

PROPOSED CHANGES TO HOUSEHOLD WASTE AND RECYCLING COLLECTIONS INFORMATION AND RESPONSE FORM

Pembrokeshire County Council
Cyngor Sir Penfro



▪ WHY ARE CHANGES BEING CONSIDERED?

Pembrokeshire County Council undertakes a review of its household waste and recycling collection arrangements every seven years, when the current vehicles need replacing.



We need to make sure that when we buy new vehicles they will last us for another seven years or more.

With the arrangements we currently have in place we had been managing to recycle about 65% of our waste in Pembrokeshire. This meant that Pembrokeshire was the second best performing county in Wales, and Wales was the third best country in the world, so we were doing really well.

BUT things are changing. The amount we are recycling has dropped to under 60% because we are no longer able to recycle certain types of wood. There have also been some operational issues with how we dispose of black bags which has meant we have not been able to recover the recycling within this stream.

At the same time, Welsh Government has imposed tough recycling targets on every County in Wales. They require us to recycle 64% of our waste by 2019 and 70% of our waste by 2024.

If we don't meet the targets, Welsh Government has the power to fine the county. For every one percent under target there is a potential fine of £140,000, which will mean we have less money to invest in providing local services for the people of Pembrokeshire.



Therefore to address these issues Pembrokeshire County Council has undertaken a review of Waste Services over the last 12 months to ensure that the service provided by the Council will enable us to meet the Welsh Government targets in the future. The proposals outlined below and the vehicles we purchase will be the system in place when the 70% target is implemented in 2024.

▪ WHAT ARE THE PROPOSED CHANGES TO HOUSEHOLD WASTE AND RECYCLING COLLECTIONS?

The Waste Service Review has made the following recommendations for change.

1. The introduction of a weekly kerbside sort recycling service for Pembrokeshire and to expand the range of recycling materials accepted to include plastic tubs, trays and pots and beverage and food cartons.
2. The introduction of a three-weekly black bag collection with a limit of three bags per household (equating to one per week), with additional bulky Absorbent Hygiene Product (AHP) collections, and an appropriate exception policy.

▪ WHAT IS KERBSIDE SORT?

Kerbside sort simply means that the householder is sorting the different materials before they are placed out for collection.

You will also be able to recycle a greater range of materials at home. We will continue to collect recycling on a weekly basis and we hope that it will be easier for everyone to use.

Under kerbside sort you will still have containers for **Food Waste** and **Glass** but you will also have an additional container for **Mixed Plastics (Bottles, Tubs, Pots and Trays) and Tins and Cans** and one for **Paper**. There are a number of different containment systems available, which will be suitable for different types of properties.



By increasing the range of recycling you should be able to recycle 75% of an average household's waste which means there will be less to go in the black bag.

It also means that we will be able to reduce the process of sorting through what is put in orange bags after it has been collected. This will help to improve the quality of recycling and reduce costs.

▪ WILL WE BE ABLE TO RECYCLE MORE MATERIALS?

Yes, kerbside sort will allow householders to recycle a wider range of materials, including plastics pots, tubs and trays, and beverage and food cartons. This should make the scheme easier to understand. It will also reduce what goes into your black bag.



▪ WE HAVEN'T BEEN ABLE TO RECYCLE SO MUCH IN THE PAST, WHAT'S CHANGED?

It hasn't always been cost effective to collect a wider range of recycling in the past because Pembrokeshire has been a long way from processing plants, the cost of transport has been too great and the markets weren't sustainable. However processing plants are now being developed closer to home, so it has become a viable option.

QUESTION 1. Do you accept that recycling in Pembrokeshire needs to change? (please tick one only)

☐ Yes

☐ No

☐ Don't know / not sure

QUESTION 2. Do you find the proposal to introduce a weekly kerbside sort collection in Pembrokeshire acceptable or unacceptable? (please tick only one)

☐ Acceptable

☐ Neither

☐ Unacceptable

☐ Don't know / not sure

QUESTION 3. There are a number of different containment systems available, which will be suitable for different circumstances. These include trolley / stack box systems, reusable sacks etc. These will be provided in addition to existing food waste containers. Do you think your household will have any difficulties in using the system? (please tick only one)

☐ Yes

☐ No

☐ Don't know / not sure

QUESTION 3a. If yes, please briefly outline any concerns you have about weekly kerbside sort collections below

▪ WHAT ABOUT BLACK BAG COLLECTIONS?

We will retain a household collection of black bags. The collection will be restricted to three black bags per household every three weeks.

There will be a number of exceptions to this, including exceptions for larger households.

Remember that if you take advantage of the increased opportunities to recycle which will be provided you will have less to put in your black bag. It also means that there shouldn't be anything in your black bag to attract vermin.

▪ WILL BLACK BAGS STILL BE ACCEPTED AT CIVIC AMENITY SITES?

Yes, black bags will still be accepted at Civic Amenity Sites but, if the new scheme were to be introduced, it would no longer be a case of simply putting black bags in the skip. You will be required to extract any recycling from the black bag into the correct container.

▪ WHY NOT HAVE RECYCLING COLLECTIONS LESS FREQUENTLY?

75% of household waste will be recyclable under the new scheme. This will be collected on a weekly basis. Only 25% of household waste will remain in the black bag, so households will be required to store less waste, as you will only need to store 25% for three weeks.

▪ WHAT ABOUT NAPPIES AND INCONTINENCE PRODUCTS?



We would have an additional separate collection service for nappies, incontinence products etc.

This would be done through a new bulky Absorbent Hygiene Product (AHP) service. This would mean that these products would be collected separately for recycling. At present it is not possible to recycle them as they are mixed in with general black bag waste.

Customers would need to register to receive the service, which will be provided free of charge.



▪ WHAT ABOUT LARGER HOUSEHOLDS?

There would be an exception on the number of bags that can be placed out for larger households. Customers would need to register to receive this service, which would be provided free of charge.

▪ SOME OLDER / DISABLED PEOPLE / THOSE WITH STEPS ETC MIGHT NOT BE ABLE TO MANAGE A STACK BOX SYSTEM – WHAT ARRANGEMENTS WOULD BE PUT IN PLACE FOR THEM?

A variety of different types of containers would be available to suit different people and properties.

The current Assisted Collection service would also be retained. The Assisted Collection service is for those who could not manage to put their recycling and waste out on the kerbside and have no one to assist them in doing so. Customers register for the service, which is provided free of charge.



▪ WHAT ABOUT PET WASTE?

If dog waste is collected while out and about it can be disposed of in street litter bins. If pet waste is accumulated at home it could be put, along with any pet litter, into your black bag. Options for alternative disposal methods include the use of pet waste digesters and wormeries.

▪ COMMUNAL COLLECTION POINTS – HOW WOULD THOSE COLLECTING KNOW WHOSE BAGS WERE WHOSE?

In a number of places, recycling and collection material is piled up together in a single spot for collection.

In this instance we will need to look at a system which allows customers to make sure that their recycling and waste can be distinguished from that of their neighbours. There are a number of solutions, including the issuing of labels.

▪ WHAT ABOUT FLATS / HOUSES OF MULTIPLE OCCUPATION?



Recycling and waste from flats and houses of multiple occupation is often piled up together in a single spot for collection. Storage in flats and houses of multiple occupation is also often limited.

Flats and houses of multiple occupation are very different in different towns across the county, so we are not expecting that a one size fits all solution will work here.

We will work with landlords, residents and residents' groups to develop solutions for those living in flats and houses of multiple occupation.

QUESTION 4. Evidence shows that by increasing the range of recycling and introducing a bulky Absorbent Hygiene Product (AHP) collection service, the average household will only have 25% of their household waste in their black bags. Do you find the proposal to restrict black bag collections to three per household every three weeks acceptable or unacceptable? (please tick only one)

☐ Acceptable

☐ Neither

☐ Unacceptable

☐ Don't know / not sure

QUESTION 5. Please briefly outline any concerns you have about restricted three weekly collections of black bags

QUESTION 6. Do you find the proposal to introduce an additional separate bulky Absorbent Hygiene Product (AHP) service for the collection of nappies and incontinence products from qualifying households acceptable or unacceptable? (please tick only one)

☐ Acceptable

☐ Neither

☐ Unacceptable

☐ Don't know / not sure

QUESTION 7. Please briefly outline any concerns you have about an additional separate bulky Absorbent Hygiene Product (AHP) service

▪ WILL IT BE EXPENSIVE TO INTRODUCE THE NEW SYSTEM?

The new scheme will require some capital investment, which Welsh Government would help towards.

In addition to new lorries and containers etc, kerbside sort would also require additional employees to operate. The authority should be able to save money on this service in the long term, through reduced sorting costs and lower vehicle running costs.

Also by improving our recycling performance we minimise the risk for incurring fines by failing to meet Welsh Government Statutory recycling targets.



▪ WHAT ABOUT HOLIDAY MAKERS?



The scheme is for domestic properties only.

Any properties where an income is generated through rental for holiday purposes will need to arrange for trade waste collections.

These are available from the Council and other suppliers.

▪ WHAT ABOUT FLY-TIPPING?

On the information available there is no evidence to show a long term increased in flytipping. Fly-tipping is a criminal offence and we would look, as we currently do, to work with communities to identify and prosecute offenders.

▪ ARE YOU LOOKING AT ENFORCEMENT?

Yes, the Council is in the process of introducing an enforcement scheme. However, the first response would be to engage and educate, with enforcement as a last resort. People in Pembrokeshire need to work together to ensure that those who continually fail to contribute are discouraged from continuing to do so.

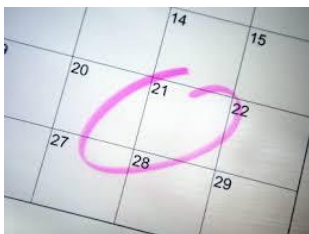
▪ ARE MANUFACTURERS / RETAILERS BEING PRESSURISED TO PRODUCE / SELL GOODS WITH LESS PACKAGING?

The over-packaging of materials is a global issue, which the Council and Welsh Government could lobby on but have limited direct influence. However, the plastic bag charge scheme has worked well and Welsh Government is considering a plastic bottle return scheme.



In other areas, where similar schemes to the kerbside sort are already up and running, consumers have taken matters into their own hands by refusing to accept excess packaging from retailers when buying goods.

▪ WHAT'S THE TIMESCALE?



The public consultation period will end in early 2018.

We will take the findings to our Policy and Pre-Decision Overview & Scrutiny Committee in February 2018. The Committee will consider the findings of the consultation and Integrated Impact Assessment and make a recommendation for decision makers.

If a decision is taken to go ahead it is likely the scheme would start in late 2018 / early 2019.

QUESTION 8. Please use this space to put forward any alternatives to our proposals or to make any further comments

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ABOUT YOU

QUESTION 9. Are you responding as? (please tick only one)

- ☐ An individual
☐ A Council employee or County Councillor
☐ A representative of a local business or organisation (please specify)

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QUESTION 10. Please enter the first five letters and numbers of your postcode

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Why do we ask these questions? www.pembrokeshire.gov.uk/equalities/why-do-we-ask-equality-questions

QUESTION 11. Are you? (please tick only one)

- ☐ Male
☐ Female
☐ Prefer not to say

QUESTION 12. Are you? (please tick only one)

- ☐ Aged 24 or under
☐ 25 – 64
☐ 65 – 74
☐ Aged 75 or over
☐ Prefer not to say

QUESTION 13. Are your day-to-day activities limited because of a health problem or disability which has lasted, or is expected to last, at least 12 months? (please tick only one)

- ☐ Yes
☐ No
☐ Prefer not to say

QUESTION 14. Do you provide regular, unpaid, substantial care for a relative, friend or neighbour who is unable to manage at home without help because of sickness, age or disability? (please tick only one)

- ☐ Yes
☐ No
☐ Prefer not to say

QUESTION 15. In which language do you prefer to communicate? (please tick only one)

☐ English

☐ Welsh

☐ Prefer not to say

Other, please specify

QUESTION 16. What is your ethnic group? (please tick only one)

☐ White (Welsh, English, Scottish, Irish, British)

☐ Other White, including Gypsy or Irish Traveller

☐ Mixed / multiple ethnic groups

☐ Asian / Asian British

☐ Black / African /Caribbean / Black British

☐ Any other ethnic group (please specify)

☐ Prefer not to say

QUESTION 17. Please use this space to tell us about any other protected characteristics you share should you wish to

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Once complete, please return to surveys@pembrokeshire.gov.uk or post to: Pembrokeshire County Council, Policy, 2D County Hall, Haverfordwest, SA61 1TP

The closing date for responses is Monday 15th January 2018