



# How and why your waste service is changing

Hart District Council is changing the way it collects your waste. This change is needed to help improve our recycling targets. We also intend to protect against the likelihood of passing on government anti-pollution fines to you, the Council Tax payer. Above all, we will all help create a cleaner, greener environment by reducing the amount of non-recyclable waste.

## **ABC: Alternate Bin Collections**

From Autumn 2006 Hart District Council will collect your non-recyclable household waste one week - and your recyclable materials the following week.

If you have subscribed to the garden waste collection scheme, garden waste will continue to be collected fortnightly.



## How will the changes affect you?

We will notify you of the start date and collection days before the system is introduced.

Larger blue wheeled bins for recyclable waste will be offered to each of Hart's residents at no charge. We will send you a letter with a detachable slip asking whether you think you will require a larger bin. If this is the case, just write your address on the detachable slip and return it to us in the pre-paid envelope. Alternatively, log on to [www.hart.gov.uk](http://www.hart.gov.uk)

# Q&A

### Will my bin really take two weeks worth of waste?

Over 50% of household rubbish is recyclable. New larger blue bins will be available for all Hart residents at no charge, should you think you will need one. Look out for the letter coming through your door soon!

### Won't leaving rotting food in my wheeled bin over two weeks cause health hazards?

No, in other Councils' experience, it has not been proven that an alternate bin collection service causes health hazards. Your bin won't smell much worse after a fortnight than it does after a week as long as basic housekeeping rules are followed.

- Always bag up all your rubbish before putting it into the bin. It is advised that food waste and pet waste is double bagged or wrapped in newspaper before putting into the bin to reduce smells.
- The bin lid should always be closed to stop flies getting in and laying eggs that produce maggots and any damages to the bin, i.e. holes should be reported to be repaired.
- Should the bin become dirty, we advise that you swill it out with disinfectant after it has been emptied.

### Doesn't the Council have to collect my bin each week?

Local Authorities have a duty to collect your household waste but can say how often they offer collections and can select the size, shape and type of containers used.

Using two bins, which are collected on alternate weeks, gives you the same space for disposing of your waste as you have always had. Using the second 240 litre blue lidded bin for recyclable material provides more space for recycling than ever before.

### Have other councils introduced similar schemes?

There are currently over 150 other councils in the country that have, or are about to introduce, an alternate bin collection scheme. Neighbouring councils like Rushmoor are using this method of collection. East Hants, a rural authority like Hart, has recently introduced a similar scheme in their district with considerable success.

### Has this change in method of collection increased my council tax?

Hampshire County Council pays landfill tax to dump waste, this tax is being increased significantly by the government next year and the cost is recovered from residents through councils tax. Over time increasing recycling will affect council tax because every tonne of waste that is recycled rather than going to landfill reduces this cost.

The introduction of this scheme has also kept increases in Hart District Council's council tax related to waste collection to a minimum. If Hart had continued with its old weekly collection scheme the cost would have risen significantly and had an impact on council tax. However, saving money is not the main reason for introducing the alternate bin scheme; we need to encourage people to recycle.

### Why have you introduced these changes without consulting every resident?

Public consultations were held throughout the district explaining the options available with respect to future refuse collections. Also, residents were asked to complete a questionnaire about waste and recycling via Hart News and focus groups.

### Why have you stopped taking my side waste?

The Council stopped collecting side waste sometime ago because it encouraged waste generation instead of promoting waste prevention - the best environmental option. In the past we have disposed of our waste by dumping it in landfills. This is now largely viewed as an unsustainable method of waste disposal.

Landfill sites generate polluting effluents and methane (a climate altering greenhouse gas). Managing these sites is becoming costly and people do not want to live near to them. Also, we are now running out of landfill capacity in some parts of the country. Local authorities have to pay to dispose of householders' rubbish. The cost of this service is included in Council Tax payments made by residents. By reducing the quantity of household waste, you will be helping improve the environment.

### Aren't the new arrangements a reduction in service?

No, we are still operating a weekly collection service, just collecting different types of rubbish on different weeks. In accordance with the Environmental Protection Act (1990), every authority in the UK is permitted to introduce schemes that encourage recycling and reduce waste being sent to landfill. Over 150 other local authorities have introduced similar schemes. We have to do this to reduce the amount of waste collected, and increase the amount of waste recycled.



# Recycling



## What can I recycle?

- Food and drink cans (aluminium and steel).
- Plastic bottles e.g. washing up bottles, water bottles, detergent bottles.
- Paper (not shredded), junk mail (please remove plastic covers), catalogues, telephone books (not yellow pages).
- Card boxes (e.g. cereal boxes), cardboard packaging.

## What can't be recycled?

Please do not include any fruit juice or milk cartons (i.e. bonded cardboard), plastic carrier bags, string, expanded polystyrene, cling film, paint tins, batteries, yoghurt pots or margarine containers. Anything with lots of different materials bonded together cannot be recycled.

## Why can't glass be collected?

Fragments of broken glass can contaminate other materials, which can not then be recycled. You will soon be receiving your free green glass collection basket that you should put out with your blue bin for collection. Excess bottles can be taken to any of the 36 "Bring Sites" or bottle banks in Hart. You can recycle glass at all of our sites and at some there are facilities for recycling clothing, paper and cardboard.

For the nearest Bring Site call 01252 844915 or visit: <http://www.hart.gov.uk>

## What about products not listed above?

Unfortunately it is impossible for us to list every type of package or product that can be recycled.

Textiles, including shoes and bedding should be taken to your nearest 'Bring Site', For your nearest Bring Site call 01252 844915 or visit: <http://www.hart.gov.uk>