

61683 Household Kerbside Recycling

I am writing to request the following information relating to household kerbside recycling collected by City of Edinburgh Council or on its behalf by waste management contractors.

Please provide data for the financial year 2024/25.

If 2024/25 data is not yet available, please provide the most recent 12-month period for which data is held.

Contamination rate

The contamination rate for household kerbside recycling collections, expressed as a percentage.

2024/25 – 23.7%

2025/26 – 31.2%

The total tonnage of household kerbside recycling that was rejected, disposed of, or diverted from recycling due to contamination.

2024/25 – 5,666.26

2025/26 – 8,460.23

(If held) The contamination threshold at which a load is rejected (e.g. if contamination exceeds X%, the load is rejected).

25%

What happens to household kerbside recycling that is rejected due to contamination?

E.g. Sent to landfill, incineration/energy from waste, or another disposal route (please state)

Energy from Waste

Cost of contamination

The total cost to the council of processing or disposing of contaminated household kerbside recycling for the same period.

(If an exact figure is not available, please provide an estimate and indicate how this was calculated)

We consider this information to be commercially sensitive and it shall not be provided on this occasion.

Main contaminants (if recorded)

(If held) Please provide details of the main types of contamination found in household kerbside recycling collections (for example: food waste, nappies, non-recyclable plastics, textiles, garden waste, glass in incorrect streams, etc.).

The main types of contamination noted includes; Food Waste, Nappies, Textiles, General Waste in the wrong bin, Large metal/plastic items.

Processing cost differential

The cost per tonne to the council for processing or disposing of household kerbside recycling.

The cost per tonne to the council for processing or disposing of general household waste.

(If exact figures e.g. gate fees are not available, please provide estimates or typical/average costs)

We consider this information to be commercially sensitive and it shall not be provided on this occasion.