

# Consultation on Eastbourne waste collections – FAQs

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## **What is this consultation about?**

We are asking residents how they would be affected if the council decided to implement “Alternate Weekly Collections”. The consultation will run for twelve weeks, from 28 September to 21 December 2020.

Alternate weekly collections would mean most households had their recycling collected one week, and their non-recyclable rubbish collected the next week, and would bring us into line with the way waste is collected in most of the rest of England, Wales, and Scotland.

## **Who would be affected by the changes?**

Under the proposal the majority of residents would have their general waste collected every fortnight, however many town centre areas would continue with weekly collections of refuse, especially where there is limited space, for instance block of flats or areas with limited frontage.

## **Would my collection days change?**

For almost all residents your refuse and recycling would be collected on the same weekday as now. For example if your current bin day is a Tuesday then your recycling would be collected on Tuesday one week and your refuse would be collected the following Tuesday.

Collection days may change for a small number of residents and we would let you know individually and with plenty of notice if your collection day were to change.

## **Why do we need to change our waste services?**

We all need to do more to help the environment, like increasing the amount we recycle and reducing our non-recyclable waste. Eastbourne residents currently recycle almost 35% of their waste, against a national target of 50%, and we will need to build on this in order to meet the national target of 60% by 2030 proposed in the Environment Bill.

Recycling is not the whole answer though and local authorities across the country need to find ways to deliver their services in more environmentally-friendly and more cost-effective ways. Alternate Weekly Collections would mean fewer waste collection vehicles travelling fewer miles, and would help the council meet its financial targets as well as helping us get to Net Zero Carbon by 2030.

At least 4 out of 5 UK local authorities now collect non-recyclable waste fortnightly (or less often). In all the areas offering fortnightly refuse collections, non-recyclable waste has reduced significantly, and recycling rates have increased.

## **When might the changes happen?**

These changes will be considered by Eastbourne cabinet in February 2021, and if councillors approve the proposals then the changes would start being implemented in spring 2021.

### **Are you going to change any other collections like recycling or garden waste?**

Mixed Recycling collections will continue every fortnight, and no changes are being proposed to the Garden Waste service, the sharps and clinical waste collection service, or the bulky waste service.

### **I already fill up my general waste bin, how will I manage with extra waste?**

An East Sussex County Council survey of bins shows that over 25% per cent of the rubbish in our general waste bins could have been recycled. Recycling more waste will help reduce the amount of non-recyclable rubbish in the general waste bin. If you have a large household (5+ adults) you can also request a larger bin.

### **I have children in nappies what can I do about the extra waste and smell?**

Please put all used nappies in a sealed bag, such as a nappy sack, before putting them in your rubbish bin. You can also consider using modern re-useable nappies, more information is available from the “Go Real!” real nappy information service at [facebook.com/GoRealNappyInfo](https://facebook.com/GoRealNappyInfo)

### **I struggle to move my full bin to the edge of my property, what can I do?**

We offer assisted collections to anybody who, due to a disability, medical reasons or other reasons, is unable to move their bin to the kerbside for collection.

If we already provide you with assisted collections you don't need to do anything – your assisted collections will continue. Otherwise you can apply for assisted collections at [lewes-eastbourne.gov.uk/bins](https://lewes-eastbourne.gov.uk/bins)

### **Some areas have limited space for bins, won't rubbish pile up and make the town less attractive?**

We have carried out an audit of all flats in Eastbourne to assess bin capacity and we know that some flats, houses of multiple occupancy (HMOs) and town centre residents would need extra bins but may not have space.

We will be writing to all the affected properties with separate arrangements depending on the premises, which will ensure that all residents' household waste can be collected in a tidy manner.

Part of the purpose of the consultation is to make sure we are considering all the areas where this might be an issue and we will be open to suggestions and feedback during 12 week consultation.

### **My household generates a lot of food waste, what can I do to avoid smells?**

More than 60% of the food thrown away in the UK is from buying, cooking, or preparing more than we need and could be avoided. This means that many of us can cut down our waste at the same time as saving money on our shopping. For lots of useful ideas on minimising food waste, portion planning, and recipes for leftovers, take a look at the national Love Food Hate Waste campaign website [lovefoodhatewaste.com](https://lovefoodhatewaste.com)

### **Are you going to offer separate collections of food waste?**

Separate food waste collections are not a part of this consultation.

The Environment Bill indicates that food waste collections may be required in future, and we await the outcome of government consultations (expected in 2022), as well as government guidance and funding availability.

### **Aren't I entitled to weekly rubbish collections?**

There is no statutory requirement to collect household rubbish on a weekly basis. The system of alternate weekly waste collection has now been taken up by over 80% of local authorities in the UK and has helped to increase recycling in all these areas.

### **Will my council tax change because of changes to waste collections?**

Your council tax pays for a range of services including Sussex Police, East Sussex Fire and Rescue, East Sussex County Council (social care and children's services). Eastbourne Borough Council receives 12% of your council tax to pay for services such as support for the homeless and help for the most vulnerable in the community. A small proportion of this goes towards waste collections, and future adaptations to waste and recycling collections would not mean any change to your council tax bill.

### **What does this mean for the team who empty my bin? Are their jobs at risk?**

Staff and the trade union will be involved throughout the consultation process and will be involved with any changes. We expect there to be no compulsory redundancies as a result of these changes.

### **How long will I have to wait between rubbish collections at Christmas?**

Almost all residents would have normal collections over the Christmas and New Year period and no residents would have to wait more than four weeks between refuse collections over Christmas.

### **If I forget to put my bin out will I have to wait 2 weeks for my next collection?**

If you forget to present your bin and you don't have enough room to wait for your next collection, you can take excess rubbish to the Household Waste Recycling Site on St Philips Avenue.

## **General FAQs about our current waste collections**

### **Where should I put my bins for collection?**

Please ensure that your bin(s) are put out at the edge of your property by 7am on the day of collection (collection times may vary).

### **How will I know what I can recycle?**

You can check the types of items which can be recycled in your green household recycling bin online at [lewes-eastbourne.gov.uk/WhatGoesInMyBin](http://lewes-eastbourne.gov.uk/WhatGoesInMyBin)

A wider range of items can be recycled at the Household Waste Recycling Site on St Philips Avenue, and you can find where to recycle other items at [recyclenow.com/local-recycling](https://recyclenow.com/local-recycling)

**What if I have too much recycling to fit in my green bin?**

If you squash and crush your recycling as much as possible and you still frequently run out of space in your green bin, you can request an additional one online at [lewes-eastbourne.gov.uk/NewBin](https://lewes-eastbourne.gov.uk/NewBin)

**How do I report a missed collection?**

Please report a missed collection online at [lewes-eastbourne.gov.uk/MissedBin](https://lewes-eastbourne.gov.uk/MissedBin)