

Priority Theme **Altogether Greener**

The Altogether Greener priority theme is about ensuring that our communities have access to open space and neighbourhoods which are of good quality, well maintained and clean; that we conserve our natural resources through effective energy efficiency measures and sustainable waste management in that we build resilience to extreme weather events and reduce carbon emissions. Key areas of focus include tackling the impacts of climate change; encouraging sustainability and energy efficiency; and maintaining the quality of our local environment.

We aim to work with local communities, businesses and other organisations to encourage behaviour change and participation in activities to achieve our goals. The need to work collaboratively with partners, residents and businesses to build collective ownership and action has never been greater.

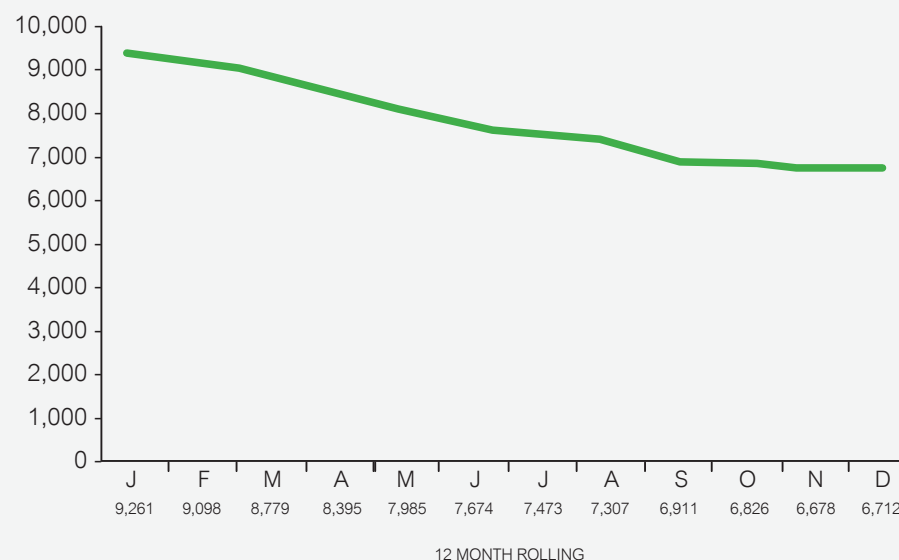
Achievements 2015-2016

- Delivered a programme of effective campaigns to tackle environmental crime, including dog-fouling, fly-tipping and litter.
- Reduced the carbon footprint of our operations through re-programming our refuse and recycling routes, reducing energy across our buildings and reducing business mileage.
- Replaced 32,000 street lights as part of the Street Lighting Energy Reduction Programme saving energy costs to the taxpayer and reducing carbon emissions.
- Increased energy production from landfill capping where electricity is generated from landfill gas.
- Delivered a programme of waste campaigns designed to help reduce contamination in household recycling ('Bin It Right') and encourage students to recycle waste ('Green Move Out').
- Extended wildflower planting schemes to roundabouts and verges helping reverse the trend of habitat loss and creating food and homes for wildlife.

- Continuation of the work of our Community Action Teams to improve the condition of local housing and environments.
- Delivered our flood defence programme including the refurbishment of Seaham's historic North Pier and flood prevention works at Witton Gilbert.
- Development of the Air Quality Action Plan to improve air quality across Durham City.
- Refurbished three waste transfer stations giving improved recycling facilities and more scope to recycle.
- Fly Tipping incidents continue to fall following education and proactive enforcement activity (Figure G1).
- Over 96% of waste collected by the council has been diverted from landfill to recycling reuse, composting and generating energy (Figure G2).

Figure G1.

Fly-tipping incidents - County Durham 2015/16



Priority Theme **Altogether Greener**

Issues to address

- Further develop a low carbon culture within our organisation and reduce our carbon emissions in line with government legislation.
- Further reduce carbon emissions across the county through the Street Lighting Energy Reduction Programme and the council's Carbon Management Plan and reducing business mileage (Figure G3).
- Plans in place to respond to the impacts of climate change including flooding and water management.
- Balance the needs of the economy such as business development and the creation of employment, while at the same time protect the natural environment and our open spaces.
- Protect and enhance areas of natural beauty and character such as limestone landscapes, peatlands and Durham Heritage Coast, at the same time keeping a resilient and healthy ecosystem across our rural and urban landscapes.
- Monitor the effects of the actions to ensure that we are addressing our air quality improvements in Durham City.
- Build capacity within our communities and effect behaviour change within the context of reduced resources as we recognise the quality of local environment is important.
- Reduce environmental crime through campaigns and enforcement to tackle specific issues such as illegal disposal of white fridges and further reducing incidents of fly-tipping.

Figure G2.
Diverted from landfill 2013-2015

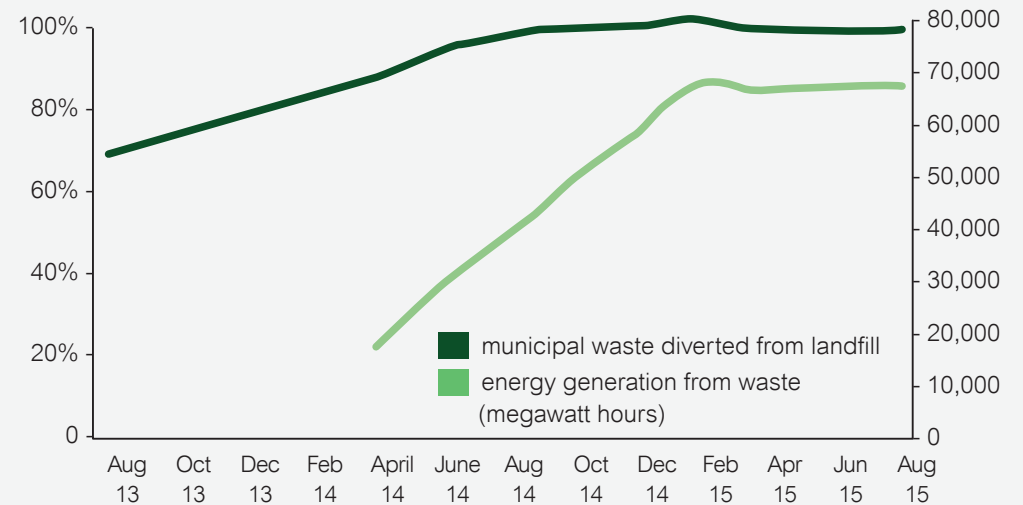
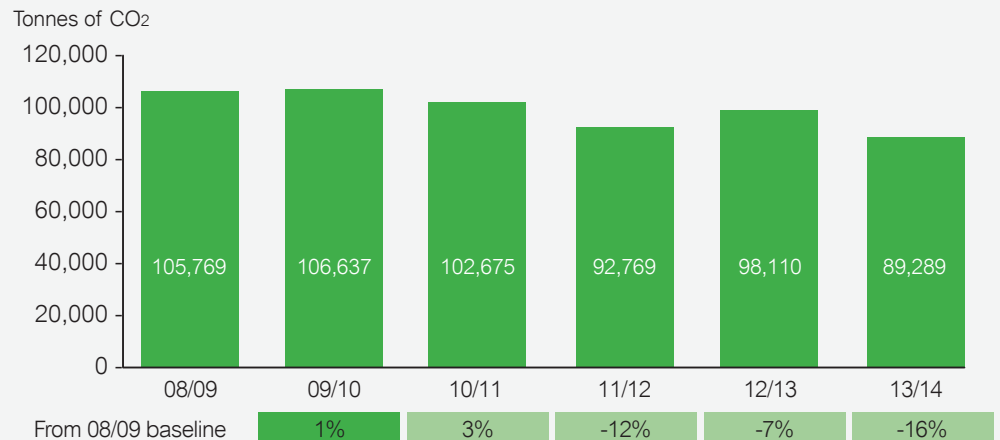


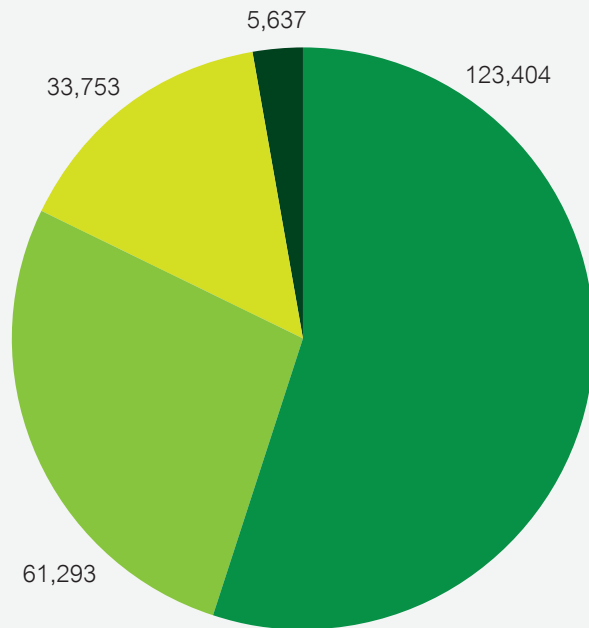
Figure G3.
Carbon emissions from local authority operations 2008/09 to 2013/14



Key Facts and Figures

Figure G4.

Household waste sent for energy, recycling, composting and landfill 2014-2015

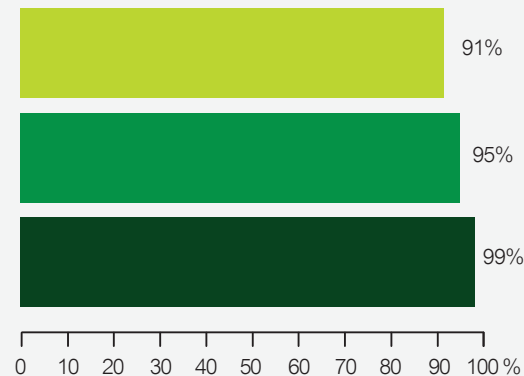


Tonnage sent:

to energy from waste plant	123,404
for recycling	61,293
for composting	33,753
sent to landfill	5,637

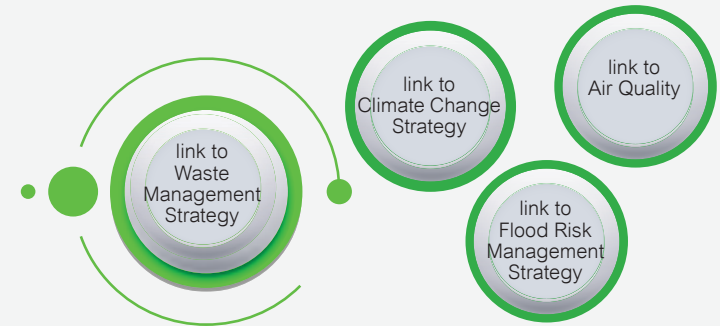
Figure G5.

DCC land and highways assessed as at or above an acceptable level of cleanliness



DCC land and highways assessed as at or above an acceptable level of cleanliness

detritus	91%
litter	95%
dog fouling	99%



14

Green Flag awards across the county for parks, open spaces, countryside sites, cemeteries & crematoria

12 million

Refuse and recycling collections from households each year

40%

Proportion of household waste re-used, recycled or composted

96%

Proportion of waste collected by the authority diverted from landfill

56%

Proportion of County Durham's household electricity use met by renewable energy

67,556

Megawatt hours (MWh) of energy produced from the waste collected by the council each year enough to meet the annual energy needs of almost 3400 houses

1,443

Number of Feed in Tariff installations, registered and approved

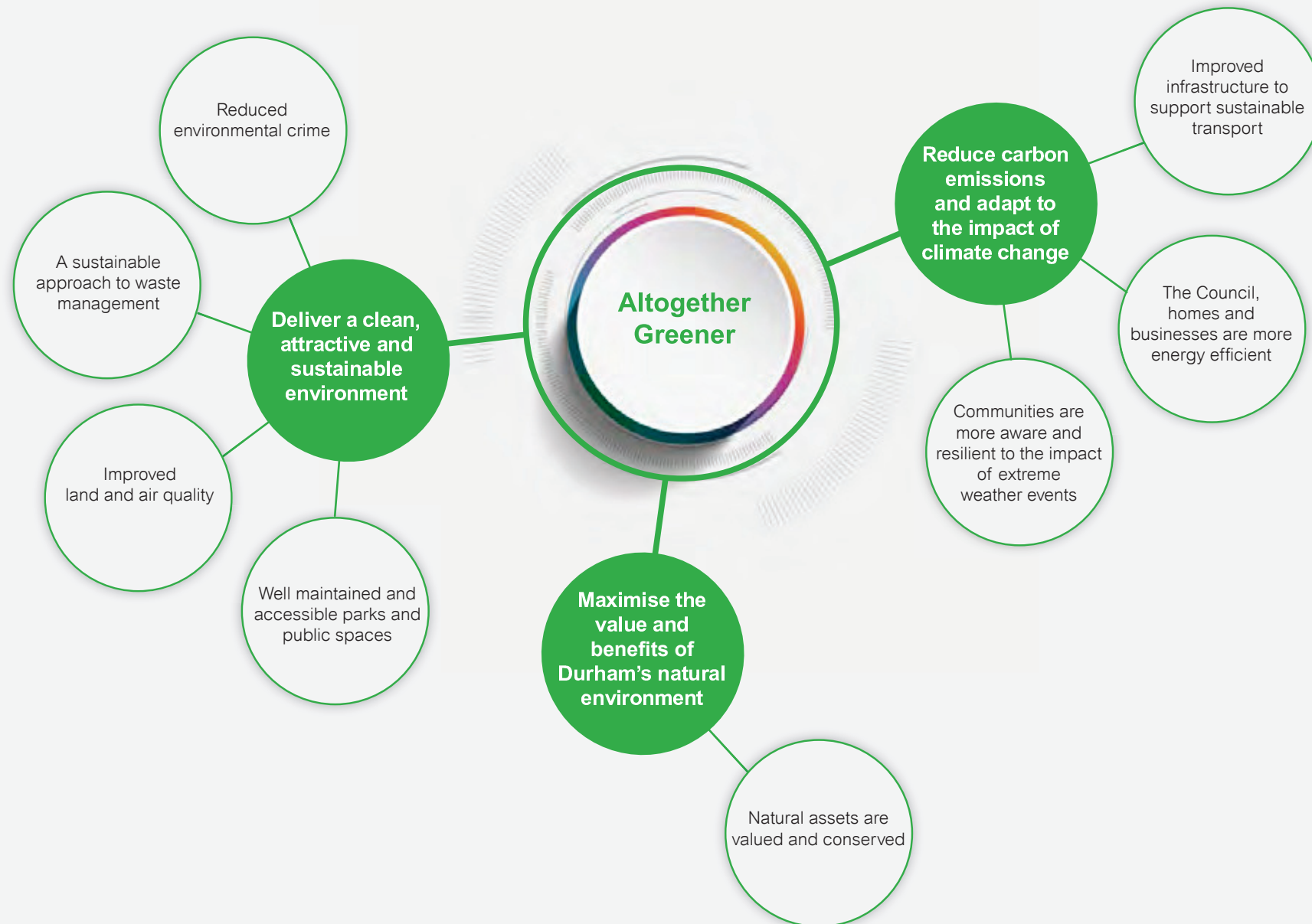
217

Megawatt equivalent (MWe) capacity of renewable energy generation across the county

7,512 tonnes

Annual reduction in carbon emissions due to street lighting upgrade

Moving Forward - Key Areas of Focus for 2016-2019



Moving Forward - Key Areas of Focus for 2016-2019

Objective 1

Deliver a clean, attractive and sustainable environment

Reduced environmental crime

We will:

- Deliver a programme of targeted campaigns, to tackle environmental crime, including fly-tipping, dog fouling and littering.
- Work in partnership with other organisations to identify and tackle local concerns such as housing, environmental concerns, health and consumer protection.

A sustainable approach to waste management

We will deliver the Waste Management Strategy which includes:

- Reviewing the Household Waste Recycling Centres in the county to ensure the provision is adequate.
- Completing the refurbishment and replacement of the relevant Waste Transfer stations across the county.
- Undertaking improvement work at a number of landfill sites.

Improved land and air quality

We will:

- Implement actions to improve the air quality in Chester-le-Street and Durham City.
- Undertake detailed inspections of land which is potentially contaminated and complete remedial action as appropriate.

Well maintained and accessible parks and public spaces

We will:

- Further develop our wildflower planting scheme.
- Deliver improvements to Wharton Park in Durham City.
- Maximise the use of allotments by increasing community ownership and involvement.

Objective 2

Maximise the value and benefits of Durham's natural environment

Natural assets are valued and conserved

We will work in partnership to conserve areas of distinctive landscape character, including the North Pennines Area of Natural Outstanding Beauty, East Durham Limestone Plateau, Oak and Iron, Heritage Coast (Derwent Valley) and Brightwater (River Skerne catchment area).

Objective 3

Reduce carbon emissions and adapt to the impact of climate change

Communities are more aware and resilient to the impact of extreme weather events

We will deliver the Warm Up North project across County Durham to improve the condition of housing stock in the social and private sectors, which will result in warmer homes and better health of residents.

The Council, homes and businesses are more energy efficient

We will reduce carbon emissions by:

- Upgrading of street lights across the county to the latest light emitting diode (LED) lights.
- Supporting delivery of the carbon management plan and
- Relocating our fleet vehicles to align with service delivery areas to identify potential saving opportunities.

Improved infrastructure to support sustainable transport

We will develop and improve the strategic cycle route network across County Durham for residents and visitors.