

Household Recycling Centres (HRCs) – changes to operating hours.

We are proposing to change the opening hours of our 11 household recycling centres (HRCs).

All proposals are subject to a final decision on the matter and may therefore be varied before the final decision is made.

The proposed changes will see at least one HRC open on all seven days in each of the four areas (north, east, south and west Wiltshire).

It is proposed that all HRCs will open on Saturday, Sunday, and Monday, which are the days when usage is at its highest, along with two additional week days.

It is also proposed to reduce HRC opening hours to 10am to 4pm.

There are no plans to permanently close any sites.

Any proposed changes are expected to come into operation on 8 June 2015.

Frequently Asked Questions

Why are you changing the opening hours of the HRCs?	Central government has cut the allocation of funding to Wiltshire Council by more than £15m this year. This, combined with the rise in demand for key services, the growth in the number of households, and inflation, means the council has to save £30m. Tough choices have to be made including the review of opening hours of our 11 Household Recycling Centres (HRCs).
When do the changes to HRC operating times start?	It is proposed that new operating hours will be introduced from Monday 8 June 2015.
Why are the operating times changing?	<p>The proposal is that from 8 June 2015 all 11 HRCs will be open for five days each week. This will include Saturday, Sunday and Monday. The proposed new opening times will be 10am to 4pm.</p> <p>It is proposed that each site will be closed for two days during the week on rotation. This means that, under the proposals, at least one HRC will be open in the north, east, south and west of the county every day.</p>
Where can I find the new opening times for my local HRC, and the days it will be closed?	You can check the opening times of all of our HRCs on our website at www.wiltshire.gov.uk Once the final decision on the new opening hours is made they will be clearly advertised on our website and at the individual HRCs.

How did you choose the days that the HRCs will close?	Information about the number of users visiting the sites each day shows that HRCs are used more at weekends, than mid-week. It is proposed that sites will close on the days they are used least.
How much will these changes save?	Should the decision be made to implement the proposals it is expected that the new opening hours will save around £300,000 per year.
Will this affect recycling rates?	<p>The council does not expect a significant reduction in recycling rates as a result of the proposals. Most waste is taken to HRCs at the weekend when it is proposed that all sites will be open. Material that comes in during the proposed new operating times will continue to be separated for recycling. On average, 79%* of the materials brought to HRCs is diverted from landfill.</p> <p>The council will continually monitor recycling rates to understand the impact of any proposed service changes.</p> <p>*data for April-Dec 2014</p>
Will the sites be busier when garden waste collection charges come in?	<p>Before 2012, people in north, east and south Wiltshire paid for garden waste collections. We know how many tonnes of garden waste were taken to these HRCs at that time and have planned to ensure they can take similar amounts of garden waste once the charge comes in.</p> <p>You could sign up for a charged garden waste collection from 1 April 2015 at www.wiltshire.gov.uk/gardenwaste</p> <p>Alternatively you could buy a subsidised food waste digester which will successfully compost garden waste as well as food waste. For details visit: www.wiltshire.gov.uk/rubbishandrecycling/rubbishhomecomposting</p>
What HRC services are the council legally obliged to provide?	The council is required to provide places where its residents can dispose of their household waste free of charge. The number of sites provided is for the council to determine, as are the operating days and times.
Will flytipping increase as a result of the reduced HRC operating times or charging for garden waste?	The council does not expect a significant increase in fly tipping. We hope that most residents will either pay for the new garden waste service, compost at home or continue to use their HRCs. We will continue to monitor the number and nature of fly tipping cases.
Will subsidised home composters still be available?	Yes, the council will continue to offer subsidised food waste digesters which will also compost garden waste. This is a good alternative to paying for a collection or taking garden waste to the household recycling centre. You will also create great compost to use at home. For details visit:

	www.wiltshire.gov.uk/rubbishandrecycling/rubbishhomecomposting
Will I still be able to take garden waste to the household recycling centre?	<p>Yes, you can continue to take your garden waste to any of Wiltshire Council's household recycling centres free of charge. Please check the opening hours of your nearest household recycling centre before visiting. For details: http://www.wiltshire.gov.uk/rubbishandrecycling/rubbishrecycling/rubbishrecyclingcentres The council will continue to offer subsidised food waste digesters which will also compost garden waste. This is a good alternative to paying for a collection or taking garden waste to the household recycling centre. You will also create great compost to use at home. For details visit: www.wiltshire.gov.uk/rubbishandrecycling/rubbishhomecomposting</p>
What is the advice re: bonfires?	<p>The council provides the following advice on bonfires - http://www.wiltshire.gov.uk/communityandliving/publicprotection/pollutionandnoise/airandwaterpollution/bonfiresandsmokepollution.htm</p>
What happens if I can't get to a household recycling centre?	<p>The council offers subsidised food waste digesters which will also compost garden waste. This is a good alternative to taking garden waste to the household recycling centre. You will also create great compost to use at home.</p> <p>There are charities in Wiltshire that will take furniture and some electrical goods for refurbishment.</p> <p>The council also offers a bulky household waste collection service.</p> <p>There is a kerbside collection of many recyclable materials. If you are struggling to cope with the services the council offers please contact the council for further advice.</p>
Have you considered the environmental impact of residents driving further to use an available HRC?	<p>Yes. We hope residents will plan to use their local HRC where possible. We have worked to ensure that the proposed opening hours mean that at least four sites will be open on the quietest day of the week if a journey cannot be rearranged. It is proposed that all sites will be open on Saturdays, Sundays and Mondays.</p>