

## Cotswold District Council

### Garden Waste & Food Waste Frequently Asked Questions

<b>Garden waste</b>	
<b>Why are you changing garden waste collections from weekly to fortnightly?</b>	<p>The new garden waste service will be less convenient, but convenience has a cost – both environmental and financial - that doesn't stack up once food waste is separated out.</p> <p>Once food is separated out from garden waste there is an environmental cost (in pollution, carbon emissions and road usage) to the garden waste service, not a benefit. We are buying vehicles, fuelling them and driving them up and down the district in order to collect and compost material which could, in most cases, be composted by people in gardens or community-led composting facilities (both of which used to be more common across the district).</p> <p>Since the council unanimously agreed to enact a Climate Emergency motion we feel that we must look hard at anything that leads to the production of avoidable fossil fuel emissions. Weekly garden waste collections would have a bigger environmental cost, in increased emissions and in the embedded carbon in producing and running more vehicles.</p> <p>There is also a large financial cost to the garden waste service, it is heavily subsidised, and that only makes sense while it includes waste food collection. The actual cost of the current weekly service is around £67 per bin and even the fortnightly service is still costing approximately £45 per bin.</p> <p>You have the option to have another garden waste bin, which is more efficient (and greener) than us collecting weekly.</p> <p>Following on from the launch of the new service, we will have a more detailed consultation about the garden waste service. Making it clear what is possible, what is desirable and what the costs (financial and environmental) of the different choices are so people can be clear on the pros and cons of future options.</p>

<p><b>Why are you going to be collecting garden waste and food waste separately?</b></p> <p><b>Why do I have to separate food and garden waste?</b></p>	<p><b>Food waste will continue to be collected weekly under the new service</b> but the separation of food from garden waste is the biggest benefit (and practical change) in the new service. The new service will increase participation in food collections and it makes much better use of that food waste than the current service does. We anticipate collecting 3,500 tonnes of food per year which all goes to produce biogas and/or electricity at a bio-digestion plant near Cheltenham.</p> <p>The current system of In Vessel Composting (IVC) used for co-mingled food and garden waste is both expensive and no longer the best way of handling either material. Sending food waste for digestion and garden waste for traditional open composting is much more effective and produces better results. However, the materials must be kept separate as open composting cannot be contaminated with food waste (vermin, pathogens, etc.) and bio digestion isn't useful with low-grade garden waste. That's why separate collections are needed.</p> <p>We will be introducing a new outdoor food waste bin which will be 23 litres in capacity, and significantly more robust than the current indoor 10 litre food waste caddies. Full information including what else can be recycled at the kerbside under the new service will be sent to all households in February, prior to the new service launch.</p>
<p><b>What CAN I put in my garden waste bin?</b></p>	<p>Put all compostable garden waste in your bin, including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Grass cuttings</li> <li>● Leaves, bark and tree prunings</li> <li>● Twigs and small branches up to 5cm (2in) across</li> <li>● Tree stumps up to 10cm (4in) across</li> <li>● Bedding from herbivore pets (rabbits and guinea pigs etc)</li> <li>● Cut flowers</li> <li>● Plants and weeds</li> <li>● Windfalls from the garden</li> <li>● Vegetable waste from the garden (e.g. potato tops)</li> <li>● Real Christmas trees (cut into 2-3ft sections and remove decorations)</li> <li>● Kitchen roll and Tissues</li> <li>● Cold wood ash</li> </ul>

<p><b>What CAN'T I put in my garden waste bin?</b></p>	<p>Please do not put the following materials into your garden waste bin:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● <b>Food Waste</b></li> <li>● Plastic bags, pots or seed trays</li> <li>● Ceramics or crockery</li> <li>● Bricks, stones or soil</li> <li>● Metal or glass</li> <li>● Any other household waste</li> <li>● Turf</li> <li>● Cat and dog faeces or bedding</li> <li>● Waste from non-vegetarian pets (cats, dogs etc)</li> <li>● Herbicides and pesticides</li> <li>● Fencing and posts</li> <li>● Cardboard (please recycle in your blue bag)</li> </ul>
<p><b>Can I still put food waste into my garden waste bin or my garden waste bags?</b></p>	<p><b>No, it is important you do not put your food waste into your garden waste bin(s).</b></p> <p>We've changed the way your food and garden waste is processed and it's important that it's not mixed. We'll no longer collect food waste which has been presented in green garden waste bins because it will now be treated using a different composting process. It's really important and complies with the Animal By-products Regulations which require food waste to be treated differently to stop future outbreaks of Foot and Mouth Disease.</p> <p>Any garden waste which is contaminated with food waste will not be collected and you will have to separate it out before the next collection.</p>
<p><b>I subscribe to the garden waste bag scheme – how do I know when my garden waste bags will be collected?</b></p>	<p>Garden waste sacks will be collected fortnightly when the new service begins. A new collection calendar will be arriving in February which will show your collections for the coming year.</p> <p>Alternatively please <a href="#">check our online search facility</a> to find out more about your collection.</p>
<p><b>What happens to the garden waste collected?</b></p>	<p>The garden waste collected will be composted and used as a soil improver on farmland, to help grow new crops.</p>

<p><b>Why aren't you increasing the price to keep it weekly?</b></p>	<p>We consulted garden waste service users in 2018 and the overwhelming majority (76%) said they would not pay more to keep a weekly service.</p> <p>The existing service is already heavily subsidised, and that only makes sense while it includes waste food collection. We've started to consult, in the council's budget consultation, on how we should manage the pricing going forward. The fortnightly service will still cost the council around £45 for each garden waste bin and the cost of running the new food waste service is additional to that cost.</p>
<p><b>So are you going to halve the price?</b></p>	<p><b>No.</b> There is also a large financial cost to the garden waste service, it is heavily subsidised, and that only made sense while it included waste food collection.</p> <p>The actual cost of the current weekly service is around £67 per bin and even the fortnightly service is still costing approximately £45 per bin. We are consulting residents to ask them how they think we should ensure that this service is funded in the future.</p>
<p><b>Will you provide more bins for free?</b></p>	<p><b>No.</b> The cost of providing the service (see 'So are you going to halve the price?') 'is already high and that doesn't include the cost of the garden waste bins themselves.</p> <p>We're not in a position to further subsidise an optional service when there are other recycling and waste services that could be funded to achieve higher environmental benefits in the district.</p>
<p><b>Can I have another bin?</b></p> <p><b>Should I just get another bin?</b></p>	<p><b>We encourage you to wait before ordering another bin.</b> The environmental impact of the garden waste service means we want to encourage residents to approach this in a different way.</p> <p>We will be publishing much more information on how you can compost more at home and ways in which gardens can be managed differently to encourage wildlife and reduce green waste.</p>

<b>Food waste recycling</b>	
<b>What do I do with my food waste?</b>	<p>Food waste must be put in your <b>new grey outdoor food waste bin and presented for collection every week by 7am</b> in the same place where you leave bins and recycling containers for collection. A separate crew is responsible for food waste so this may be collected at a different time from your refuse or recycling. Please make sure the outdoor food waste bin can be easily seen so it is not missed.</p> <p>Use your <b>kitchen caddy</b> to collect food waste from the home. Simply line the caddy using compostable liners, paper liners or newspaper. Alternatively, use old supermarket carrier bags, pedal bin bags, bread or sandwich bags. If you need an indoor kitchen caddy call 01285 623123 or use our <a href="#">online order form</a>.</p>
<b>Why is food waste now being collected separately?</b>	<p>It's really important to keep food waste separate from garden waste; the Animal By-products Regulations require food waste to be treated differently to stop future outbreaks of Foot and Mouth Disease. As a result, we will no longer collect food waste which has been presented in green garden waste bins.</p> <p>Food waste will be treated in an anaerobic digester which will heat the waste to a high enough temperature to kill any diseases, this is then used to produce renewable energy and a food-grade fertiliser for farming.</p>
<b>Why should I recycle food waste?</b>	<p>Commonly 30% of household refuse is made up of food waste. Collecting it separately means we can take your food waste to an <b>anaerobic digestion processing plant</b> where it is used to create renewable energy and produce a nutrient rich fertiliser. In addition, by recycling your food waste weekly your household refuse bin will be cleaner, less smelly and gives you the opportunity to recycle more of your waste.</p>
<b>What is anaerobic digestion?</b>	<p>Anaerobic Digestion uses microorganisms to break down food waste, animal manure, slurries and energy crops in the absence of oxygen, inside an enclosed system. As it breaks down it gives off methane, which is collected and converted into biogas and used to generate electricity, heat or transport fuels. It also creates a nutrient-rich digestate that can be used as a fertiliser for agriculture and in land regeneration.</p> <p><a href="#">Find out more about how food waste is processed.</a></p>

<p><b>Can I still put food waste into my garden waste bin or my garden waste bags?</b></p>	<p><b>No, it's important you do not put your food waste into your garden waste collections.</b> We've changed the way your food and garden waste is processed and they mustn't be mixed. We'll no longer collect food waste which has been put into green garden waste bins because it will now be treated using a different composting process. It's really important and complies with the Animal By-products Regulations which require food waste to be treated differently to stop future outbreaks of Foot and Mouth Disease.</p> <p>Any garden waste which is contaminated with food waste will not be collected and you will have to separate it out before the next collection.</p>
<p><b>Can I still present my green 10 litre kitchen caddy at the kerbside instead of my new grey food waste caddy?</b></p>	<p>No, please place your new outdoor grey food waste bin at the kerbside. We've found that the kitchen caddies can be quite fragile, and we've had to replace a lot at unnecessary cost.</p> <p>Please make sure you place your new outdoor food waste bin where it's visible to the collection crews, so they don't miss it.</p>
<p><b>What CAN I put in my food waste bin</b></p>	<p>All raw and cooked food waste including leftovers and spoilt/mouldy food:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Food - cooked and uncooked</li> <li>● Raw and cooked fruit and vegetables</li> <li>● Meat and fish, including bones and skin</li> <li>● Cheese and other dairy products</li> <li>● Eggs and egg shells</li> <li>● Small amount of liquids, oil and fat (including solid fats such as lard)</li> <li>● Bread, cakes and pastry</li> <li>● Rice, pasta, beans and cereal</li> <li>● Tea bags and coffee grounds</li> <li>● Newspaper, old plastic bags or compostable liners to line your caddy/bin</li> <li>● Cat and dog food, animal hair</li> <li>● Uneaten food from your plates and dishes</li> <li>● Used kitchen roll and paper tissues</li> </ul> <p><b>(Please remove food from all packaging.)</b></p>

<p><b>What CAN'T I put in my food waste bin?</b></p>	<p>Please do not put any of the following materials in your food waste bin:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Packaging of any kind</li> <li>● Metal and glass</li> <li>● Any other household wastes</li> <li>● Animal faeces</li> <li>● Animal bedding</li> <li>● Pet litter</li> <li>● Pet carcasses</li> <li>● Cardboard (please recycle using the blue bag)</li> <li>● Nappies</li> </ul>
<p><b>Do I need to use this service? I compost at home already.</b></p> <p><b>Can I carry on making my own compost?</b></p>	<p><b>We would encourage you to continue composting at home;</b> it has the lowest environmental impact. We have a special offer available on compost bins at <a href="http://www.getcomposting.com">www.getcomposting.com</a> or call 0844 571 4444.</p> <p>Items such as meat, fish, bones, cooked food and dairy products which should not be composted at home, but can be recycled using the food waste service.</p>
<p><b>I live in a flat – will I be able to use this service?</b></p>	<p>If you live in a house divided into flats where you already have your own wheeled bins, you will most likely be able to have food bins.</p> <p>If you do, please number your bin so you know which is yours. If you live in a block of flats with a communal bin store, there will be a food waste bin already in place so please empty the food waste from your new grey caddy into it. If you do not have a communal food waste bin then please contact your managing agent and they can arrange for one to be delivered by the Council.</p>
<p><b>What can I do about animals and vermin?</b></p>	<p>Keep your grey outdoor food waste bin locked to keep smells inside and animals out. The lock is operated by pressing the button on the lid. The design of the outdoor food waste bin has been tried and tested very successfully across many parts of the country, in both urban and rural locations.</p>

<p><b>How do I keep my kitchen caddy and food waste bin clean; can I line them with anything?</b></p>	<p>Your kitchen caddy and outdoor food waste bin are dishwasher proof or you could rinse them out with old washing up water but if you wish to line it you can either:</p> <p>Line the caddy using compostable liners, paper liners or newspaper. Alternatively, use old supermarket carrier bags, pedal bin bags, bread or sandwich bags.</p> <p>So that the newspaper or bag is taken along with the food waste, make sure that the newspaper is wrapped completely around the food waste or that the top of the bag is tied up. Our crews will not remove newspaper or bags which are stuck to the inside of a food waste container after it has been emptied.</p> <p>Please do not wrap food waste in foil or other food packaging as this will contaminate the composting process.</p> <p>If you need a kitchen caddy call 01285 623123 or use our <a href="#">online order form</a>.</p>
<p><b>How will I know which food bin is mine after collection?</b></p>	<p>Please put your house name or number on the outdoor food waste bin. This will reduce the risk of missing bins or confusion after they have been emptied.</p>
<p><b>Can I have an extra grey food waste caddy?</b></p>	<p>Please try the service first and look at reducing the amount of food waste produced. For tips on reducing food waste please visit <a href="http://www.lovefoodhatewaste.com">www.lovefoodhatewaste.com</a>. If you have a large family and need an extra outdoor food waste bin, e-mail us at <a href="mailto:cdc@cotswold.gov.uk">cdc@cotswold.gov.uk</a>, call 01285 623123 or use our <a href="#">online form</a>.</p>
<p><b>If I've grown something in the garden e.g. apples, is it food waste or garden waste?</b></p>	<p>Fruit and veg grown in a garden such as windfall fruit is classed as garden waste and can go in your garden waste wheeled bin (if you have subscribed to the service), however anything you bring inside to the kitchen becomes food waste and should go into your outdoor food waste bin.</p> <p>Please don't over fill your garden bin with windfall fruit, this is very heavy and could cause the bin to snap off the bin lift during the emptying cycle. They are also hazardous for crew members to move so overweight bins won't be collected.</p>