

# Rutland Food Waste Service Launch

February 2026



Rutland  
County Council

## Introduction

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Rutland County Council is continuing to share information to help residents get ready for our new food waste service, starting from Monday 30 March 2026.

This toolkit has been prepared to support councillors with the following:

- Explain the changes to Rutland's waste and recycling services, including the reasons and benefits
- Allow you to answer questions from members of the public with clear and accurate information
- Help you direct people to the Council's website to learn more about food waste collections, as well as other waste and recycling services

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

- An overview of the changes being made
- A set of frequently asked questions covering all aspects of the new food waste collection service
- Newsletter wording to explain the food waste service and what is happening to launch collections
- Example social media posts for you to share on your own platforms
- Poster designs to share with local businesses and community groups

If you need any of this information or supporting materials in a different format, please email: [communications@rutland.gov.uk](mailto:communications@rutland.gov.uk) and we will adapt these resources for your individual needs.



## **Key information summarised**

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We have summarised the key messages that help to address the most frequent queries that have come through from residents and Elected Members:

### **Why food waste collections are being introduced**

- Food waste collections are a new legal requirement. The Government has said all councils must have separate food waste collections by 2026. These will help to improve recycling rates and reduce the amount of waste sent for incineration.

### **Key dates to remember**

- Rutland County Council will begin separate weekly food waste collections for households from Monday 30 March 2026
- The Council will start swapping large black wheelie bins for smaller 140litre bins from Monday 2 March 2026 onwards
- New food waste caddies will start to be delivered to households from Monday 9 March 2026 onwards

### **Impact on other waste services**

- There is no change to when and how Rutland's dry mixed recycling is collected. Grey bins will stay the same size and be collected on the same day. We are not introducing any new or different containers for dry mixed recycling.
- Black bin collection days will also remain the same. However, current 240litre black bins will be replaced with smaller 140litre black bins
- A small kitchen caddy for indoor use and a larger outdoor caddy for kerbside collection will be provided for weekly food waste disposal. Food waste collections will take place on normal black and grey bin collection days

### **Moving to a smaller black bin**

- Collecting food waste on its own every week means households don't need to throw food away in their black household waste bin anymore. Black bins can therefore be made smaller
- A smaller black bin collected every two weeks was preferred over a three-weekly black bin collection by residents who took part in our public consultation
- Although black bins will be smaller, large families and families with medical waste can still request extra household waste capacity, if they need it
- We are also introducing a new category of extra household waste capacity for families who have children in nappies, if they need it
- We are reminding residents to check what items and materials can be recycled in their grey wheelie bins. Please see the grey bin guide on our website for full details of what can be recycled in Rutland: [www.rutland.gov.uk/recycling](http://www.rutland.gov.uk/recycling)

## Why residents should use the new food waste service

- This is an improvement to Rutland's current waste and recycling services. Food waste will now be collected every single week, instead of being left in black bins for two weeks at a time
- By stopping food waste being sent for incineration as household waste, we are reducing harmful emissions and helping the environment
- The food waste that is collected will be processed at a nearby anaerobic digestion centre. This means food waste will help to produce green energy that is put straight back to the grid
- Recycling is cheaper to dispose of than general waste, meaning separate food waste collections will also help to save money
- Separate food waste collections are being made mandatory across the whole country and are already best practice in many areas

## Frequently asked questions

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Please see below for a full list of FAQs that explain all aspects of the new food waste collection service. These have been divided into groups of questions that relate to common themes and can also be found on our website: [www.rutland.gov.uk/recycling](http://www.rutland.gov.uk/recycling)

- Background to food waste collections and why they're being introduced
- How the new food waste service will work
- Black bin swaps and food waste caddy deliveries
- What is classed as food waste
- How to use your new food waste caddies
- Having a smaller black bin
- Other useful information

If you have a question that's not covered in this list of FAQs, please email the details to: [communications@rutland.gov.uk](mailto:communications@rutland.gov.uk) and we will look to add them on.

### Background to food waste collections and why they're being introduced

#### Why is our waste and recycling service changing?

The UK Government has said that all councils must introduce a separate food waste collection service in 2026. This change also supports Rutland County Council's aim of improving local recycling rates, reducing residual waste and meeting national requirements for more sustainable waste management.

#### Why should I recycle my food waste?

Food waste is 70% water. Sending food waste for incineration requires a lot of energy to burn, so recycling is a better method of disposal. It's much greener and cheaper.

## How the new food waste service will work

### How often will my food waste be collected?

Food waste will be collected from the kerbside outside your home every week. This means your food waste will no longer be left sitting in your black wheelie bin for two weeks at a time. This is an improved service and means black bins will be cleaner, lighter and less full.

### Will there be changes to my usual refuse and recycling collections once separate food waste collections are introduced?

The only change you will see to your normal bin collections is the switch to a smaller black wheelie bin and the introduction of separate weekly food waste collections from 30 March onwards. Your grey recycling bin will stay the same size and there is no change to any of your bin collection days. There won't be any change to assisted collections, either. We'll come to empty your grey recycling bin, smaller black bin and green bin (if you have one) on the same day we've always done. All you need to do to empty your outdoor food caddy each week is present it next to your grey or black bin.

### What if I don't produce any food waste?

No amount of food waste is too small. The best thing we can do with our food is enjoy it but some waste like banana skins, vegetable peelings, tea bags and bones are unavoidable. All of these can be recycled in your food waste caddy.

### Where will Rutland's food waste go after it's been collected?

All of the food waste collected in Rutland will be transported to an anaerobic digestion facility near Kettering. This is a special process where bacteria break down the food waste to produce biogas and fertiliser for farmland. The biogas can then be used to generate renewable heat and power.

## Black bin swaps and food caddy deliveries

### When and how will I receive my new, smaller black bin?

We're going to start replacing 240litre black bins with smaller 140litre bins from Monday 2 March 2026 onwards. The process is simple and will coincide with your normal black bin collection day.

Just keep putting your black household waste bin out for collection, as normal. At some point in March, we'll empty it, take it away and replace it with your new, smaller black bin. We'll do this all in one go, so that your old bin is emptied, removed and replaced at the same time, on a normal black bin collection day. We plan to complete all bin swaps by 30 March.

Because you're getting a brand-new black bin, it won't have any stickers or house numbers on it, so you may want to purchase these before March, to make sure you're ready. Please note, food waste caddies will not arrive with your new black bin – these will be delivered separately in March.

## **When and how will I receive my new kitchen and outdoor caddies for food waste?**

We'll start to deliver your new food waste caddies from Monday 9 March, ready for weekly food waste collections to begin from Monday 30 March. Households will get two caddies: a small kitchen caddy to keep indoors and a larger caddy that stays outside. Both caddies will be delivered at the same time, during March, and left on the kerbside outside your property. The smaller caddy will be placed securely inside the larger caddy, along with a written guide that explains how to use them both correctly.

## **Will the Council collect additional side waste if new, smaller black bins are being used before food waste collections begin?**

Yes. Because you may be left with a smaller black bin for a short period before new food waste collections start, we will be accepting one bag of side waste with 140litre black bin collections between 2 and 27 March. Any side waste needs to be fully bagged and presented next to your smaller black bin, on the day of your collection.

## **What should I do if I don't receive my new black bin or food waste caddies?**

We are planning to carry out bin swaps and food caddy deliveries for whole streets at once. If you see smaller black bins and food caddies being delivered to your neighbours and haven't received yours by the end of the next working day, please report this to us online, using your Rutland County Council MyAccount. Just select the option to report a general waste issue: [www.rutland.gov.uk/myaccount](http://www.rutland.gov.uk/myaccount). Alternatively, you can email: [enquiries@rutland.gov.uk](mailto:enquiries@rutland.gov.uk) or call: 01572 722 577.

## **What will change for people who use communal bins?**

We won't be replacing the household waste bins that are shared by residents living in flats, apartment blocks and other similar properties. However, we are working with housing associations and property managers to arrange delivery of individual food waste caddies. Caddy deliveries to these buildings may not happen until after March.

## **What will happen with the larger 240litre black bins that are taken away?**

The old bins we collect will be recycled or reused somewhere else. This includes providing them to families with 5 or more in the household, families with children in nappies and those with medical needs for additional household waste capacity.

## What is classed as food waste

### What can be included in my food waste bin?

All food waste can be disposed of in your new food waste bin, including uneaten food and plate scrapings:

- All uneaten food
- Plate scrapings
- Raw meat
- Cooked meat
- Raw fish
- Cooked fish
- Bones
- Cheese and yogurt
- Eggs and eggshells
- Tea bags
- Coffee grounds
- Rice and pasta
- Beans and pulses
- Raw vegetables
- Cooked vegetables
- Whole fruit and fruit pieces
- Fruit and veg peelings
- Pet food

You will be able to recycle any mouldy and out of date food, including ready meals that have been removed from their packaging.

### What can't be recycled as food waste?

We don't want anything that isn't food. It helps to remember that these are food waste collections – not general kitchen waste. We only want unpackaged food placed in biodegradable caddy liners:

- No liquids such as milk
- No oils or liquid fat
- No kitchen towels or cleaning wipes
- No plastic or metal coffee pods
- No packaging of any kind

## How to use your new food waste caddies

### How do I recycle food waste?

Start by putting a biodegradable liner in your small kitchen caddy, then place your food waste inside. Whenever you need to empty your small kitchen caddy, just tie the top of your liner and put the bagged food waste into your larger outdoor caddy, ready for collection.

You can use a different food waste container inside your home, instead of the small kitchen caddy we provide. However, you must use your larger outdoor caddy with lockable lid for weekly kerbside collection. Place the larger outdoor caddy next to your black or grey wheelie bin on your normal bin collection day and we'll take the bagged food waste away.

### **Do I have to use a biodegradable liner or bag inside my kitchen caddy?**

Yes. To keep the small 7litre kitchen caddy clean and sanitary, all residents need to line them with biodegradable waste sacks – also referred to as food waste bags or caddy liners. These are available to buy online or from local supermarkets.

Using liners will help to keep your kitchen caddy clean and make it easier for you to dispose of your food waste – particularly when transferring food waste into the larger outdoor caddy. It's important to make sure food waste liners or sacks are biodegradable, so please check the product description or label carefully, when you purchase them.

Please don't use unsuitable alternatives to line your food waste caddies, such as black bin bags or carrier bags from the supermarket. This may lead to food waste being rejected at the processing plant, because it is contaminated with plastic.

### **Can I put food waste straight into my larger outdoor caddy?**

Food waste can be placed straight into your large outdoor caddy, as long as you use a biodegradable liner. These liners are available in a range of sizes. The size of your outdoor food waste caddy is 23 litres. Please ensure the liner is tied before your waste is collected

### **Will separating food waste lead to nasty smells indoors?**

No. Your small kitchen caddy will hold food waste that would have previously gone into your kitchen bin, so there should be no difference in smell. Your small kitchen caddy can sit on a worktop, under your kitchen sink, or wherever is most convenient. You'll use it to hold any food scraps, peelings, tea bags etc. then tie up the caddy liner and place the bag into your larger outdoor caddy whenever you feel necessary (similar to how you would empty your kitchen bin and take the waste to your outdoor wheelie bin). Food waste caddies are also dishwasher proof, so can be thoroughly cleaned as and when necessary.

### **Will the outdoor food caddy attract rats or other animals?**

The outdoor caddy is made from similar plastic as your current wheelie bins. The lid is also designed to lock in place, to prevent it spilling or being opened by animals. It's very rare that people have problems with rats getting into their wheelie bins to eat food waste. If you don't have any problems with rats getting into your wheelie bin now, you shouldn't have any problems with your outdoor food waste caddy. The caddy is more secure than a wheelie bin, because it is lockable.

## Having a smaller black bin

### Why are we introducing smaller black bins?

Reducing household waste capacity is important for encouraging people to use the new food waste service, as well as recycling more of the right materials inside grey bins. A smaller black bin collected every two weeks was preferred to having a large black bin collected every three weeks. There is a cost to replacing the black bins. However, the change will save money in the long run because it costs less to process food waste and dry mixed recycling than it does to incinerate large amounts of household waste.

We have a [grey bin guide](#) that explains everything that can be recycled in your grey bin.

### How will I cope with a smaller black bin?

We know that, on average, 43% of the waste in black wheelie bins is food waste. These black bins are currently collected every two weeks. Introducing a weekly food waste collection will free up space in black bins and mean that a smaller 140 litre bin is big enough for any remaining household waste that needs to be thrown away.

Having looked at what's going into people's black bins, we also know households are throwing away some materials that could be recycled in their grey bins. The introduction of weekly food waste collections and the move to a smaller black bin is a good time to check what should be going into your grey recycling bin, freeing up even more space inside black bins.

We are not introducing any new or different recycling containers, all dry mixed recycling will continue to go in your grey wheelie bin. Check the [grey bin guide](#) to see what can be recycled in Rutland.

### Will there be allowances for larger families and those with medical needs?

Yes. We will continue to provide extra capacity for families of five or more and those with medical needs. We are also introducing a new category of additional household waste for families who have children in nappies. You will need to apply for additional household waste capacity from the end of February, even if this is something you already receive.

You can request additional household waste capacity using your Rutland County Council [MyAccount](#). You can also email: [enquiries@rutland.gov.uk](mailto:enquiries@rutland.gov.uk) or call: [01572 722 577](tel:01572722577). Anyone can request an additional grey bin in the same way, if they produce a lot of recycling.

### What happens if I run out of space in my smaller black bin?

Not everyone will qualify for additional capacity and it's important that we all make an effort to reduce waste as much as possible. It's only natural to have concerns about this, however the vast majority of waste can be recycled in your grey bin and the food waste caddies.

Extra recycling bins are available free of charge. Recycling collections will continue as normal. Food waste collections will be weekly. However if you still have waste that won't fit into the new black bins, this can be taken to the [Household Waste and Recycling Centres](#) at Cottesmore and North Luffenham.

## How can I reduce my household waste?

One of the quickest ways to reduce your household waste is to make sure you are recycling everything that can go into your grey bin. Many people are surprised by how much can actually be recycled, so it is worth checking what you might be missing.

Items that can go in your grey bin:

- paper - newspapers, magazines, junk mail, envelopes, shredded paper and wrapping
- mixed glass and jars - all coloured and clear glass, including the lid
- telephone directories and catalogues
- cardboard - cereal boxes, food boxes and cardboard packaging
- cartons - all drinks cartons, including tetra packs
- food tins and drinks cans
- large metal tins - biscuit and sweet tins
- aerosols - empty household spray cans
- foil - including take away trays (must be clean)
- plastic packaging (apart from black plastic) - yoghurt pots, bottles, food trays, butter and ice cream tubs, bags and film, rigid packaging from electrical goods

Recycling needs to be clean, dry and loose (not bagged) when it goes into your grey bin. Check our [A to Z waste recycling guide](#) if you're not sure which bin to put a particular item in.

## Other useful information

### Did residents have a say in these changes?

Food waste is a requirement of all councils from 2026. We asked for your views in a public survey when the government told councils we would have to collect food waste separately. This received more than 1,000 responses.

The results showed:

- 73% of people supported the national changes to waste collections
- 91% agreed with our goal to recycle more
- 67% said they were likely to use a weekly food waste service

When asked about bin sizes:

- 44% of people preferred a smaller black bin every two weeks
- 32% preferred a reduced bin collection frequency
- 13% preferred a smaller bin and a reduced collection frequency

This supported the decision to move to a smaller black bin collected every two weeks.

## **Is it costing the Council money to make these changes?**

There is a cost to making this change. However, there is also an opportunity for the Council and Rutland residents to save money. Food waste is heavy and holds a lot of water. This makes it expensive for councils to transport and incinerate. Recycling food waste is a lot cheaper than getting rid of it in black household waste bins. If enough people use the new food waste service, it will reduce Rutland County Council's waste disposal costs, and we can look to pass this saving on to residents. Sending less waste for incineration also has a positive impact on the environment by reducing harmful emissions.

## **How will this be impacted by local government reorganisation?**

Local government reorganisation won't have any impact on these changes. All councils – including any new authorities created by local government reorganisation – need to provide separate food waste collections from 2026, because of changes to the law.

## **Article for newsletters and websites**

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### **Get ready for Rutland's new weekly food waste collections**

#### **Length: 500 words**

Rutland County Council is introducing new weekly food waste collections for households, starting from Monday 30 March 2026.

The Council will be providing residents with two food waste caddies: a small kitchen caddy for indoor use and a larger outdoor caddy for kerbside collection. Because the Council will be collecting food waste separately, every week, they're also introducing smaller 140litre black bins to replace the large 240litre wheelie bins that residents currently use. These will be swapped on one of your normal black bin collection days in March, so that your old bin is emptied, removed and replaced all in one go.

Please note, food waste caddies will not arrive with your new black bin – these will be delivered separately during March and placed on the kerbside outside your property, for you to collect.

Using the new food waste caddies is easy. Start by putting a biodegradable liner in your small kitchen caddy, then place your food waste inside. Whenever you need to empty your small kitchen caddy, just tie the top of your liner and put the bagged food waste into your larger outdoor caddy, ready for collection. Food waste collections will take place every week on the same day as your normal household waste and recycling collections. Simply place the large outdoor caddy next to your wheelie bin and bring it back in once it's been emptied.

The Council will start swapping large 240litre black bins for smaller 140litre wheelie bins from Monday 2 March 2026. Food waste caddies will be delivered from Monday 9 March onwards. All bin swaps and caddy deliveries should be complete by Monday 30 March, ready for the new weekly food waste collections to begin. However, residents living in flats, apartment blocks and other properties that use communal bins may not receive food waste caddies until after March.

The Council is planning to carry out black bin swaps and food waste caddy deliveries for whole streets at once. If you see smaller bins and caddies being delivered to your neighbours and haven't received yours by the end of the next working day, you should report this to the Council online, by email or over the phone.

Because you may be left with a smaller black bin for a short period before new food waste collections begin, the Council will be accepting one bag of side waste with 140litre black bin collections from 2 to 27 March. Any side waste must be fully bagged and presented next to your smaller back bin, on the day of your collection.

There's lots more information about this important change on the Rutland County Council website, to help you get ready. Simply visit: [www.rutland.gov.uk/recycling](http://www.rutland.gov.uk/recycling)

This service introduces a weekly collection for all your food waste, without changing or disrupting any of your normal black, grey or green bin collections. It's something that all councils must introduce in 2026 and makes it easy for you to recycle your food waste, while also helping to reduce the amount of waste being sent to incineration. For more information, please go to [www.rutland.gov.uk/recycling](http://www.rutland.gov.uk/recycling).

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## Social media posts

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If you have a social media platform like Facebook, you can help us share important information using the suggested posts below. We've also provided some images to use alongside this wording, which come attached with this toolkit.

### POST #1

Rutland's new weekly food waste collections will start from Monday 30 March 2026!

Homes in Rutland will get new food waste caddies to collect and recycle food waste every week – whether it's leftovers, peelings, eggshells, bones or teabags. No amount is too small! Find more information about the new service and how it works at:

[www.rutland.gov.uk/recycling](http://www.rutland.gov.uk/recycling)

#RutlandFoodWaste

### POST #2

Get ready for weekly food waste collections in Rutland! You'll get a new, smaller black bin and separate food waste caddies ready for the new food waste service to begin on Monday 30 March 2026. It's a simple change that will reduce the amount of waste sent for incineration. It will also make your black bin cleaner, lighter and less full. Learn more: [www.rutland.gov.uk/recycling](http://www.rutland.gov.uk/recycling)

#RutlandFoodWaste

### POST #3

Food waste collections are becoming mandatory in the UK. Launching this service in Rutland will help to reduce the amount of waste sent for incineration, so it's kinder to the environment.

Turning food waste into renewable energy is also cheaper than throwing it away as general waste, which helps to save money. Plus, with food waste collected every single week, smelly scraps won't be left sitting in your bin for two weeks.

Find out more about the new service at: [www.rutland.gov.uk/recycling](http://www.rutland.gov.uk/recycling)

#RutlandFoodWaste

### POST #4

Rutland's new food waste service introduces a weekly collection for your food waste, without changing or disrupting any of your normal black, grey or green bin collections. It's something that all councils must introduce in 2026 and makes it easy for you to recycle your food waste.

For more information, please go to [www.rutland.gov.uk/recycling](http://www.rutland.gov.uk/recycling)

#RutlandFoodWaste

## Printed materials

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We have attached a series of posters for you to distribute in your communities.

If there are any other materials that would help you to tell residents about this important change, please contact [communications@rutland.gov.uk](mailto:communications@rutland.gov.uk)

## Questions and further information

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If you have any enquiries about our food waste communications, require further information or materials in a different format, please email [communications@rutland.gov.uk](mailto:communications@rutland.gov.uk)

**ENDS ALL**