

Implementation of Three-Weekly Black Bin Collections

There will be No change in the collection frequency of recycling and garden waste

- The amount of waste we recycle has not been increasing, but the amount of waste going into black bins has been. So North Somerset Council (NSC) has been researching ways to improve recycling performance. There has been a call for increased bin capacity and easier ways to sort recycling .
- NSC spend £5 million a year disposing of black bin waste, with households generating some 90,000 tonnes of waste, of which 40,000 tonnes is put in black bins. 18,000 tonnes of this black bin waste - a staggering 45% of the total - could have been recycled – and generated an income.
- Black bin waste disposal costs are currently £138 per tonne. Every ‘quality sorted’ tonne of recycled waste earns £30 per tonne. The 18000 tonnes of black bin waste, if it could had been recycled, it would have saved £1.1 million that could have helped fund vital local services.
- We *have* to get back to better recycling and this is the impetus that will make three-weekly black bin collections successful and profitable - as evidenced by neighbouring Councils. The key is ‘quality’ kerbside sorting, which will aid speedier collection and ‘best prices’ for recycled items.
- After 15 years of food waste collection, **27%** of black bin content has been found to be **food waste** and **half** of this was **unopened! Recycled food waste earns NSC £22 per tonne: if put in our black bins it costs £138 per tonne to dispose of.** Proper food recycling saves NSC £160 per tonne.
- The switch from a fortnightly to a three-weekly collection of black bin waste will mean routes being re-designed, re-training for collection operatives, and a change in your collection day. The new service will not apply to properties with different collection arrangements. NSC contractors will use specially purposed recycling vehicles to manage the ‘quality sorted’ kerbside collections.
- Collection of soft plastic and metal food wrappings from kerbsides will be introduced, for which large capacity recycling bags will be provided. The new bag has been trialed; it has a velcro lid and a weighted base to ensure that neither it nor its contents get blown away by the wind.
- NSC will provide help for households, to reduce their waste and recycle as much as they can. They will also help with flats and communal properties that are moving to a three-weekly collections.
- There will be support for those with **medical or other household needs**, with a simplified process for requesting additional waste capacity. A new app is being developed for residents to use in connection with NSC related needs, including the streamlining of waste collection management.
- Plastic such as damaged waste collection boxes will still need to be taken to recycling centres.
- To encourage increased recycling comparative measurement of waste achievements by parishes may result in community awards for excellence being a possible result of successful efforts!