

East Midlands State of the Environment

Waste and resource management

Society is using resources at an unsustainable rate and creating too much waste. Waste is a serious environmental, social and economic burden for the East Midlands. Re-use and recycling reduces the amount of waste sent for disposal at landfill or incinerated, reducing the risk of harm to our environment.

All householders and businesses produce waste. In the past we have relied on disposal of waste at landfill sites, but the East Midlands is running out of landfill space. Minimisation, reduction of waste and proper segregation provides the most sustainable action for the future management of waste in the East Midlands region. We can all reduce the amount of waste we produce and dispose of our waste more responsibly by reusing and recycling it wherever possible.

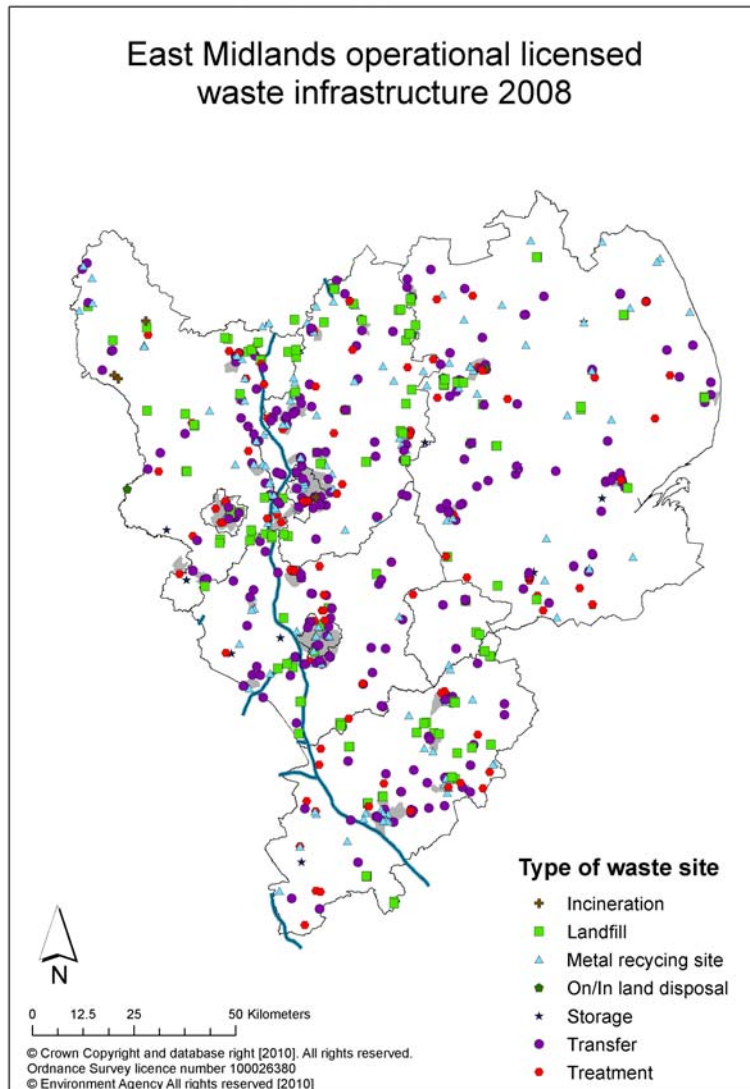
Further legislative changes including the Waste Framework Directive and Landfill Tax are important drivers in diverting many waste streams from landfill. In recent years more waste has been reused and recycled and many types of waste generated by businesses and homes have now become valuable resources. Management of waste as future resource will help with the sustainable management of waste within the East Midlands.

At a glance

- The East Midlands produced over 2.4 million tonnes of municipal waste in 2008, including 2.1 million tonnes of household waste. The latest commercial and industrial waste data showed the East Midlands produced 6.2 million tonnes of this waste type.
- In 2008, 5.5 million tonnes of waste was disposed of in landfill sites, with five million tonnes of waste going to waste transfer and treatment facilities. A further one million tonnes was sent to metal recycling sites.
- Since 2001, waste sent to East Midlands landfill sites has decreased by over 40 per cent, whilst inputs to waste transfer facilities has increased by 48 per cent. Waste going for treatment has increased by 135 per cent to over 2.0 million tonnes.
- At the end of 2008 the East Midlands had landfill capacity of over 69 million cubic metres. At current rates of disposal, this is only enough for another seven years.
- Nearly 0.4 million tonnes of waste was incinerated at permitted facilities in the East Midlands in 2008, 42 per cent of which was municipal waste.
- In 2008, 43 per cent of municipal waste was recycled and/or composted. Since 2001 the East Midlands has seen household waste recycling rates increase by 29 per cent, and the amount of municipal waste going to landfill fall by 28 per cent.

Data and trends

The map below shows the location of the licensed waste facilities within the East Midlands.



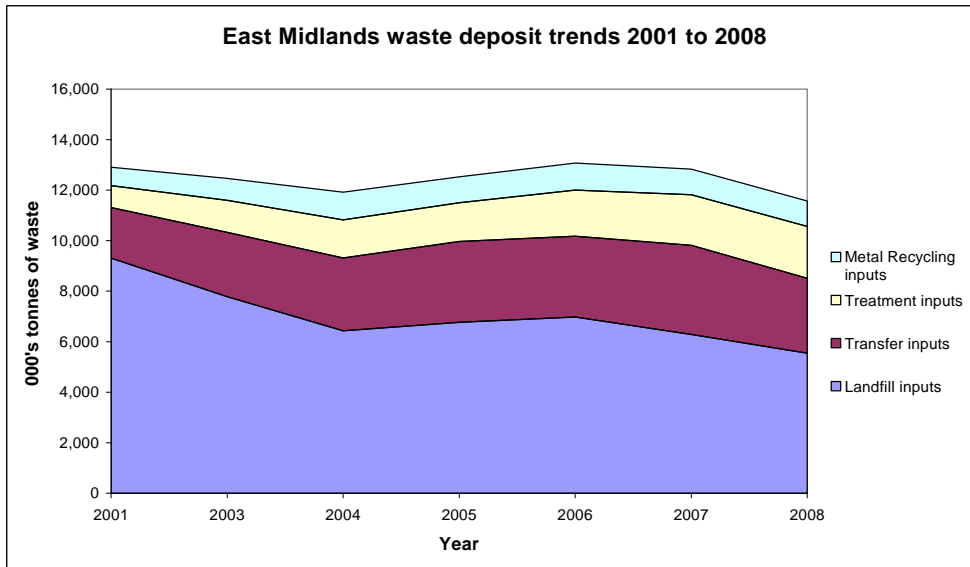
In 2008 there were over 1039 permitted waste management facilities in the East Midlands with a total permitted capacity to handle over 153 million tonnes of waste per annum. Of these, 482 sites were active (handling waste) during 2008. Each active waste facility is required to submit returns to us reporting the amount of waste handled by the facility for the calendar year.

Amongst the active permitted waste facilities in the East Midlands in 2008 there were:

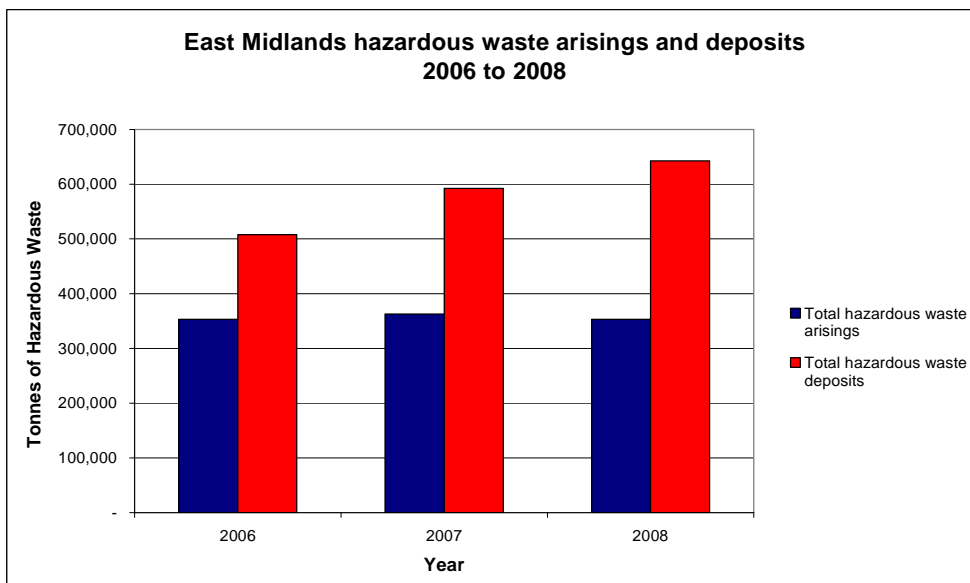
- 55 landfill sites
- 84 waste treatment facilities, with waste inputs of over two million tonnes
- 231 waste transfer stations

- Seven waste incinerators with an annual capacity to handle 939,000 tonnes of waste.
- One municipal energy from waste incinerator with just over a quarter of the region's incineration capacity.

Since 2001 waste inputs to landfill have fallen by 40 per cent in the East Midlands. Inputs into waste treatment sites have increased by 135 per cent to over two million tonnes, with the amount of waste going through waste transfer facilities up by 48 per cent since 2001.



In 2008 over 350,000 tonnes of hazardous waste was produced in the East Midlands, 5 per cent of all hazardous waste arisings for England and Wales. Since 2006 overall hazardous waste arisings in the East Midlands have remained consistent at around 0.35 million tonnes a year.



In 2008 total hazardous waste deposits in the East Midlands were over 640,000 tonnes, with the region responsible for 10 per cent of all hazardous waste deposits for England and Wales. The East Midlands is a net importer of hazardous waste with over 530,000 tonnes imported from other regions, and over 258,000 tonnes of hazardous waste arisings exported out of the region.

More waste data and information for East Midlands can be found on our website (http://www.environment-agency.gov.uk/research/library/data/111318.aspx#East_Midlands).

Our role

We want organisations to use less natural resources in the future and to treat the waste we produce as a resource. We will provide advice, guidance and leadership to businesses and the public sector to help more efficient and sustainable use of natural resources.

There is an increased need to ensure the delivery of new waste management facilities that are fit for purpose and in the right place and to sustainably manage waste close to its place of production. As a regulator of waste management sites we also have an important role advising and influencing waste planning authorities to manage waste in the most sustainable way.

In the coming years we will:

- Work with waste planning authorities in the East Midlands to ensure that waste management infrastructure is in the right place at the right time.
- Work with regulated businesses and regional policy makers to improve the resource efficiency of our businesses in the East Midlands.
- Work with and influence developers and partners to ensure more development achieves better resource efficiency through sustainable construction and retrofitting measures.
- Through our regulatory role we want to ensure the amount of hazardous waste, clinical waste and electronic waste is reduced and improve the management of its production, storage, treatment and disposal.

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