

Waste Strategy FAQ's

When will the changes take place?

Now that the waste strategy has been agreed we plan to start collecting recycling every week from spring 2017. Once the new recycling service is in place we will then swap the current 240 litre black bins for 140 litre bins.

The changes to the waste and recycling service are now in the planning stage. We will inform all residents to let them know when they can expect to see the changes.

Won't there be an increase in fly-tipping?

There is no evidence to suggest that changing waste services encourages residents to fly tip. We take all fly tipping very seriously and investigate all cases and have a very successful record of prosecution. Increasingly in South Gloucestershire fly tipped waste is part of organised criminal activity and not from local residents.

What will happen to the old bins?

The axels will be recycled and the plastic bodies shredded and recycled into new waste bins and recycling boxes

How do these changes and the cost involved help the council save money?

As part of the council wide savings programme, the waste service has delivered savings of £2m since 2013 and has an outstanding target of £1.9 million per annum to be made by 2020. Short term investment and changes to the waste service will lead to long term savings. Encouraging more people to recycle and keeping recyclables out of the general waste stream will help towards making our long term savings and meeting waste legislation targets. Details of the potential cost savings are included in the Waste Strategy evidence document at www.southglos.gov.uk/wastestrategy.

Why can't we just keep the bins we have?

We want to encourage people to recycle and think more carefully about what they're putting in their black bins. Evidence has shown that many other councils have seen large increases in recycling after reducing the space available for general waste. Our waste analysis showed that last year, 52 percent of the contents of black bins could have been recycled using the existing kerbside service. This meant 23,331 tonnes of recyclable material was unnecessarily disposed of to landfill, at a cost to the council of £3m.

I recycle everything, and still fill my current bin. What will happen to people like me?

We are happy to visit any resident and offer advice and assess individual needs. If you are struggling with your current bin, make sure you have all of your recycling containers, you can put extra recycling out next to these. You can order replacement containers free of charge online at www.southglos.gov.uk/sortit.

If you have a large family or extra non recyclable waste from a medical condition, you can apply for an additional black bin.

I have a large family. How will we manage?

We currently provide extra capacity for large families. We will continue to do this on a case by case basis. This will entail completing a questionnaire and arranging a home visit. This service is chargeable at a nominal cost to cover administration.

Why isn't the green bin charge part of the updated Waste Strategy?

Charging for green bins was consulted on in 2013, followed by approval at Communities Committee in September 2013. The subscription for the green bins was reduced to £30 in March 2015. Any further changes to the service are a financial consideration for the Council.

Why can't you provide a wheelie bin for all my recycling?

EU Legislation states that from January 2015, all recyclables should be collected and sorted on the vehicle separately, where it is "technologically, economically, environmentally, practicable" (TEEP) to do so. This means we will not be able to collect recyclables in one wheelie bin. We can, however, use containers that store more than one recyclable in them, as long as they can be easily separated by the collection crew on the vehicle.

Why are you changing recycling collections to weekly?

Research shows that residents with weekly collections recycle more material than those with a fortnightly service. A weekly recycling collection will also make the recycling service much easier and more convenient for residents to use.

Why don't you just target the residents who aren't recycling?

According to our waste analysis in 2014/15, 52% of waste in the average black bin could be recycled which shows that there is a significant number of people who are not recycling as much as they could. Our Waste Minimisation and Enforcement Officers have and will continue to carry out specific education and enforcement projects to encourage wider recycling participation.