

Waste engagement

Member toolkit

July 2025



Rutland
County Council

Introduction

Rutland County Council is sharing information to help residents understand the delivery of the introduction of the new food waste service.

This toolkit has been prepared to support Elected Members with the following:

- Explain the changes to Rutland's waste and recycling services and the reasons and benefits behind them.
- Be able to answer questions from members of the public with consistent information and stats
- Direct people to the Council's website to learn more about the Waste Less, Recycle More campaign and their waste services.

Rutland County Council's website has been updated to provide clear information on the Waste Less, Recycle More campaign and details about the waste and recycling collection service. This includes what can be included in each of the bins, tips on how to waste less and there is now a page dedicated to the introduction of food waste collections. This new page currently has our FAQs on it, which will be updated as and when needed, however this will develop as we know more about the delivery phase of the project. You can view all of the information and point residents to

www.rutland.gov.uk/bins-waste-recycling

This toolkit contains the following materials to help you support the public engagement:

- A set of frequently asked questions
- Newsletter wording to explain the current stage of the food waste service
- Example social media posts
- Posters
- Guidance for Ward discussions

If you require any information or materials in a different format, please email:

kbuzzard@rutland.gov.uk.

Frequently asked questions

Please find below some FAQs that are currently on our website. We will update these as the situation progresses and we have further detailed information about the delivery of the service. If there are any questions that are not on here that you are being asked by your constituents, then please send them to kbuzzard@rutland.gov.uk and we can look at adding them on.

Why is our waste and recycling service changing?

It is a statutory government requirement that all local authorities must introduce a food waste collection in 2026. However, the introduction also supports the council's broader

strategy to improve recycling rates, reduce residual waste, and meet government requirements for more sustainable waste management.

Why should I recycle my food waste?







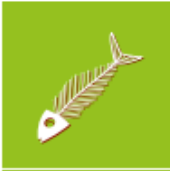
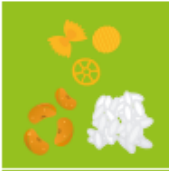
Food waste is 70% water. Sending food waste for incineration requires more energy to burn so recycling is a more efficient method of disposal.

How often will my food waste bin be collected?

You will receive a handy 5 litre kitchen caddy and a 23 litre food waste bin for outside that will be collected every week – this means that your food waste will no longer be sitting in your bin for 2 weeks like it currently is, ensuring that our bins are cleaner and you are receiving an improved service.

What can be included in my food waste bin?

All food waste can be disposed of in your new food waste bin, including all uneaten food and plate scrapings, such as, peels, bones, cores, egg shells and tea bags. Food waste includes:

 food waste	<ul style="list-style-type: none">✓ All uneaten food and plate scrapings	 dairy	<ul style="list-style-type: none">✓ Dairy products✓ Cheese✓ Eggs	 bread & pastries	<ul style="list-style-type: none">✓ Bread✓ Cakes✓ Pastries
 meat & bones	<ul style="list-style-type: none">✓ Raw meat✓ Cooked meat✓ Bones	 tea & coffee grounds	<ul style="list-style-type: none">✓ Tea bags✓ Coffee grounds	 fruit & vegetables	<ul style="list-style-type: none">✓ Raw vegetables✓ Cooked vegetables✓ Whole fruit✓ Peelings
 fish	<ul style="list-style-type: none">✓ Fish✓ Cooked fish✓ Bones	 rice, pasta & beans	<ul style="list-style-type: none">✓ Rice✓ Pasta✓ Beans	<div>Remember to recycle your mouldy and out of date food, including ready meals removed from their packaging</div>	

Can I put my food waste in bags to ensure my food waste bin stays clean?

You must NOT use plastic bags in your food waste bins, however there are bio-degradable/compostable liners that are designed for food waste bins and these can be used to protect your bin from waste remains.

What if I don't produce any food waste?

Remember there is no amount too small. The best thing we can do with our food is enjoy it but some waste like banana skins, tea bags and bones are unavoidable and can all be recycled in your food waste bin.

Where will our food waste go when collected?

The Council is exploring the option of sending food waste once collected to an anaerobic digestion facility. This is a process in which bacteria breaks down the food waste to produce biogas and fertilizer for farmland. The biogas can be used to generate renewable heat and power.

Will there be changes to my refuse and recycling collections when the food waste collections are introduced?

Your recycling collection will remain the same however there will be a change to the refuse collections to support the food waste collection and make it a success. We've seen fantastic progress from residents already in increasing recycling rates. Looking at our black bin waste is the next step that builds on that momentum.

At its meeting, held on Tuesday 10 June, Cabinet approved a fortnightly collection of a small 140-litre black bin, which will run alongside a weekly food waste collection service and the normal fortnightly recycling collections, rather than reduce the black bin collections to three weekly. The report and decision is available to [view on our 'Meetings' page](#).

How will I cope with a smaller black bin?

A change to refuse collections is vital to encourage residents to take part in the food waste collection service. We know that 43% of waste in our black bins is food waste, if we move this to the new food waste bin and ensure we are recycling properly then smaller black bins would be adequate for black bin waste.

Will it cost the council more to change the waste collections and/or introduce new bins?

It is a legal requirement that we introduce a new food waste collection and so there will be some costs associated with the introduction. Recycling is a lot cheaper to dispose of than black bin waste and it is vital that residents continue to increase recycling rates by embracing the food waste service, which is an enhancement to our kerbside collection service.

What will happen with our current larger black bins?

These will be either reused or recycled.

Is there any allowances for people with larger families?

Yes, this remains unchanged, we will continue to provide additional capacity for larger families or those with medical need.

How will this be impacted by local authority reorganisation?

It won't.

Article for newsletters and websites

Length: 398 words

At the meeting, held on Tuesday 10 June, cabinet approved a fortnightly collection of a smaller 140-litre black bin, which will run alongside a weekly food waste collection service and the normal fortnightly recycling collections. This change is designed to drive participation in the new food waste collection service and ensure the scheme remains cost-effective for the council in the long term.

This decision follows earlier approval in November 2024 to enhance the kerbside collection service through the introduction of separate food waste collections, which is a statutory government requirement. This also supports the council's broader strategy to improve recycling rates, reduce residual waste, and meet government requirements for more sustainable waste management.

Recent financial modelling shows that this decision is both affordable and publicly supported, with public consultation held in 2021 that indicated 44% of residents that responded preferred smaller bins over 32% preferring reduced collection frequency. The council's modelling also projects recycling rates of up to 62% under this new system.

Transitional government funding announced in March 2025 will support the initial implementation of the new food waste collection. Although ongoing funding remains uncertain, Rutland County Council continues to engage with the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (Defra) to address remaining funding needs for full implementation.

Significant council investment in new waste vehicles in 2024 improved the service for residents in 2024. This together with a new recycling contract for dry mixed recycling have improved our overall recycling performance which reduces costs. Improved waste

transfer operations and the outstanding response by residents to our renewed waste minimisation campaign, has meant that the amount of residual waste has reduced so the council is confident these changes can be implemented within existing financial plans.

To support residents, the council will provide kitchen caddies and kerbside food bins. All details of the roll-out of the new food waste and residual waste bins will be fully communicated with residents before the implementation.

Frequently asked questions have also been added to our new '[Introduction to food waste](#)' page and these will be updated as and when any further information is finalised.

The full report presented to Cabinet can be accessed via our '[Council meetings](#)' page.

Social media posts

If you have a social media platform like Facebook, you can help us to promote our Waste Less, Recycle More campaign by sharing one or more of these posts, with a link to further information on our website. We've also provided some images to use alongside this wording, you can find these attached.

POST #1

Did you know that over half of what is going in our black bins in Rutland could be recycled or easily reduced? Help us reduce what we send to incinerators by getting behind our #WasteLessRecycleMore Campaign www.rutland.gov.uk/recycling

POST #2

Residents in Rutland are already doing an amazing job in reducing the waste that goes into their black bin and have increase recycling rates. If you need any handy tips on how you can #WasteLessRecycleMore then check out our pages at www.rutland.gov.uk/recycling

POST #3

There are some simple ways to help Rutland #WasteLessRecycleMore. Find out more at www.rutland.gov.uk/recycling

Printed material

We have attached a poster for you to distribute as you see fit. If there are any further materials you should need then please contact kbuzzard@rutland.gov.uk

Ward meetings

Using the information provided, we hope Members will feel confident speaking to residents in their respective Wards about the changes to our waste and recycling collection service and encourage them to get further information and tips about wasting less, recycling more from the Council's website: www.rutland.gov.uk/recycling.

We will provide a further Member Toolkit in late 2025 when our communications turn from promoting the 'waste less, recycle more' messaging to the details of the introduction of the food waste collection service.

Questions and further information

If you would like to promote the waste campaign and require information or materials in a different format, please email: kbuzzard@rutland.gov.uk.

Thank you