



Working in partnership for partnerships

CASE STUDY: The Importance of Good Data

Whether undertaking a partnership health check, identifying opportunities for joint working, or developing a business case, having a detailed understanding of data in relation to waste arisings, composition, waste flows and current and future trends is an indispensable resource. Whilst good practice can be shared, all partnerships are different and therefore require bespoke solutions to drive joint progress to a successful conclusion in terms of achieving real and accountable efficiency savings. A detailed understanding of data, and the ability to both benchmark the performance of different waste management systems (including kerbside dry recycling schemes, kerbside food waste collections and recycling at HWRCs), and an in-depth knowledge of the range of factors that influence arisings and capture rates for materials targeted for recycling or composting, can help in establishing clear and appropriate strategies and targets for the partnership. More importantly they can give a solid foundation to the developing business case which in turn will provide greater confidence amongst the stakeholders in terms of the 'value' of the partnership working.

When investing in external specialist support, ensuring demonstrable experience in data management and predictive waste modelling can be a valuable resource, as can a practical understanding of 'on the ground' operational issues; a vital component to ensuring that waste data can be used to produce practical benefits, specifically in terms of highlighting opportunities for improved performance. A demonstrable understanding of how waste arisings can be minimised, how to maximise recycling and composting yields and the challenges of particular areas could support the partnership in making the best and most appropriate decisions available.

The importance of good data and good data management should not be underestimated if opportunities are to be maximised and savings achieved.

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