

Press Release

Partnership approach drives fishing gear recycling and coastal clean-up across East Anglia

- Initiative developed in discussion with the fishing community and delivered in partnership with environmental organisations, regulators and local authorities
- Nearly four tonnes of end-of-life fishing gear collected at Lowestoft and Southwold events further recycling days planned in King's Lynn
- 43 beach cleans delivered across 10 locations, removing 1,195 bags of litter (3,988kg) from the East Anglian coastline in 2025

Swindon, 13 March 2026

An innovative collaboration, sponsored by the East Coast's leading offshore wind company RWE, is delivering two complementary environmental initiatives: a project to collect and recycle unwanted fishing gear and a separate programme of beach cleans to help reduce the amount of litter on the region's beaches.

Developed in discussion with representatives from the fishing community, the initiative is delivered in partnership with environmental organisations, fisheries regulators and local authorities. The scheme expands recycling options for unwanted nets, ropes, pots and fish boxes and forms part of a wider 2026 programme along the East Anglian coast.

Jon Darling, RWE project director for Vanguard West and East, said: "Offshore wind development provides new opportunities for collaboration that extend beyond clean energy generation. Through partnerships with local authorities, regulators and community organisations, we are pleased to support initiatives that reduce waste, protect marine ecosystems and promote responsible, sustainable development along the East Anglian coast."

The response from the fishing community has been extremely positive, with strong participation. Two successful events have already taken place, the first, held in Lowestoft early in 2025, was followed by an event in Southwold, bringing the combined total of recovered fishing gear to more than four tonnes. All materials are reprocessed for use in new, sustainable products.

RWE

Recovered trawl netting is processed into plastic pellets that can be used in the manufacture of a range of new products, including durable bodyboards. The boards provide a reusable alternative to low-cost polystyrene versions, thousands of which are still collected from beaches each year.

Alongside the recycling programme, RWE supports wider efforts for beach cleans across the East Anglian coast, working in partnership with Keep Britain Tidy's Beach Clean Ambassador Programme. Volunteers have delivered 43 cleans at 10 locations, collecting 1,195 bags of litter weighing a total of 3,988 kilograms.

Take part:

The next fishing gear recycling events will take place at the Port of King's Lynn from **Monday 16 March to Wednesday 25 March**. The address for deposits is: 36 Cross Bank Road, (Shelter at the Fleet), Alexandra Dock, **what3words:** ///land.zooms.radar. Accepted materials include trawl and dolly nets, monofilament nets, rope, plastic pots, pot markers and fish crates. Further information on accepted materials is available from EIFCA on 01553 775321.

For more information about the fishing gear recycling project, or to discuss opportunities to take part in future collection events, contact the Vanguard West, East and Boreas [project team](#).

This work forms part of the benthic compensation commitments for RWE's Vanguard West, East and Boreas offshore wind projects, and aims to reduce marine debris while safeguarding seabed habitats. Continued collaboration between the offshore wind sector, environmental bodies, fisheries regulators, and local partners remains central to its success.

For further enquiries:

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The initiative was originally supported by Haskoning, an environmental consultancy that secured UK Government approval and, alongside the Eastern and Southern Plastics Coalition, has coordinated delivery of the programme.

Supporting Partner comments on the project:

- **Jon Butler, Assistant Chief Officer of Eastern IFCA:** "Eastern IFCA is pleased to support this joint initiative, which is making a practical difference along the East Anglian coast. It's positive to see fishermen taking the opportunity to dispose of old gear responsibly. Working together in this way helps reduce potential marine litter, protect local habitats and support a sustainable future for our inshore fisheries."
- **Neil Hembrow, Ocean Recovery Manager at Keep Britain Tidy:** "We are looking forward to supporting the fishing community again on the East Coast. We utilise the innovative techniques of British recyclers who have invested in the



technologies to tackle this difficult to recycle material. Working as a team, from the harbour to the plastic processor, it is an example of how positive collaboration can protect the marine environment."

RWE

RWE is leading the way to a modern energy world. With its investment and growth strategy, RWE is contributing significantly to the success of the energy transition and the decarbonisation of the energy system. Around 20,000 employees work for the company in almost 30 countries worldwide. RWE is one of the leading companies in the field of renewable energy. RWE is investing billions of euros in expanding its generation portfolio, in particular in offshore and onshore wind, solar energy and batteries. This is perfectly complemented by its global energy trading business. Thanks to its integrated portfolio of renewables, battery storage and flexible generation, as well as its broad project pipeline of possible new builds, RWE is well positioned to address the growing global demand for electricity, particularly driven by further electrification and artificial intelligence. RWE is decarbonising its business in line with the 1.5-degree reduction pathway and will phase out coal by 2030. RWE will be net zero by 2040. Fully in line with the company's purpose - Our energy for a sustainable life

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