

Have your say on the future of garden waste collections



- Chargeable collections from April 2018?
- Only residents who use the service would pay
- Options to extend or reduce the collection period

Why do we need to change the way we deal with garden waste?

Government cuts mean we can no longer fund a free collection service.

We've offered free garden waste collections to our residents since 2009. This now costs the council more than £770,000 each year and we just can't afford that.



Continued reductions in Government funding mean we have less to spend and must make decisions about the services we provide.

Garden waste is not presented regularly by every household. More than half of councils now charge for collections. They haven't seen a big drop in their recycling rates or seen increased flytipping.

We are proposing an annual charge of £35 based on the current 18 collections a year.

You will have an opportunity to influence this during the consultation, with options to increase the number of collections, or reduce them if residents want to pay less for fewer collections.

What we won't do is make a profit from garden waste collections. The charge in future years will reflect the costs and could even reduce if large numbers of people subscribe.

Introducing a small charge for the service means only those residents using it would fund the costs. We think that's fairer than having all residents pay through their Council Tax.

What would this mean for me?



If the scheme goes ahead, you would need to pay a charge of between £32 - £41 per year to have your green bin emptied in 2018. The charge will depend upon how you vote in the consultation and the service that the majority of residents want us to deliver.

The proposed charge is optional; you would only pay if you wanted to use the service.

Whatever the outcome, you will still be able to take garden waste to any of Lincolnshire County Council's household waste recycling centres (HWRCs) or compost at home.

If we were to introduce chargeable green waste collections, here's a summary of how it will work:

Households Opting in

Proposed charges would begin April 2018.

Only residents who want the service would need to pay.

Residents could sign up and pay from late 2017.

No limit on number of bins per household, although there would be a charge for each bin.

You can share a bin with a neighbour. The bin will be charged to one resident and be collected from that property.

Households Opting out

Collections would be opt in, not opt out.

No need to contact us, but your collections would cease.

Subsidised composters would still be available to all residents.

Garden waste can still be taken to all Lincolnshire HWRCs for free.

Garden waste is not allowed in your black or blue bins.

Why doesn't my council tax pay for garden waste collection?

We simply cannot afford to go on delivering this service with our current budget.

Collecting and transporting garden waste now costs us more than £770,000 a year and a processing fee is also paid to sites that do the composting.

Our share of the Council Tax only pays for half of all the services we provide. The rest comes from business rates, rents, interest on investments and Government grants.

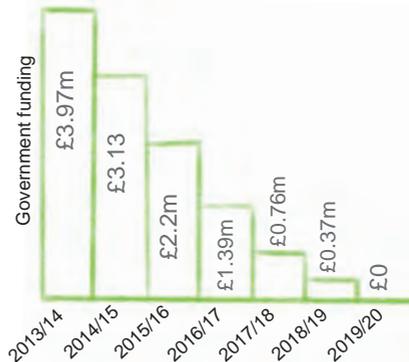
Like all councils, we've relied heavily on Government funding, but this is now £4.66 million per year less than in 2010. This means we have £119 less per household to deliver services than when 'free' garden waste collections began.

We're proud to have achieved savings and efficiencies whilst maintaining a high quality waste collection service. We have the highest recycling rate in Lincolnshire and one of the best in the country. Our customer satisfaction rates are more than 90%.

We deliver all waste services for just over £1 per household, per week. We've kept our costs down by embracing technology and generating income by doing things like collecting business waste. We've won national awards for our outstanding service and value for money. We need to do more though.

In 2019 our revenue support grant will stop altogether and we have to find an additional £2 million savings by then.

West Lindsey's Government funding cuts



So where does my council tax go?

Whats next, paying for my refuse collections?

West Lindsey District Council keeps less than one eighth of council tax. The rest is paid to organisations like the County Council, Police and Fire. We only keep around £200 per D band household from the £1,580 or so that we collect.

It is used to undertake certain duties required by law such as emptying household waste and recycling bins. We've invested in other areas important to you such as street cleaning, public protection services housing and planning.

We have limited choices in how we cut costs and save or raise money. Big spending areas like schools, hospitals and street lighting are not in our control and the Government sets how many Councillors we have.

We'd never charge separately to collect your black or blue bins, but garden waste collection is an optional service that can't be used by all households. In hard times it seems unfair for those without gardens, who may live in less affluent areas, to subsidise others.

The Council must prepare a balanced budget. We can't spend more than we have. It's the law. So we have to make some tough choices.

A chargeable garden waste service is designed to be self-funding and ensure that only residents that want the service have to pay for it. The alternative is a big hike in Council Tax for everyone.

Your annual Council Tax is made up of many different payments and pays for many different things, not just your refuse collection.



Your questions

Will I have to pay?

No, the service would be optional - only residents who use their green bin would need to pay. If you prefer, you can use the County Council's household waste recycling centres for free or compost at home.

How would I pay?

The easiest way would be to visit our website. You would be able to pay on-line from January 2018. Let us know how you would like to pay by completing the consultation.

I don't want to pay. Will I be able to keep my green bin?

Yes, you'd be encouraged to keep it at your property.

Can I put garden waste in my black bin?

No. Garden waste is not allowed in your black bin.

Could I share a bin with my neighbour?

Yes. This would be a good idea for many residents with small gardens. The bin would be charged to one resident and collected from that property only.

How will you know who has paid?

An identification sticker would be supplied to residents who have subscribed to stick to their bin(s). Crews can then easily see who has paid. They would also have electronic records in their vehicles.

Would there be an increase in fly-tipping due to charging for this service?

The majority of local authorities in this country already charge for garden waste but so far there is no evidence of increased fly-tipping as a result. We'd continue to monitor and prosecute offenders.

**For the full list of FAQ's please visit
www.west-lindsey.gov.uk/gardenwasteconsultation**



Over to you...

We're asking for your views on potential changes to the kerbside garden waste collection service, which currently runs from the start of April to the end of November.

Only one of these proposals would be implemented and unfortunately, a 'free' service is not an option.

What are the options for changes?

1 Fortnightly collections from April to October (inclusive)

- 16 collections each year.
- Over 85% of garden waste produced between April and October.
- Reducing collections allows cheaper subscription, delivers service in most popular months
- Charge of £32 per bin needed to fund service*

2 Fortnightly collections from April to November (inclusive)

- As now, with 18 collections each year.
- Service shuts in months with least garden waste.
- More cost effective. Lorries not passing homes with no garden waste.
- Charge of £35 per bin needed to fund service.*

3 Fortnightly collections from March to November (inclusive)

- 20 collections per year
- Much less garden waste in winter, but some residents have told us they'd like collections to start earlier.
- Charge of £38 per bin needed to fund service.*

4 Fortnightly collections from April to November (inclusive) plus monthly in remaining months

- 22 collections each year
- Much less garden waste in winter, but some residents have told us they'd value a collection.
- Charge of £41 per bin needed to fund service.*

For more detail on the proposals go to www.west-lindsey.gov.uk/gardenwasteconsultation

*Charges based on estimated 50% of households paying for service

Tell us what you think

**You've heard why we need to make savings.
Now, your chance to have your say.**

Please tell us how you use the garden waste service at the moment and your opinions on the proposed changes. Your feedback will be used by Councillors as they decide how the service will operate.

You can complete the consultation and add your comments online by visiting www.west-lindsey.gov.uk/gardenwasteconsultation You'll find further information and more answers to FAQ's there too.

Alternatively, just visit your local library where copies of the consultation and supporting material are available.

Consultation closes 19 November 2017

Come and talk to us

A Waste Manager will be available at our council offices one afternoon each week during October. We'll be at Gainsborough every Tuesday afternoon and Market Rasen every Friday afternoon. We'll also be attending libraries and village halls across the district so you have a chance to find out more about the proposals, ask questions and tell us your views.

For a full list of dates go to www.west-lindsey.gov.uk/gardenwasteconsultation



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