

Turn your food waste into something useful

A new food waste recycling service is coming to all households in Staffordshire throughout 2026.

This will be happening in all eight Staffordshire districts and boroughs.

Once launched, residents will be able to recycle their food waste every week from home, thanks to a new service we are required to roll out, as part of the government's 'Simpler Recycling' initiative.

This briefing pack provides key information about the initiative, why it is happening, FAQs and ready-to-use promotional tools you can use to help ensure Staffordshire residents are fully aware of the new food waste service and why people should participate.

You can also keep up to date with this additional Information, advice and guidance at staffordshire.gov.uk/foodwaste

Local council food waste service launch timeline

Below is a summary when the food waste kerbside collection service is launching in each Staffordshire district or borough.

Newcastle-under-Lyme	Already live
East Staffordshire	30 March
Stafford	13 April
Cannock	27 April
South Staffordshire	8 June
Staffordshire Moorlands	26 June
Lichfield	TBC
Tamworth	TBC

Note: These dates are subject to change

Why is this happening?

In Staffordshire food waste makes up about half of everyone's household kerbside bin waste.

Our latest Staffordshire Waste Composition Analysis from May 2025 shows:

- 48% of residual (general) waste in Staffordshire is food waste
- That's 3.7kg per household every week
- For a family of four, that's around £1,000 worth of food thrown away every year*
- Much of it could have been eaten

When food is sent to the general waste bin, it's a wasted resource.

* Source: WRAP: The Waste and Resources Action Programme

Unless you compost at home, your food waste goes into your kerbside bin and is sent to an 'energy from waste facility' where it is incinerated.

However, food waste can be recycled in an even more sustainable way.

Separating food waste allows it to be:

- Recycled into renewable energy more efficiently
- Transformed into fertiliser for local farming
- Managed in a way that reduces environmental impact
- Processed through a dedicated system designed specifically for food waste

This service brings all of Staffordshire into line with national recycling requirements and supports a more sustainable waste system.



The benefits in Staffordshire

This isn't just about meeting government mandates; it's about saving the taxpayer money on disposal costs and generating renewable energy and resources for Staffordshire.

Savings

Reducing waste reduces disposal costs for councils. In Staffordshire, reducing food waste could unlock **up to £1 million in savings**, alongside significant environmental benefits.

Reducing food waste generally also **saves residents money too**. Throwing food away costs the average household:

- £260 per person per year*
- £620 per average household*

Seeing the food we often throw away can help us to shop smarter, saving money on food that we do not eat.

* Source: WRAP: The Waste and Resources Action Programme
* Average household of 2.4 people

Recycling Rates

Separating food waste improves recycling performance and reduces pressure on residual waste systems.

Environment

Recycling food waste is more environmentally friendly. Food waste contributes 8–10% of global greenhouse gas emissions. Removing food waste from residual bins reduces emissions.

Practical benefits

It is easy to put food scraps, leftovers, and out of date food in the caddy, which will leave more space in your main residual waste bin. Plus, food waste in the caddy will be collected more often.

How to use your food waste caddy

Once you receive your caddy pack and starter roll of liners, please line your kitchen caddy with a liner and start filling it with your food waste, from the date given to you by your local council.

Then put your filled outdoor caddy out on your normal weekly collection day and make it sure it's visible in front of your bins and bags, and your local waste collection crew will empty it, every week.

Using a caddy is simple

Step 1



Line your kitchen caddy with a liner.

Step 2



Place your food waste, such as any cooked or uncooked food, into your kitchen caddy.

Step 3



When it is full, tie the top of your liner.

Step 4



Place it in your outdoor caddy and put it out for collection on your normal weekly collection day.

What goes in?

Please use your food waste caddies to recycle your:

- Leftovers and plate scrapings
- Fruit, veg, and peelings
- Rice, pasta and beans
- Meat, fish, and bones
- Bread, cakes and biscuits
- Dairy and eggshells
- Teabags and coffee grounds



Common myths about food waste recycling.

Will the food in my bin smell or attract pests?

Not if you tie up the liner and put it regularly into your outdoor caddy. This has a sealable and lockable lid which will stop smells and prevent animals getting in.

What if I don't produce any food waste?

Remember there is no amount too small. Some waste like banana skins, tea bags and plate scrapings are inevitable, and these can all be put into your kitchen caddy.

I don't have space for the kitchen caddy

A lot of people find that keeping it under the sink, next to the kitchen bin or on the work top is practical.

It all goes to the same place anyway!

It doesn't. Food waste is processed separately and turned into renewable energy and nutrient rich fertiliser.



Don't Just Recycle It — Waste Less

Using your caddy is step one. Wasting less food is step two

Across the UK:

- 4.4 million tonnes of food wasted each year could have been eaten *
- Evening meals and fridge "clear-outs" are the biggest sources of waste *

Over the coming months we'll be introducing practical advice inspired by the [Love Food Hate Waste campaign](#) to help you make your food go further. We will also have some videos from Staffordshire residents getting to grips with their new food waste caddies and sharing ideas about wasting less food.

You can keep up to date with this additional information, advice and guidance at staffordshire.gov.uk/foodwaste

* Source: WRAP 2025 stats / BBC Bitesize

Simple ways to waste Less

- ✓ Plan meals before shopping
- ✓ Check the fridge before buying more
- ✓ Freeze leftovers
- ✓ Understand date labels (visit website below)
- ✓ Store fruit and veg correctly (visit website below)



Frequently asked questions

Why is this happening?

This is a national requirement. All councils in England must introduce weekly food waste collections in 2026. The aim is to improve recycling, reduce environmental impact and make better use of food waste across the country.

Who collects and recycles my food waste?

Your local district or borough council manages your bins and collections, while Staffordshire County Council manages the processing of your waste.

When does my food waste collection start?

Your district or borough council will confirm your start date. Links to your local council can be found at staffordshire.gov.uk/foodwaste

Is there an extra charge for food waste collections?

No. There is no additional cost for food waste collections. The service is funded as part of the national waste and recycling system.

How much has this cost the council?

The government has provided the funding for the new trucks and the work to prepare for the new service. They have also provided additional funding to help us run the service.

In fact, if we all play our part in recycling our food waste, this could mean a saving of up to £1 million in savings, alongside significant environmental benefits.

Will the new service cause more emissions?

Recycling food waste separately means far less waste is sent for incineration. Currently around half of household kerbside bin waste would otherwise be burned.

The savings from recycling this food waste far outweigh the emissions from the extra collection vehicles.

In addition, recycling food waste creates renewable energy and fertiliser for farming in Staffordshire or used in local parks, making it a more sustainable option overall.

Why shouldn't food waste go in the kerbside bin anymore?

When food waste is collected separately, it can be recycled in a far more effective way than when it goes into the main kerbside bin.

Separate food waste collections allow:

- Energy to be generated more efficiently.
- Valuable nutrients to be recovered and reused on farms and parks.
- A lower environmental impact than general waste treatment.

By recycling food waste separately, you help make better use of the waste we all create and support a more sustainable approach to waste management.

Are you going to reduce how many times my general waste kerbside bin is emptied?

There are currently no plans to reduce the frequency of regular kerbside bin collections or to change the size of residents' kerbside bins.

Frequently asked questions

What about caddy liners?

You will be provided with liners when you receive your caddy pack from your local council along with instructions about how to re-order more when you need to.

Are you going to reduce how many times my general waste kerbside bin is emptied?

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I already compost at home, so do I still need this?

Yes! Home composting is great for fruit and veg, but your food waste caddy can take things your home compost heap shouldn't, such as cooked leftovers, meat, fish, and bones.

Does it really all get recycled, or is it mixed back in?

It is 100% kept separate. Your food waste is collected by specialist vehicles and delivered to a dedicated processing facility. It is never mixed back with general rubbish.

Will my food waste bin smell or attract pests?

Lots of people across the country already recycle their food waste every week without any problems.

Actually, it's often more hygienic! Because the caddy is collected weekly, (unlike general waste bins), and has a locking handle to seal in odours and keep out animals.

Top tips:

- Tie your liners tightly before placing them in your outdoor caddy.
- Keep your outdoor caddy closed and locked by lifting the handle up.
- Your weekly collections help keep things fresh and odour-free.

What happens if I put the wrong items in my caddy?

If your outdoor caddy is not emptied because it contained the wrong items, please remove the wrong item and put your caddy out again the following week.

What if I forget to put my caddy out?

If you miss a collection, simply put your caddy out again the following week.

I need help with my caddy?

If you struggle to move your bins to the kerbside, and don't have anyone else (aged 16+) living with you, you can apply for an assisted collection from your local council.

What if I live in a flat?

Your local council will provide guidance tailored to your property type.

I have another question not answered here!

We have even more FAQs at:

staffordshire.gov.uk/foodwaste

