

University of Huddersfield Waste Audit Report

Conducted by: Chloe Mosley, Estates, Facilities, and Sustainability Assistant

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Introduction

This report summarises the findings and recommendations of an in-depth audit of waste production at the University of Huddersfield.

List of abbreviations

Non-residential waste mass recycled	ENRWMREC
Residential waste mass used to create energy	ENRWMENE
Non-residential waste mass composting	ENRWMCOM
Non-residential waste mass anaerobic digestion	ENRWMADI
Non-residential waste mass landfill	ENRWMLAN
Non-residential waste mass incineration	ENRWMI
Non-residential waste mass other	ENRWMOTH
Non-residential waste mass total	ENRWMT

Audit Methodology

- Collect waste data for whole University
- Develop a baseline for waste production
- Analyse data to identify significance any trends
- Put forward recommendations for further research or mitigation

Baseline Aug 2022- July 2024

Tables 1-2: Waste data for the University of Huddersfield 2022-2024

Type of waste	Annual total section weights (tonnes) 22-23	Annual total section weights (tonnes) 23-24
Non-residential waste mass recycled (ENRWMREC)	98.5	98.4
Non-residential waste mass used to create energy(incineration) (ENRWMENE)	179.4	174.4
Non-residential waste mass composting (ENRWMCOM)	9.6	9.6
Non-residential waste mass anaerobic digestion (ENRWMADI)	19.6	17.4
Non-residential waste mass landfill (ENRWMLAN)	N/A	N/A
Non-residential waste mass incineration (ENRWMI)	N/A	N/A
Non-residential waste mass other (ENRWMOTH)	N/A	N/A
Non-residential waste mass total (ENRWMT)	307.1	299.9

Type of Waste	Annual total section weights (tonnes) 22-23	Annual total section weights (tonnes) 23-24
Hazardous	263.0559	11.65829013

Please note. we do not send any waste to incineration (it creates energy instead) and we do not send any waste to landfill

Findings/ Results – observed/ learnt

- ENRWMREC (recycling) saw a slight decrease of 0.11 tonnes (-0.11%), which may be attributed to improved waste segregation efforts diverting recyclables into more appropriate streams such as food waste or liquid separation, or to relatively stable consumption patterns with minimal variation in recyclable material generated.
- ENRWMENE (incineration) decreased by 4.92 tonnes (-2.74%), likely due to the introduction of additional waste streams—particularly within food and drink outlets. General waste bins have been removed and replaced with sorting trolleys for food waste, liquids, aluminium cans, and plastic bottles, promoting better waste segregation and reducing material sent for incineration.
- ENRWMCOM (composting of coffee grounds) remained steady, primarily due to consistent customer volume and the unchanged number of coffee outlets. However, we anticipate an increase in the coming year with the opening of Pulse Café in the new Daphne Steele building.
- ENRWMADI (anaerobic digestion) decreased by 2.17 tonnes, representing an overall 11% reduction. This decline may be attributed to reduced food waste generation, likely resulting from the introduction of a salad bar that enables reuse of food from the previous day, more stringent product ordering by outlets, and improved controls over food production processes.
- Overall waste, ENRWMT has dropped by 7.18 tonnes (2.34% decrease), suggesting improvements in waste prevention and process efficiency. Additionally, we have collaborated with charities to divert furniture waste from landfill through reuse initiatives.
- When comparing the data from 2023–2024 to the previous year, there is a substantial decrease of 95.56% (251.40 tonnes) in hazardous waste. This sharp decline is likely attributable to the construction activities for the new Daphne Steele and Emily Siddon buildings, which involved the collection and disposal of large amounts of hazardous waste during 2022–2023. Soil testing detected asbestos contamination that required removal and treatment. With this remediation now complete, the significant reduction in hazardous waste is expected to result from the conclusion of these works.

Recommendations

- All our catering outlets have recycling/ sorting stations in place to encourage people to dispose of waste in a correct manner. A recommendation would be to make these widespread through the University in non-catering areas too to encourage more waste to be recycled.

- Aim to reduce the amount of waste produced by the University as a whole.
- Create a collection point for crisp packets and create a scheme for them to be recycled.
- Implement outreach workshops to engage and involve students in recycling practices.
- Continue partnerships with charities for reuse initiatives.
- Reduce the use of disposables in relation to hot drink sales in single use cups by implementing a new campaign for our reusable University-branded cups.
- Develop an annual action plan to include specific targets and responsible person(s).