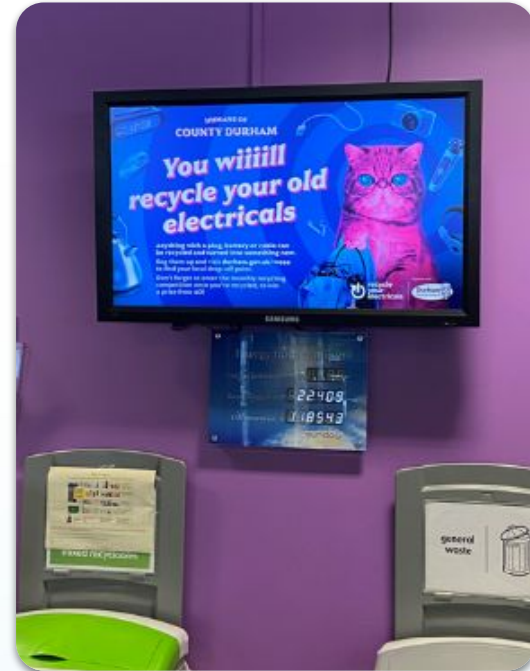




Durham County Council

Target population	253,529 households
Funding amount	£100,000
Pilot duration	January 2024 - March 2025
Pilot type	Community drop-off points, reuse and vape recycling
Pilot aim	To expand electrical recycling to every ward in County Durham, collect at least 3 tonnes of small electricals for reuse through Repair Cafes, and develop a dedicated vape recycling system for the county.
Outcome	<p>In 2023/24, Durham collected 17.96 tonnes of small electricals for recycling, increasing to 22.81 tonnes in 2024/25. Around 120,400 single-use vapes were also collected during 2024/25, weighing approximately 3 tonnes.</p> <p>In addition, 2 tonnes of electricals were collected for reuse. The council's support for local Repair Cafes has enabled over 40 new volunteers to be trained, building long-term capacity for community repair and reuse.</p>



Collection approach

To make recycling more accessible, Durham added 25 new bring banks, bringing the total number in County Durham to 169 and ensuring every ward now has a convenient recycling point

They also introduced a vape recycling system, installing 77 vape-specific bins across the county and adding vape recycling facilities at all 13 Household Waste Recycling Centres.

Communications approach

Communications were central to the approach. Durham used HypnoCat resources in schools, community venues, and events, alongside bus shelter and digital advertising specifically for vapes.

They built campaigns around national awareness events including International E-Waste Day, Recycle Week, and Repair Week. Activities included a school competition for E-Waste Day and repair events.

Future plans

Due to increasing budget pressures, it is unlikely that Durham will be able to grow the collection system beyond its current scale. Future collections and pilot operations will be managed as a shared responsibility within existing waste teams

“The collection points are conveniently located and ours are frequently used. I often notice them in many areas while out and about, making them highly accessible to the community. “The advertising has been excellent, with widespread reach, and the vibrant pink colour in the posters is especially eye-catching.”

Cornerstones Church,
Chester-Le-Street