

Waste Transcript

Jane Scott : When Wiltshire council was launched in 2009, one of its key priorities was to invest in a new and improved waste and recycling service for all local residents. The waste service impacts on every household and you have told us that you want to recycle more – particularly from your homes and that you want this service to include cardboard and plastics bottles.

We also know that we need to divert waste from going to landfill sites. We need to do this to protect the environment and to reduce the payments that we have to make on landfill tax – the more waste we send to landfill the more we are fined.

Our aim is to reduce the amount of waste going to landfill to less than 25 percent and to increase the amount we recycle from the current level of 40 per cent of all our waste to 50 per cent in the next 3 years.

This is vital for our local environment and its key priority for Wiltshire Council.

Linda : Fundamentally, there are four major changes that we are making. First of all we will be collecting cardboard and plastic bottles from the kerbside and this is something we have been working towards for a very long time. We are able to recycle them and to get a better recycling rate, rather than go to landfill. The second is an opt-in green garden waste facility, which means that people who have gardens and want to dispose of their green waste can do so by sending it to composting, but this is an opt-in service and anybody who wants to have this facility is required to let us know so that we can deliver them the appropriate container. And then there will be fortnightly collects of the residual household waste, which will go to landfill, made possible because of the extra recycling facilities that are available.

Martin : Changes begin with the plastic bottles and cardboard collections. They'll start in the north of the county from October 2011, we'll then move on to the West and the East parts of the county in November, ensuring that all of our residents have got plastic bottle and cardboard collections in good time for Christmas. We will then begin the opt-in non-chargeable garden waste collections in the New Year of 2012 starting in north commencing February and then moving to the other areas from March. The fortnightly collections of refuse will begin in the north in the February 2012 and in the south in March 2012.

We think the majority of families should be able to cope with the new services, given the extra recycling service that we're going to be providing. However, if a family is concerned about it, contact the council and we'll work with them to make sure they're making full use of the new services. But where we agree that additional capacity is required, we'll look to provide it.