

## Appendix 2: Data collation methods

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A key part of this project has been to attempt to collate as much useful UK municipal waste compositional evidence as is realistically possible. This Appendix provides details of the data collation methods employed during this project. The scope and nature of collated data is presented in greater detail in Appendix 3.

Several methods have been employed in order to collate UK municipal waste compositional data, as follows:

- collation and reorganisation of datasets currently held by the Resource Futures project team (studies carried out by Resource Futures<sup>1</sup> and studies collated by Julian Parfitt during previous national municipal waste compositional reviews for WRAP in 2002 and 2007);
- email requests to local authorities via National Association of Waste Disposal Officers (NAWDO) and Local Authority Recycling Advisory Committee (LARAC);
- email request to Resource Recovery Forum (RRF) members;
- requests to other contractors who provide waste compositional analysis services;
- downloading of all compositional studies posted on the Waste Information Network's website (primarily Defra LASU funded studies).

The data collation exercise has proved fruitful - well beyond our initial expectations, as demonstrated by the review of collated data presented in Appendix 3. A thorough review of the project data already held by the Resource Futures project team has shown a broader coverage than previously suspected, partly due to the disaggregation of county level studies to district level data. Email requests via NAWDO, LARAC and RRF have yielded around additional 30 studies, many covering more than one municipal waste stream. Additionally, members of the Project Board have provided a number of compositional studies, notably studies carried out on behalf of Waste Resources Action Programme (WRAP) in relation to household food waste and schools wastes.

Requests for municipal waste compositional studies from other contractors have been met with varying responses, though generally responses have been more positive than we had originally anticipated. Early on in the process one contractor requested £50 per study supplied in order to cover time required to obtain permission from their clients and collation of study data and reports. It was agreed with Defra that this approach represented good value for money (provided that the studies were of use to this project) and that a consistent approach should be applied to all contractors supplying requested data. All such requested studies excluded any work that had been, in part or wholly, funded by Defra/ LASU or WRAP. The contractors were informed of those types of studies which were of special interest, in particular those which have audited waste streams for which scant data is currently held (i.e. municipal waste streams excluding kerbside and HWRC). The data supplied by other contractors are summarised in Table 2.1.

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<sup>1</sup> Including Network Recycling, SWAP and CRS, all now part of Resource Futures

**Table 2.1: Summary of data supplied by other contractors**

<b>Contractor</b>	<b>Response / outcome</b>
MEL Research Ltd	Provided comprehensive list of all studies carried out. Resource Futures identified 40 studies considered to be of use to the project. MEL obtained permission for these and supplied project reports and data at short notice.
RPS	Provided two studies relating to ARC21 authorities in Northern Ireland.
WastesWork	Provided list of 8 studies carried out, all of which are likely to be useful to this project. Several of these studies are to be supplied pending obtaining permission from clients <sup>2</sup> .

Several other contractors provided details of studies of potential interest, though through dialogue with these contractors regarding the nature of these studies, it was determined that the studies were of limited interest to this project, primarily due to studies not meeting the selection criteria described in Appendix 3. The other contractors who provided valuable time in discussing these issues included AEA Technology, Entec, Envirocentre, Organics Resource Agency (ORA) and Waste Research Ltd.

We emphasise that the contractors we have contacted during this project have demonstrated a supportive and cooperative attitude. We are particularly grateful to MEL and WastesWork for their cooperation; the data that they have supplied will contribute significantly to the outcomes of this project.

For all project data supplied from various sources, Resource Futures has provided reassurance that, unless specific permission is obtained, no results from individual studies will be identifiable from any published outputs produced for this project. In a number of instances this reassurance has been important in persuading various parties to supply data.

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<sup>2</sup> WastesWork also initiated negotiations with a client which resulted in them being persuaded to supply data direct to Resource Futures.