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Bin capacity audit results

October 2023 and January 2024

During October 2023 and January 2024, officers from South Oxfordshire and Vale of White Horse District Councils carried out a capacity audit of resident’s residual waste and dry recycling bins. The surveys in October were to record the available capacity in bins expected for the majority of the year, whereas the surveys in January record capacity during the busiest weeks. Data collected from the surveys will inform household waste collection services in the future. One of the potential changes to waste collection in the future, less frequent collections, would require sufficient ‘bin space’. The amount of space in the average wheeled bin was something the survey provided evidence of.

A total of 21 roads were surveyed in 11 towns and villages, with each road visited on collection days over a two week period.

**Summary**

In both October and January, the dry recycling bins were fuller and had less available capacity than the residual waste bins.

Residual waste bins had similar levels of available capacity in October and January.

Dry recycling bins had less available capacity in January than in October, especially in the first week of the January survey.

**Residual**

For the residual waste bins, the October and January surveys yielded very similar results, with no significant differences in available capacity.

These results are presented in Table 1, and Figures 1, 2 and 3 below.

Table 1: Residual results

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
|  | **October****Both weeks** | **January****Both weeks** | **January** **Week 1 only** |
| 100% or over 100% full\* | 29% | 29% | 29% |
| 50% or less full | 31% | 29% | 28% |
| Average space used in bins presented | 69% | 71% | 71% |

**Dry recycling**

For the dry recycling bins, the results from surveys in October and January were very similar with slightly less space available in the bins in January. However, when the January results are split by week and we look at the first week, 9th to 13th January, there is a significant change in capacity. 10% more of the bins are either 100% or over 100% full, and the average space used in the bins increases from 76% to 85%.

These results are presented in Table 2, and Figures 4, 5 and 6 below.

Table 2: Dry recycling results

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
|  | **October****Both weeks** | **January****Both weeks** | **January** **Week 1 only** |
| 100% or over 100% full\* | 39% | 40% | 49% |
| 50% or less full | 26% | 20% | 13% |
| Average space used in bins presented | 76% | 79% | 85% |

**Data limitations**

* There is no information on the available capacity in bins not presented. This report assumes that the majority of these bins have not been presented because the resident is comfortable that they have sufficient capacity available to wait until their next collection in two weeks.
* The bins that were presented may contain two, four, or more weeks’ worth of residual waste or dry recycling materials. This report assumes that each bin contains only two weeks’ worth of waste.

\*A bin that was recorded as over 100% full was either overflowing or had additional waste presented alongside the bin.

\*Percentages are rounded to the nearest whole number and therefore may not always add up to 100%.