

Putting Cornwall's waste to good use

Annual report
April 2023 — March 2024

In this 18th year of partnership
between SUEZ and Cornwall Council,
we've put **291,084** tonnes
of waste
to good use...

...generating enough electricity
to power **26,303** homes*

Cornwall Council and Cornwall Energy Recovery Limited (CERL) are working together to ensure Cornwall's waste is managed sustainably, helping tackle the climate emergency and protecting its unique environment.

Cornwall Energy Recovery Limited is made up of three shareholders: Foresight Group, I-Environment Investments, and SUEZ recycling and recovery UK. In addition to being a shareholder, SUEZ is responsible for day-to-day operation and maintenance of the network of facilities that manage Cornwall's household waste.

99.06% of waste was
diverted from landfill

Only waste not suitable for re-use, recycling and
energy recovery was sent to landfill

* Calculated based on electricity generated per tonne of waste processed during the 2023/24 contract year and the average household energy consumption for a medium household, as reported by Ofgem in 2023.

TOTAL CONTRACT WASTE BY TREATMENT TYPE

Re-use

166 tonnes

⬆️ 5.1% (158 tonnes in 2022/23)

Recycling and compost

113,982 tonnes

⬇️ 0.5% (114,598 tonnes in 2022/23)

Wood for biomass energy recovery

14,407 tonnes

⬆️ 4.6% (13,776 tonnes in 2022/23)

Energy recovery

151,310 tonnes

⬇️ 2.7% (155,511 tonnes in 2022/23)

Landfill*

2,732 tonnes

⬆️ 38.1% (1,978 tonnes in 2022/23)

*Waste diverted to landfill during necessary planned maintenance at Cornwall energy recovery centre

RECYCLING

Materials recycling facility recyclable outputs (tonnes)[†]

	2022/23	2022/23	
Paper and card	20,134	18,675	⬇️ 7%
Aluminium cans	628	313	⬇️ 50%
Steel cans	1,384	655	⬇️ 53%
Mixed plastics	4,209	2,121	⬇️ 50%
Mixed glass	14,302	8,702	⬇️ 39%
Textiles	47	27	⬇️ 47%
DMR [‡]	-	12,660	
Total	40,704	43,153	⬆️ 6%

The make-up of recycling from Cornwall households continues to vary with changing habits.

[†] Decrease in single stream tonnage due to redevelopment of Bodmin MRF

[‡] Increase in Dry Mixed Recycling a result of redevelopment contingency arrangements

Household waste recycling centres

1,618,202 visits*
in 2023/24

*Does not include visits to Tintagel – no data available

51.51% recycling rate

⬆️ up from 48.96% the previous year

97.50% service satisfaction rating*

⬆️ up from 97.30% the previous year

*The service satisfaction rating for the previous contract year reflects scores collected during surveys undertaken during each quarter of 2022-23. Surveys took place each quarter during 2023-24.

RECOVERY

Waste received

154,563 tonnes
municipal

85,584 tonnes
commercial

Electricity exported

156,381 megawatt
hours

Incinerator bottom ash aggregates and metals

50,567 tonnes
sent for recycling

Air pollution control residue

4,994 tonnes
sent to landfill

Emissions (mg/m ³)	Permit limit Daily average per line	Line one Daily average	Line two Daily average
Particulates	5	1.0	0.38
Carbon monoxide	50	1.76	3.79
Sulphur dioxide	40	11.04	10.56
Hydrogen chloride	8	6.99	7.19
Oxides of nitrogen	180	131.16	141.94
Total organic carbon	10	0.37	0.36
Ammonia	10	0	0
Hydrogen fluoride	1	0	0

SOCIAL VALUE

1,318 visitors  down from 1,831 in 2022/23

Our visitor centre at Cornwall Energy Recovery Centre remained very popular, receiving 923 visitors. Whilst our Bodmin Materials Recycling Facility underwent redevelopment we offered exciting and stimulating virtual tours to schools and adult interest groups.

The education team supported projects such as helping to clear vegetation from the grounds of ClayTawc Community Centre in St Dennis. We also established a pioneering collaboration with The Wave Project charity and Cornwall Council to introduce a wetsuit reuse initiative. Wetsuits are now being collected at several sites and reused by The Wave Project to help young people with mental health issues by offering surf therapy.

11 charities supported through SUEZ staff fundraising and volunteering

414 volunteering hours undertaken by SUEZ staff as part of **#ADayAYearToVolunteer**

2 beach cleans

£288,069.60 donated through the St Dennis & Nanpean Trust