



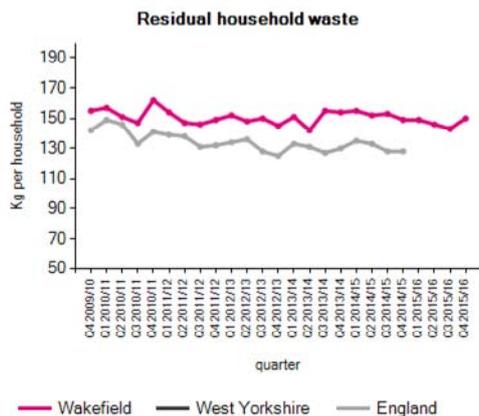
## Wakefield State of the District: Environment and Climate Change

### Selection: Wakefield

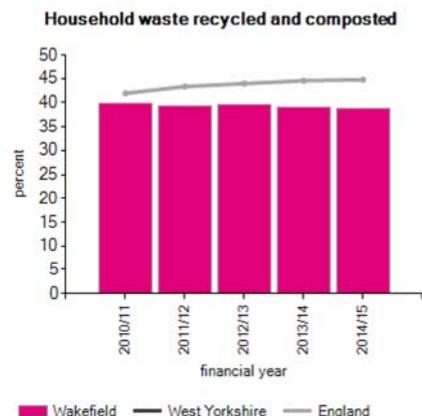
District-level profile of trends in waste and recycling; CO2 emissions and domestic energy consumption; energy-efficient homes; and greenspace and wildlife.

### Waste and Recycling

Wakefield households recycled **38.8%** of their household waste in **2014/15**. The Wakefield recycling rate has decreased very slightly in recent years, while the England average has improved. Provisional data for 2015/16 shows household recycling in Wakefield has risen to 40.5%. The average household also produced **149kg** of residual waste (green bin) in **Q1 2015/16**, higher than the England average. The new waste processing plant at South Kirkby became fully operational in December 2015, with the aim of significantly improving recycling rates. The new plant includes an anaerobic digestion facility.



Source: Defra and Wakefield Council



Source: Defra

### Rubbish and Litter

At the end of **Mar-2016**, **43.8%** of people said rubbish and litter lying around was a problem in their local area, compared to **42.2%** across West Yorkshire as a whole. The medium-term trend in this view is static. The table opposite shows problems are greater in some areas than others.

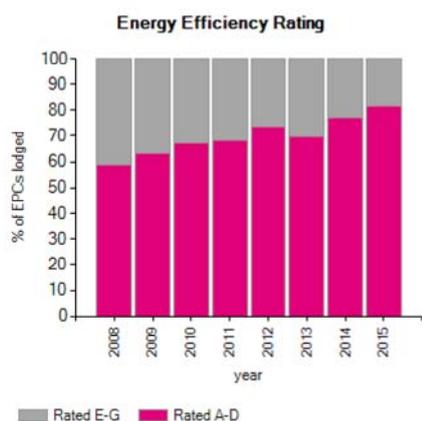
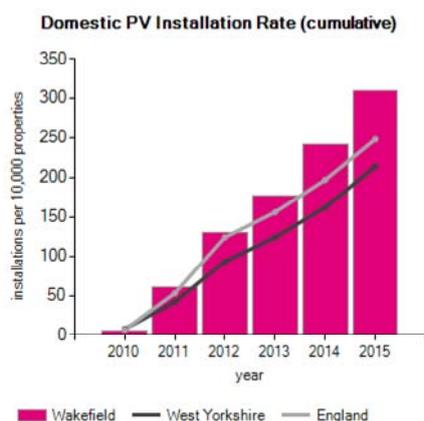
% of people saying rubbish/litter is a problem in their local area, by problem type	
	Mar-2016
Castleford	50.3
Wakefield Central	39.3
Normanton and Featherstone	49.8
Wakefield North West	38.9
Pontefract and Knottingley	39.7
Wakefield Rural	37.6
South East	55.3

Source: Police and Crime Commissioner Public Perception Survey

### Energy-Efficient Homes

To date, the rate of domestic photovoltaic (PV) installations in Wakefield has been higher than the West Yorkshire and England averages. At the end of 2015 there were 4,643 domestic PV installations on the Feed-in Tariff Register, giving a combined capacity of 15.2MW. Under typical conditions this capacity could generate around 12.9GWh of electricity per year, or around 2.5% of the annual domestic electricity consumption for the district. Data source: DECC

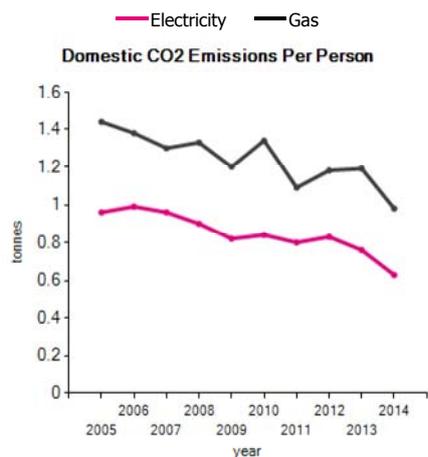
Domestic Energy Performance Certificates (EPCs) provide information about the energy efficiency of homes. Around 9,500 assessments have been lodged annually as domestic properties have been built, sold or rented, and there has been a steady increase in the proportion of homes being awarded the better Energy Efficiency Ratings (EER). An A is the most efficient rating and a G rating is the least efficient. The number of A rated properties is still very few, with only around 175 in the last five years. Source: DCLG.



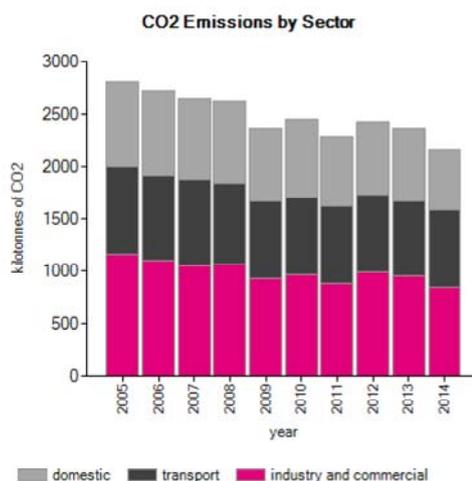
### Greenhouse Gas Emissions



Domestic CO<sub>2</sub> emissions levels tend to increase during years with colder winters, as household boilers and other appliances work harder to keep homes at a comfortable temperature. In 2014, milder weather meant the demand for heating (degree days) was 23% lower than in 2013, resulting in a drop in domestic gas and electricity use. Improvements in home insulation and heating technology are also contributing to the long-term downward trend in domestic energy use and the consequent falls in CO<sub>2</sub> emissions. Increases in fuel prices are also likely to be limiting the amount of energy people can afford. Data source: DECC.

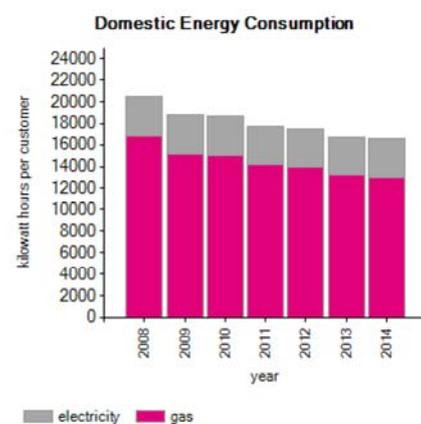


Industry currently accounts for 40% of all the CO<sub>2</sub> emissions within the district, with the remainder coming from transport (31%) and domestic uses (29%). Estimated CO<sub>2</sub> emissions in Wakefield have been falling steadily, with similar reductions across England as a whole. The economic downturn caused some reductions in energy consumption, and CO<sub>2</sub> emissions fell as a consequence. Source: DECC.



## Domestic Energy Consumption

Annual domestic energy consumption is continuing to fall. Estimates are corrected for medium-term weather trends. Wakefield has the lowest levels of domestic gas and electricity consumption, per consumer, in West Yorkshire. Space heating accounts for a large proportion of domestic energy use, which is why gas use (for central heating) is so much higher than electricity use.



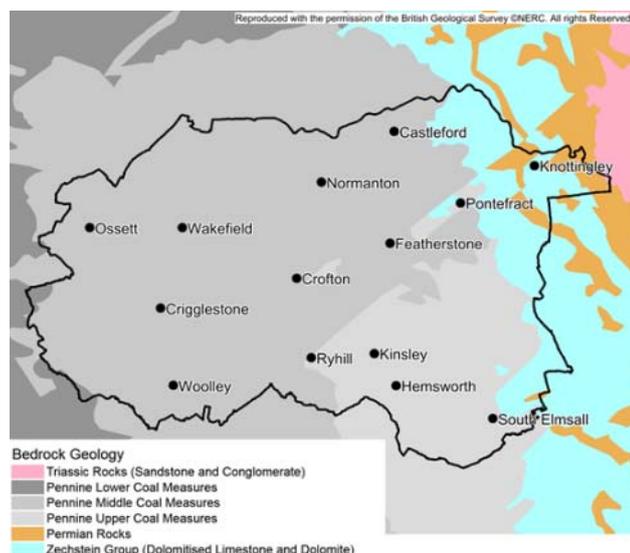
Source: DECC.

## Landscape Character

The landscape character of the district changes from the east to the west with a wide variety of landscape elements across the area. Settlements sit within the more rounded Coal Measures of the Pennine foothills in the west and the Magnesian Limestone in the east, the Rivers Calder, Went and Aire and the low and sharp escarpment of the Magnesian Limestone ridge are significant features in the district's landscape.

The north of the district is largely urban in character, with Wakefield as the dominating city and the main cultural hub of the district. Wakefield is the main urban centre in the district as well as the county city of the West Riding of Yorkshire, getting its charter in the middle ages. The city developed from a market town on the River Calder, based on the wool, textile and coal industries as well as engineering. Castleford is a distinctive market town with a number of urban renewal schemes underway. Regeneration activities focus on a relatively high interest of private sector retail, commercial and residential developers. Pontefract is a historic market town with a medieval layout that has the potential to be a tourism destination in its own right.

The south western and south eastern parts of the district are rural in character in predominantly agricultural use, whereas large estates within parklands and country parks are the main green infrastructure assets in the areas around the city of Wakefield. The country parks of Pugneys, Newmillerdam and Anglers all form examples of high quality green infrastructure assets in close proximity to the city that complement the offer of urban parks. Areas of woodland in the south of the district are of high biodiversity value and are also valuable assets.



## Biodiversity

Protected sites cover some 920 ha of Wakefield district. There are,

- 6 Sites of Special Scientific Interest
- 1 Special Area of Conservation
- 16 Local Nature Reserves.

These sites are now listed for protection within the Local Development Framework (LDF), alongside 60 former Wakefield Nature Areas and 26 Sites of Scientific Interest now listed as Local Wildlife Sites. The majority of protected sites are in the south-west of the district or along the River Calder corridor to the east and north of Wakefield city.

The sites of Special Scientific Interest are,

NAME	VALUE	AREA (ha)
Brockadale	Flora, invertebrates	59.4
Grange Colliery Ponds	Amphibians	18.5

Nostell Brickyard Quarry	Destroyed	11.4
Seckar Wood	Woodland, wet woodland, heathland, flora	47.3
South Elmsall Quarry	Flora, geology	0.3
Wentbridge Ings	Flora	2.1

