

Chairman's Announcements

Subject:

Recycling success means mini recycling sites are no longer needed

Summary of announcement:

The success of Wiltshire's kerbside collection of plastic bottles, cardboard, paper, cans, textiles, glass bottles and garden waste has led to a review of the county's mini-recycling sites.

Households across Wiltshire recycled more than 68,000 tonnes last year through the kerbside collections, including garden waste. 36,000 tonnes of this came from the black box and blue lidded bin collections meaning the smaller recycling sites in the county are now used very little – less than 3,000 tonnes is expected to be collected through the mini recycling sites this year.

Since the introduction of the new kerbside collections there has been a sharp fall in the amount of waste being taken to mini recycling sites, such as those in car parks. As a result, the remaining 126 mini-recycling sites in Wiltshire will be removed, with the money saved by reducing this service duplication being ploughed back into vital council services.

Signs informing people about the proposed changes will be displayed from early April, and the sites will close from 5 May. Recycling bins will be removed from the site before the end of May.

Any households without a blue lidded plastic bottle and cardboard bin or a black recycling box, can obtain one by contacting the council. Households can also have up to two black recycling boxes for recycling paper, glass, cans and textiles. On occasions where households have more recyclables than can fit into two black boxes, we ask that the extra materials are separated out into carrier bags and placed out for collection alongside the black box (mixed materials may not be collected). Anyone who feels they do not have space for extra bins or boxes can contact the council to discuss alternatives.

The key messages are:

- All mini recycling sites in Wiltshire will close on 5 May 2014 and the bins will be removed from the sites shortly afterwards.
- The sites collect materials that we already collect through the black box kerbside service. It is therefore a *duplication* of service.
- The use of these sites has declined dramatically over recent years, as the council has invested in more kerbside collections – we collected 36,000 tonnes of dry recyclables through the kerbside services last year, compared with less than 3,000 tonnes collected via the mini recycling centres.
- Householders can have up to two black boxes for their glass bottles and jars, newspapers, magazines and telephone directories, food and drinks cans and textiles. Any excess recycling can be placed out in carrier bags (one material type per carrier

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bag please – mixed materials may not be collected). Residents unable to manage black boxes can be offered smaller black baskets with handles.

- Sites will be regularly cleaned after the containers have been removed to manage any littering or flytipping issues that may occur in the short term.