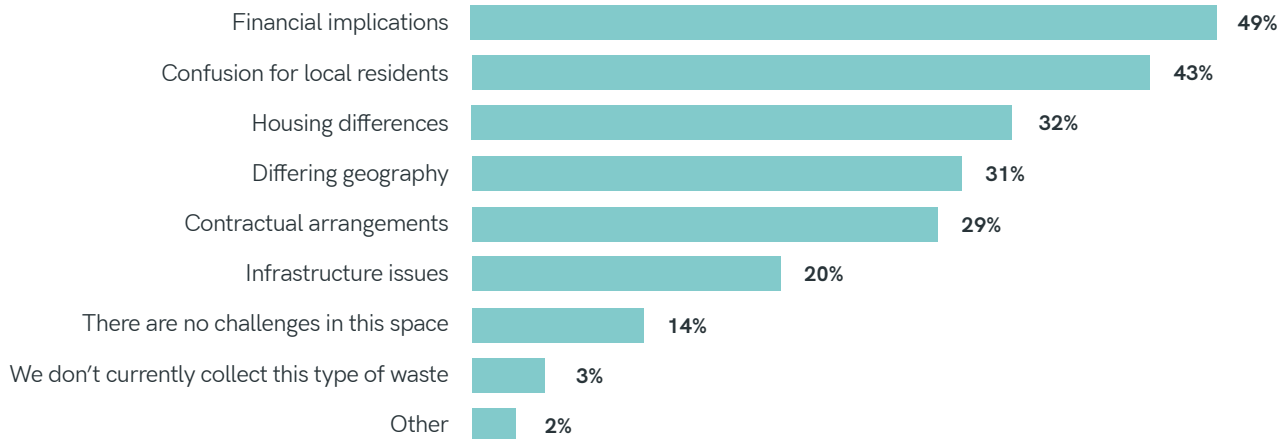
Q4. In line with the Resources and Waste Strategy, how confident are you that your local authority is on track to...



* Please note that due to the rounding of percentages, not all charts add up to 100%

The top three challenges from within local authorities when it comes to household waste collection include financial implications, confusion for local residents, and housing differences.

Q5. What are the current challenges from within your local authority regarding household waste collections



Areas of focus

While half the councillors are confident of the proposed changes having a positive impact on recycling rates in their area, there will be challenges on the road to achieving the Government's targets.



With almost half of respondents stating that financial implications are the biggest issue they currently face, and the significant majority bracing for additional costs / chargeable services around standardised collections, Government will have to address the burden for cash-strapped local authorities whose budgets have been challenged even further during the pandemic.



Meanwhile, confusion for residents and housing differences will require clear and timely resident communications to bring about the necessary consumer behaviours to make the changes work.

Methodology: BECG and Cavendish Advocacy commissioned YouGov to interview 460 English Councillors in November 2020. All results are based on a sample and are therefore subject to statistical errors normally associated with sample information.

Visit becg.com/waste to find out more.