



From mountain to sea

Frequently Asked Questions

Enhanced Recycling Service - New Kerbside Collection Service

(Version 4 – 08/02/2024)

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New Kerbside Collection Changes

Q1: Why is the Council changing the kerbside collection service again?

A: The Climate Change Act 2019 commits Scotland to become net-zero emissions of all greenhouse gases by 2045. Everything we throw away has a carbon impact associated with it - from making it, distributing it, to disposing of it, and the emissions of that every step of the way.

Household waste generally includes materials with a much higher carbon impact than seen in commercial or industrial waste, such as food, paper, and plastics. Even though household waste is only 21% of the nation's waste by weight, it actually accounts for more than half of the nation's carbon emissions from waste.

Waste is an area where we can make a big difference in reducing our emissions to meet Net Zero targets. We can help to create a 'circular economy' where goods and materials are kept in use for longer - making the most of the resources from which they are made. By reducing, reusing and recycling waste, and utilising the services that the Council provides for recycling to their full potential, we can maximise recycling tonnages to help make this happen.

Aberdeenshire Council first introduced a kerbside recycling service to households in 2005-2006 and rolled out a more user-friendly kerbside recycling service to all households in 2013-2015. Whilst the new service significantly increased the use of the kerbside recycling service by households at the time, the recycling levels have now plateaued with the current published recycling rate for Aberdeenshire for 2021 at 41.1% ([2021-scottish-household-waste.pdf \(sepa.org.uk\)](#)).

Since the last kerbside recycling change, the Scottish Government have introduced the Scottish Household Recycling Charter which requires the Council to make changes to the kerbside collection service in order to align with the Charter's Code of Practice, placing an emphasis on improving recycling quality and increasing recycling tonnage.

Having analysed the contents of residents' non-recyclable waste bins in 2016/17 and again more recently in June/July 2022, we found that well over half of the materials put into the non-recyclable waste bin could have been recycled using services already available to residents either at the kerbside or at Recycling Points and Centres. The 2022 waste analysis highlighted that approximately 30% of the non-recyclable waste bin could have been recycled using the existing kerbside services. This included food waste accounting for 22.7% of the bin despite there being a separate weekly collection service. A further 7.8% could have been recycled through the kerbside recycling bin.



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[Research across the UK](http://www.wrap.org.uk/resources/report/factors-influencing-recycling-performance) (www.wrap.org.uk/resources/report/factors-influencing-recycling-performance) shows one of the most effective ways to encourage residents to use recycling services available to them is to reduce the quantity of non-recyclable waste collected from households, either by reducing the bin size or reducing the collection frequency, or both.

We appreciate residents still require more information about how to use recycling services, specifically about which plastics can be recycled (in short, we can take all plastic bottles, pot, tubs and trays, but currently cannot accept plastic bags, film, pouches or wrappers – these should be recycled through participating supermarkets). However, the provision of information will not be enough, and these collection changes are required to maximise reuse and recycling.

Q2: How did the Council consult residents on the new collection service?

A: [The Big Recycling Challenge](#) survey (180419-the-big-recycling-challenge-survey--results-for-website.pdf (aberdeenshire.gov.uk)) and focus group were run in February 2018 to get feedback on some of the proposals. A public consultation on the draft Waste Strategy 2019-2023, which included the changes to the waste collection service, was carried out in September 2018.



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The consultation was advertised through the Council's website, local newspapers, social media, posters displayed in libraries, Council Service Points and Household Recycling Centres. The consultation was also advertised in a 'recycling reminder' postcard which was posted to all households in Aberdeenshire in September 2018. In addition to this, officers contacted Community Councils, conducted presentations at some Community Council meetings and events, and provided briefing sessions to Councillors prior to the consultation starting.

Q3: When will the new kerbside collection service start and how will you let residents know?

A: The roll-out of the new kerbside service will start in April 2023 and will be rolled out across Aberdeenshire in six phased stages (based on operational depot areas), ensuring that all changes in each area have been completed before moving on to the next area. The roll-out of the new service is due to conclude in March 2024.

As the roll-out progresses, residents in the roll-out area will be contacted in advance by post, first with a teaser postcard making residents aware of the forthcoming changes. This will be followed up with a service change letter, service information booklet which will provide full details of when your orange lidded bin will be delivered and how the changes will happen, along with a sticker for your blue lidded bin, which will then be for paper, card and cardboard only. A sticker will not be provided for those on a communal collection as communal bins will be relabelled by the Waste Service. To keep up to date about changes to services, follow us on Facebook @AberdeenshireWaste or download the MyAberdeenshire App at www.aberdeenshire.gov.uk/my/mobile-app/ and sign up to allow for push notifications to be alerted of any changes to your service.

If you have not received your new recycling bin within the time period stated in your letter, then please report this through the Wasteline 03456 081207 or by emailing waste@aberdeenshire.gov.uk.

Q4: Are you holding any events that residents can attend for further information on the new service?

A: It is intended to provide information events in each area as we roll out the service. Details of planned information events for your area will be provided in your service change letter and will also be advertised through the Waste Service Facebook page – <https://www.facebook.com/AberdeenshireWaste/>. Our Community Waste Officers are also happy to come along and give a presentation/talk to any community groups that would be interested. If you would like to arrange a presentation or talk, please email waste@aberdeenshire.gov.uk or phone the Wasteline 03456 081207 to arrange.



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Q5: How will the new kerbside collection service work?

A: We will move to a 3-weekly collection cycle. One bin and a food waste caddy will be emptied every week:

- **Week 1:** Food waste caddy and non-recyclable waste bin.
- **Week 2:** Food waste caddy and 240L blue lidded recycling bin (paper, card and cardboard).
- **Week 3:** Food waste caddy and new 180L orange lidded recycling bin (plastic bottles, pots, tubs & trays; metal food & drink cans (incl. aerosols & foil); food & drink cartons).

Household batteries will also be collected every week, either with recycling or waste. Please ensure that the batteries are placed within the pink bags provided for this and sealed before placing on top of your bin lid for collection. Additional battery bags can be obtained from any Household Recycling Centre, Service Point, Library, or from collection crews.

Q6: If I am separating more of my recycling, can I expect a reduction in Council Tax?

A: We will continue emptying bins weekly from every household – food waste caddies and battery bags will be collected once a week, together with one of the three other bins.

To maximise recycling, we are changing how often the bins are emptied so that the combination of bins better match the composition of waste an average Aberdeenshire household produces - around 70% of the waste we produce is recyclable using the existing recycling services either at kerbside or through our network of Recycling Points and Household Recycling Centres.

The Council's Waste Service Budget is around £25 million per year – this is approximately 4% of the Council's annual Revenue Budget. The Waste Service Budget covers the collection of waste from every household once a week, the provision and management of a network of 15 Household Recycling Centres and over 400 glass recycling points (including neighbourhood and communal) across Aberdeenshire, street sweeping, litter picking, fly tipping and abandoned car investigations/enforcement, and bulking of the recycling and non-recyclable waste collected and further hauling to a reprocessor or disposal point.

Whilst £25 million may seem, and is, a lot of money, when divided between Aberdeenshire's 122,000 households, this equates to around £4 per week per household. Around a quarter of the Council's funding comes from Council Tax and



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the rest from Business Rates and central Government Funding with approximately £5 of a household's monthly Council Tax bill being used for dealing with waste, recycling, and keeping our streets clean.

Q7: How will the new recycling bin and collection service be funded?

A: The provision of the new orange lidded recycling bin, along with capital costs to change to twin stream recycling, is being funded through the [Scottish Government Recycling Improvement Fund](https://www.zerowastescotland.org.uk/content/recycling-improvement-fund) (<https://www.zerowastescotland.org.uk/content/recycling-improvement-fund>). This fund is available to Scottish local authorities to take forward projects that will increase both the quantity and quality of recycling in line with the Scottish Household Recycling Charter Code of Practice. As the collection service is changing to a 3 weekly frequency, there are no additional costs with regards to collection vehicles with each household still receiving one collection visit each week.

This new service should however create savings if additional recycling and food waste can be diverted from the non-recyclable waste bin to the recycling and food waste bins. By reducing the tonnage of waste to be disposed of, this will reduce the disposal costs. By separating the recycling streams, this will also improve the quality of recycling which will create savings by reducing the costs associated with the sorting of the recycling streams and associated contamination. Any savings can be used on improving local services.

Q8: How will the new recycling bin be delivered?

A: The new orange lidded recycling bin will be being delivered to all households across Aberdeenshire using a distribution company as part of the contract for the supply and delivery of the 180L recycling bins.

We have recently used the same distribution company to deliver and collect bins when replacing all the diamond lift bins in the south area of Aberdeenshire to the UK industry standard comb lift bin.

Existing collection staff will be used as "pilots" for the distribution company to assist with local area and collection knowledge to aid with the delivery of the bins to each household.

Bin deliveries/changes with regards to communal recycling points will be carried out by Council staff.

Q9: What is the new recycling bin made from?

A: The new orange lidded recycling bin is made from recycled plastic compound feedstock. The contracted bin supplier has recycled the redundant diamond lift bins



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that were recently replaced in the south area of Aberdeenshire, along with other scrap plastic, back into our new 180L orange lidded bins. Details of the bin supplier and their process can be found at [Buy-Back-Sustainability.pdf \(mgbplastics.com\)](https://www.mgbplastics.com/wp-content/uploads/20022/12Buy-Back-Sustainability.pdf) (www.mgbplastics.com/wp-content/uploads/20022/12Buy-Back-Sustainability.pdf).

Q10: Will I be able to recycle more materials on the kerbside?

A: The materials that can be recycled on the kerbside will remain the same, i.e.:

- Food waste
- Paper, card & cardboard
- Metal - tins, food & drink cans, aerosols & foil
- Cartons - food & drink tetra-paks
- Plastic - bottles, pots, tubs & trays

The only difference is that the materials will be separated between two recycling bins with paper, card and cardboard in the blue lidded recycling bin and mixed containers (plastic bottles, pots, tubs & trays; metal food & drink cans; food & drink cartons) in the orange lidded recycling bin with each of these bins being emptied once every three weeks therefore overall recycling capacity will be increased.

An [A to Z guide of waste and recyclable items](https://online.aberdeenshire.gov.uk/waste/atoz)

(<https://online.aberdeenshire.gov.uk/waste/atoz>) is available on the Council website which provides advice as to what items can and cannot be recycled in Aberdeenshire and how these should be recycled/disposed of.

Q11: Why do I have to separate out the recycling if we are not being able to recycle any additional items?

A: By splitting the recycling streams, the service is aligning itself to the [Scottish Household Recycling Charter Code of Practice](https://www.zerowastescotland.org.uk/content/charter-household-recycling) (www.zerowastescotland.org.uk/content/charter-household-recycling) which seeks to achieve greater value from recycling by improving the quality of the recyclate being collected and reducing the contamination percentage which in turn should increase recycling tonnage and reduce costs for processing the material.

By keeping paper/card separate, it reduces this material getting contaminated with any liquid or food waste if containers have not been properly emptied and cleaned out. This also improves commodity value and increases market options for the Council with recycling streams such as the paper and cardboard being able to be sent directly to reprocessors instead of having to go through a sorting facility first.



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Q12: Why do I need an additional recycling bin?

A: Introducing an additional recycling bin will allow for the recycling material streams to be split prior to collection with the benefits listed under [Question 11](#) (Why do I have to separate out the recycling if we are not being able to recycle any additional items?). The additional recycling bin will also provide extra capacity to account for diverting additional recycling from the non-recyclable waste bin as well as making the service more resilient for future to collect additional recycling streams as and when the need arises.

Q13: What if I don't have space for another bin?

A: The majority of households should be able to accommodate an additional bin however we do realise that there will be a small number of households where this will not be possible. Our team of Community Waste Officers will work with those impacted to provide a suitable alternative such as smaller or shared communal bins or potentially changing to a bag collection service if there is no space at all to accommodate this additional bin. This will be assessed on a case-by-case basis which may include a site visit as part of the assessment. If you do not have any space to store an additional bin please email waste@aberdeenshire.gov.uk or contact the Wasteline on 03456 081207. The Community Waste Officer for your area will contact you to discuss and assess your requirements.

Q14: I am on a bag collection service; will this be changing?

A: If you are already on a bag collection service then you will remain on this. A paper sack will be provided for the collection of your paper and card with the existing clear plastic sacks continuing to be used for the collection of the mixed containers - plastic bottles, pots, tubs & trays; metal food & drink cans (incl. aerosols & foil); food & drink cartons.

Q15: Is this not a waste of time separating out the recycling streams when the Deposit Return Scheme will see drinks containers having to be returned to shops to reclaim your deposit?

A: The Deposit Return Scheme (DRS) has been delayed until October 2025. At present the proposed DRS will only include drinks containers, from 100ml to 3 litres, which are made from PET plastic and metals. The proposed DRS will not include food cans, aerosols or foil, plastic bottles made from HDPE/PVC (which includes milk bottles), plastic pots, tubs and trays, and food and drink cartons, therefore there will still be a significant amount of household containers that will still need to be collected for recycling by the Council. The aim of separating the recycling streams is to improve quality and create additional capacity for expanding recycling streams as and when the need arises.



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Q16: Where will the separate recycling streams go for processing?

A: Full details of where all of the recycling collected in Aberdeenshire is sent for recycling can be found on the [What happens to your recycling page](http://www.aberdeenshire.gov.uk/waste/household-rubbish/what-happens-to-recycling/) (www.aberdeenshire.gov.uk/waste/household-rubbish/what-happens-to-recycling/) on the Council website. This will be updated with the new recycling stream reprocessors once contracts have been finalised and are in place.

Q17: What if I have too much recycling for the new orange lidded recycling bin, can I request a larger bin/2nd recycling bin?

A: All households will receive 1 x 180L orange lidded recycling bin. Most of the household containers being collected in the new recycling bin are lightweight, high-volume materials therefore we are asking residents to squash these containers to ensure that the maximum capacity of the bin is being utilised e.g. plastic bottles can be squashed, and the cap replaced on the bottle. Should you still find that you do not have enough capacity then a request can be made for a larger or additional recycling bin.

Please do not request a larger/second bin until the service has commenced in your area.

Requests can be made through the online form on the webpage [Waste and recycling bins for your home - Aberdeenshire Council](http://www.aberdeenshire.gov.uk/waste/household-rubbish/waste-and-recycling-bins/) (www.aberdeenshire.gov.uk/waste/household-rubbish/waste-and-recycling-bins/) or by calling the Wasteline on 03456 081207.

Q18: I currently have 2 blue lidded recycling bins and with the new bin being provided I will only need 1. What should I do with the second blue lidded bin?

A: If you no longer require your second blue lidded bin once the new service starts then the Council will collect this to reuse. Please contact the Wasteline on 03456 081207 to arrange collection.

Q19: Is it unhygienic to collect non-recyclable waste only every 3 weeks?

A: Zero Waste Scotland have carried out [research](#) ([Zero Waste Scotland Report Template \(archive.org\)](#)) on the impact of reduced non-recyclable waste collections.

The report concludes that simple precautions such as collecting food waste separately and encouraging residents to bag non-recyclable waste means hygiene risks are similar to the current collection cycle.



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Q20: Which other Scottish councils have already reduced non-recyclable waste bin collections?

A: Over half of Scottish local authorities have already reduced the amount of non-recyclable waste collected from households, either by reducing the size of the non-recyclable waste bin or collecting it less frequently, or both, resulting in significant increases in recycling - see the table below for details of these local authorities.

#	Council	Collection Frequency	Bin Size	Non-recyclable waste capacity per week
	Aberdeenshire	3 weekly	240L	80L
1	Aberdeen City	Fortnightly	180L	90L
2	Angus	Fortnightly	140L	70L
3	Argyll & Bute	3 weekly	240L	80L
4	Clackmannanshire	3 weekly	240L	80L
5	East Ayrshire	3 weekly	240L	80L
6	East Renfrewshire	3 weekly	240L	80L
7	Edinburgh	Fortnightly	140L	70L
8	Falkirk	4 weekly	240L	60L
9	Fife	Fortnightly	140L	70L
10	Glasgow	3 weekly	240L	80L
11	Moray	3 weekly	240L	80L
12	North Ayrshire	3 weekly	240L	80L
13	North Lanarkshire	3 weekly	240L	80L
14	Perth & Kinross	Fortnightly	140L	70L
15	Renfrewshire	3 weekly	240L	80L
16	Scottish Borders	Fortnightly	180L	90L
17	South Ayrshire	3 weekly	240L	80L
18	Stirling	4 weekly	240L	60L
19	West Lothian	Fortnightly	140L	70L

Q21: Will the new collection service increase the Council's carbon impact?

A: Based on the 2021 published data, the waste and recycling collected by Aberdeenshire Council from households had an overall annual impact of 316,787 tonnes of carbon dioxide equivalent (TCO₂e), which relates to 1.21 TCO₂e per Aberdeenshire resident. This was 12% higher than the Scottish average of 1.08 TCO₂e. These figures are based on the carbon metric system used by Zero Waste Scotland and SEPA (Scottish Environment Protection Agency) which calculates the



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whole-life carbon impacts of Scotland's waste from resource extraction and manufacturing emissions right through to waste management emissions.

Sending waste for disposal, either through landfill or Energy from Waste, has a much higher carbon impact than recycling with recycling generating a negative figure which leads to carbon reductions. The top five most carbon intensive materials accounted for 46% of all household waste tonnage in 2021 but 83% of the carbon impacts – food waste and textiles were included as the 2 highest carbon producing streams. In 2021, food waste within Scotland accounted for 18% of household waste by weight however related to 30% of household waste carbon impacts.

The recent [waste composition analysis](#) carried out by the Council, as noted in Question 1 of this document (Why is the Council changing the kerbside collection service again), identified that the residual non-recyclable waste bin still contained 22.7% food waste despite having a weekly collection service for this stream to be collected separately and composted. By changing the collection service to encourage households to recycle more, will have a positive effect in reducing the carbon impacts created by the waste being produced.

Q22: Will the changes to collections lead to an increase in fly-tipping?

A: In Aberdeenshire and other local authorities' experience, fly-tipping resulting from service changes tends to be temporary and usually very localised. There are often concerns about fly-tipping when waste and recycling services are changed. Businesses and householders fly-tip as it is.

Based on the experiences of other Scottish local authorities who have introduced similar changes we do not expect significant increases in fly-tipping. Should you encounter any fly-tipping this can be reported through the Council website [Litter and street cleaning - Aberdeenshire Council](#) (www.aberdeenshire.gov.uk/waste/report-rubbish-and-litter/#flytipping). All reports of fly-tipping are investigated, and enforcement action taken where possible.

Q23: How do you expect me to fit all my waste into my bin if it is only collected once every 3 weeks?

A: If householders are struggling to cope with the bin capacity but don't meet the criteria, our Community Waste Officers are happy to visit to assess your waste requirements by carrying out a waste audit. If you would like to arrange this, please email waste@aberdeenshire.gov.uk or contact the Wasteline to arrange 03456 081207.

Householders will also have the option of taking extra non-recyclable waste to one of the area's many recycling centres, see <http://bit.ly/RecyclingCentresPoints>.



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More than 50% of residents' non-recyclable waste bin consists of material which could be recycled using existing services.

Alongside our waste analysis, a survey carried out in Aberdeenshire in 2018 found that 50% of respondents said they use $\frac{3}{4}$ or less of their weekly non-recyclable waste capacity, with 28% of respondents managing with $\frac{1}{2}$ a bin or less.

Since 2019, 3 communities (Cruden Bay, Mintlaw and Braemar) have been on a pilot scheme with a 3 weekly collection frequency using the existing waste and recycling bins (waste collected once and recycling bin collected twice in a 3 weekly cycle), which has been manageable and working well for households in these areas.

Additional non-recyclable waste capacity will be available to households making full use of recycling services, including food waste recycling, and meeting criteria for additional non-recyclable waste bin capacity, see [Question 24](#) (Which households can apply for an additional non-recyclable waste bin?).

Q24: Which households can apply for an additional non-recyclable waste bin?

A: Any household can request additional non-recyclable waste capacity; this will be either an extra bin or a larger bin. The criteria for additional non-recyclable waste bins is detailed in Procedure 4 of Waste Collection Operational Procedure ([2018-approved-waste-collection-procedures.pdf \(aberdeenshire.gov.uk\)](#)).

Q25: What if I miss a collection, do I have to wait until the next collection?

A: Our current procedure is that if we can't empty your bin on the scheduled collection day, for example due to adverse weather, we will try to return within three working days. However, if this is not possible, the bin will be emptied on the next scheduled collection day. Missed bin collections can be reported through our [missed bin collection form](#) (www.aberdeenshire.gov.uk/waste/household-rubbish/missed-bin-collections/) on the Council website. To keep up to date about any missed collections, follow us on Facebook @AberdeenshireWaste or download the MyAberdeenshire App at www.aberdeenshire.gov.uk/my/mobile-app/ and sign up to allow for push notifications to be alerted of any changes to your service.

Q26: What do I do if my recycling bin is tagged as contaminated/not collected?

A: If your recycling bin contains any materials that are not accepted in that recycling stream then it will be rejected by the collection crew and the bin tagged with a contamination bin hanger. It is important that only the correct items are placed in each recycling bin as contamination can affect the quality of the recycling and impact on the material being accepted for recycling by our recycling provider. Should your recycling bin have been tagged as contaminated please check the contents of your



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recycling bin against the list on the bin tag or the information in your new service booklet to identify the contamination and remove. Information on what materials are accepted is also available on the Council website under the [A to Z of waste and recyclable items](https://online.aberdeenshire.gov.uk/waste/atoz) (<https://online.aberdeenshire.gov.uk/waste/atoz>). Items deemed as contamination and not suitable for recycling should be removed and placed in your non-recyclable bin. Once your recycling bin has been sorted, please remove the contamination hanger and place back out for collection on your next scheduled collection day for that bin. Excess recycling can be taken to your nearest [recycling centre](http://www.aberdeenshire.gov.uk/waste/recycling/) (www.aberdeenshire.gov.uk/waste/recycling/).

Q27: Do you have anything to prevent my recycling bin toppling over and spreading its contents around the neighbourhood?

A: Yes, we do. Straps are currently available for recycling bins which fit onto the back handle and hook on under the lid to keep them closed in case the bin topples over. The new orange lidded recycling bins will not come provided with a strap, as not all households will require one, however you can collect a strap for your new bin from your nearest [recycling centre](http://www.aberdeenshire.gov.uk/waste/recycling/) (www.aberdeenshire.gov.uk/waste/recycling/) or a [service point](http://www.aberdeenshire.gov.uk/contact-us/reach-a-council-office) (www.aberdeenshire.gov.uk/contact-us/reach-a-council-office).

Q28: I have an assisted collection; will the new bin be added to this service?

A: Yes, if you already have an assisted collection then the new orange lidded recycling will be included in this service. If you don't have an assisted collection but struggle to put bins out for collection due to issues such as mobility, you can request an assisted collection by completing the online form on the Council website [Assisted recycling and waste collections - Aberdeenshire Council](http://www.aberdeenshire.gov.uk/waste/household-rubbish/assisted-collections/) (www.aberdeenshire.gov.uk/waste/household-rubbish/assisted-collections/) or by emailing waste@aberdeenshire.gov.uk or telephone the Wasteline on 03456 081207.

Q29: Is the service change information booklet available in large print?

A: Yes, we have large print booklets available. Please email waste@aberdeenshire.gov.uk or telephone the Wasteline on 03456 081207 to request one.

Q30: I have a business in Aberdeenshire. Will my business waste and recycling collections also be affected?

A: If your business waste and recycling collections are carried out by the Council then your recycling collections will also be affected. Your mixed recycling bin will also be split into the 2 recycling streams in line with the household recycling collections.



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Businesses, by law, have to recycle therefore you should already have a blue lidded mixed recycling bin, however, this will change in line with the household collection service in that the mixed recycling stream will be split into two streams - paper/card/cardboard and mixed containers (plastic bottles, pots, tubs & trays; metal food & drink cans (incl. aerosols & foil); food & drink cartons). Each business will initially be provided with an additional orange lidded recycling bin to allow for the separation of recycling streams however you may require further assessment to determine exact requirements for bins as these will differ for each business. We are encouraging traders to consider how the changes will affect them so that they can put in place measures within their business to separate out the recycling streams ahead of the new service rolling out in their area. Details will also be provided on the [Business and Commercial waste](#) pages on our website (www.aberdeenshire.gov.uk/waste/commercial-refuse-and-recycling-collections/).

Information will be sent out separately to businesses therefore we are encouraging traders to ensure that their contact details are up to date with trade.waste@aberdeenshire.gov.uk to ensure that they will receive the information on how the changes will affect them.

‘Glass and Grass’

Q31: Why does the Council not collect garden waste on the kerbside?

A: Councils are not required to collect garden waste from the kerbside.

To provide a ‘free-for-all’ garden waste collection from the kerbside would involve running a separate fleet of garden waste collection vehicles and the provision of garden waste bins to households at a significant additional cost. Whilst such a collection would be popular amongst residents, there is no funding available for the introduction of a garden waste collection service.

Collecting garden waste on the kerbside could be done without significant additional cost by slotting garden waste into the existing collection cycle, by further reducing the collection frequency of non-recyclable waste bins. However, when we asked residents’ views on this ([The Big Recycling Challenge](#) (180419-the-big-recycling-challenge-survey---results-for-website.pdf (aberdeenshire.gov.uk) February 2018), only 16% of respondents preferred this option.

Another option residents were asked to consider in the Big Recycling Challenge survey was an opt-in, chargeable kerbside collection which would allow those who wanted the collection to pay for it. This option was only favoured by 11% of respondents.



From mountain to sea

Home composting is the best environmental option for recycling garden waste. It does not require any vehicle transport and provides householders with free mulch and compost to help their garden grow. The Council will continue to provide advice on home composting and sell discounted home composting bins to residents. A standard 320 litre compost bin suitable for most households costs £21.18 and an extra-large 800 litre compost bin is £37.07 (from 1st April 2023). To order, see <https://www.aberdeenshire.gov.uk/waste/household-rubbish/buying-a-home-composter/>.

The Council will also continue to support community composting initiatives residents may wish to run for their local communities. Providing unstaffed garden waste skips in villages is not an option as they end up being filled with all sorts of waste.

We will continue collecting garden waste at all [Household Recycling Centres](http://www.aberdeenshire.gov.uk/waste/recycling/household-waste-recycling-centre-hwrc-opening-times/) (www.aberdeenshire.gov.uk/waste/recycling/household-waste-recycling-centre-hwrc-opening-times/) throughout the year. In addition, we have 12 seasonal garden waste collection points to help residents recycle their garden waste during the summer months, available on Saturdays from the first Saturday in April to the last Saturday in October. Details of the seasonal garden waste points regarding locations and opening hours can be found at [Seasonal garden waste recycling points - Aberdeenshire Council](http://www.aberdeenshire.gov.uk/waste/household-rubbish/waste-we-do-not-collect/garden-waste/seasonal-garden-waste-recycling-points/) (www.aberdeenshire.gov.uk/waste/household-rubbish/waste-we-do-not-collect/garden-waste/seasonal-garden-waste-recycling-points/). Whilst many would like to have a garden waste point in their village, providing one in every Aberdeenshire village is simply not financially and operationally feasible.

Q32: Why does the Council not collect glass on the kerbside?

A: Based on the waste analysis, around 4% of the contents of non-recyclable waste bins in Aberdeenshire is glass. This is similar to those local authorities which provide a kerbside glass collection service.

Putting glass into either of the recycling bins with the rest of dry recyclables would almost double the reprocessing cost of kerbside recycling and make it more expensive than waste disposal. By keeping the glass collected colour separated, the Council receive an income for the colour separated glass that they send for recycling which helps to offset the collection and bulking costs of this material, and also creates more of a market for this recycling stream as there is no need for the glass to go through any sorting process and ensures that all the glass that Aberdeenshire Council collected is being used for higher quality recycling.

The Scottish Household Recycling Charter Code of Practice places emphasis on improving the quality of the recycling material collected with glass being collected as a separate stream and not mixed with other recycle as this may degrade the quality of other recycling streams.



From mountain to sea

To consider collecting glass at the kerbside would require an additional fleet of vehicles as glass cannot be collected on its own using the same fleet of recycling vehicles as glass is a very abrasive material; this is not a viable option due to the significant costs and impact to the environment to provide a kerbside service. Whilst glass kerbside collection would be popular, the relatively small amounts put into non-recyclable waste bins does not justify the additional cost of running a separate fleet of vehicles.

To ensure compliance with the Charter, the Council will continue to collect colour-segregated glass through the network of over 400 local glass recycling points and Household Recycling Centres.

Residents can request a local glass recycling point to be installed in their neighbourhood. Please contact the Wasteline on 03456 081207 to request this.

Energy from Waste

Q32: Why bother about recycling when you can just burn the waste and get energy out of it?

A: Recyclables have a value attached to them as a resource - the longer they stay in use, the better for the taxpayer, the environment, and the local community.

The law in Scotland prevents anything else other than waste that cannot be recycled from going through an energy from waste plant. Recycling is a priority with the Scottish Government having a waste recycling target of 70% by 2025.

SEPA (Scottish Environment Protection Agency) granted Aberdeenshire Council a pre-treatment exemption which means that the Council can send all of the residual non-recyclable bin waste to the energy from waste plant without any further waste separation or treatment being required. This is based on several tests; the initial test being known as the source segregation test i.e. what items are accepted through the existing kerbside mixed recycling collections. As the Council can evidence that all residents have access to a kerbside service to recycle cans, tins, foil, aerosols, PET and HDPE bottles as a minimum alongside a programme to raise awareness and promote recycling, as well as undertaking a cost benefit analysis, a pre-treatment exemption of the residual non-recyclable waste was granted by SEPA.

Based on the pre-treatment exemption, there will be no additional removal of recyclables from waste taken to the energy from waste plant. Therefore, it is very important that residents continue segregating their waste effectively at home, recycling everything they can through the kerbside collection service and recycling centres.



From mountain to sea

Energy from Waste is the last resort to extract energy out of waste that no longer has any other value left in it.

For more information, please see <http://www.nessenergy.co.uk/home/ness-faqs.aspx>