

Additional Information – Fly-tipping, Recycling and Litter Picking

General Information

The neighbouring authorities have similar approaches to the main points of fly-tipping, recycling and litter.

Fly-tipping -

Fly-tipping is a serious criminal offence which carries a fine of up to £20,000 (unlimited if indicted to the Crown Court) or an Offender can even be sent to prison. The District Councils endeavour to maintain public open spaces, with private land coming under the responsibility of the landowner. NEW POWERS TO GO ON TO PRIVATE LAND AND REMOVE?

It is important to realise that it is also an offence to permit fly-tipping. Fly-tipping is often associated with dumping waste from vehicles. In this case the person controlling the use of the vehicle can also be prosecuted, which means that it is possible for a prosecution to occur when only the vehicle, not the driver, is identifiable.

The Police also have the powers to seize vehicles used for fly-tipping.

Information for Members of the Public

If you discover fly-tipped waste after the tippers have left, please follow these simple Do's and Dont's:

- Do not touch the waste: fly-tipped waste can be dangerous - it may contain syringes, broken glass, asbestos, toxic chemicals or other hazardous substances.
- Visually inspect the waste: try to determine what the waste consists of and how much there is.
- Take note of its exact location: and also, whether it is in or near water.
- Do not disturb the site: there may be evidence that could help identify the culprits and lead to their prosecution.

If you see someone fly-tipping, If possible, please make a note of:

- The day, date and time you saw the tipping.
- How many people were fly-tipping and what they looked like.
- What they were actually doing any vehicles involved - their make, colour and registration number.
- Where were you when you saw the fly-tipping?
- What kind of view you had?
- How far away you were?
- Weather and light conditions.
- What was tipped?
- How much?
- What it looked like
- Remember - Don't Put Yourself At Risk!

Recycling –

From the Government's Recycle campaign, Members of the public are encouraged to:

- **reduce** their output of waste via various methods, including a reduction in the purchase of disposable items (i.e. tissue, wipes etc.) and stopping junk mail by contacting the Mail Preference Service.
- **re-use** unwanted items by giving to charity shops, or donating furniture to schemes for disadvantaged people.
- **recycle** via their Green Box Scheme, local recycling points and, for larger items, utilisation of the Household Waste Recycling Centres (HWRCs).

In addition, it is made clear that householders must obtain a household waste permit to allow them to take waste to the HWRCs, and this can be arranged from the County Council by applications via an on-line form, via e-mail, application forms obtainable from libraries or asking for an application from one of the HWRCs.

Within the Durham County, there are two organised schemes for recycling. These are:-

Kerb-it - the recycling scheme which is provided by the partnership of Durham County Council, Chester-le-Street District Council, City of Durham Council, Easington District Council and Sedgefield Borough Council.

West Durham Green Box Recycling Scheme – the recycling scheme which is provided by Derwentside District Council, Teesdale District Council and Wear Valley District Council.

Kerb-it

This recycling scheme is operated by *Premier Waste* who also carry out work within the Tyne & Wear area.

The boxes used are collected fortnightly, with all types of permitted recyclable waste going into the "Kerb-it" box.

The types of waste permitted are:-

Newspapers, magazines, junk mail, blue telephone directories, envelopes (except windowed envelopes), catalogues, letters and general paper, plastic bottles- (please remove lids and squash the bottles), clean plastic film e.g toilet roll wrapping and carrier bags- (No film that has come into contact with food), food and drinks cans- (please rinse), glass bottles and jars- (please rinse), any textiles.

The types of waste **not** permitted are:-

Cardboard, yellow pages, plastic wrappers, general household rubbish

Not only have Premier Waste developed a sustainable market for the recyclable materials, they also have a range of products created from the waste that includes renewable fuel pellets (for commercial and domestic burners and larger pellets for open fires), various types of aggregates and soil conditioners.

West Durham Green Box Recycling Scheme

The scheme has green boxes that are collected fortnightly. This is carried out by *Foreman Recycling*. The items that can be recycled are:-

Paper, newspapers (and similar), cardboard packaging (with and plastic wrapping removed and the cardboard cut down and flattened), tins, cans, glass bottles and jars (without lids or tops), clothing and linen (and similar can be placed in a separate "textile sack" provided along with the green box).

Additional sacks are available upon request and additional boxes are available at a charge of £2.00

Roaming Recycler Team

Funded by the Waste and Resources Action Team (WRAP), the Roaming Recycler Team, with their mascot "Gordon" the Green Box Man visit sites across the three partnership districts.

Their aim is to encourage greater participation in the Green Box Recycling Scheme and to promote waste minimisation and recycling through door to door visits, events, talks and interactive games and quizzes on board the Roaming Recycler vehicle.

The team also update barcode information on the green boxes which provides participation information for specific streets and areas. This valuable information will assist the Waste Campaign Officer to target low participation areas, with the aim of encouraging residents to reduce the amount of waste they throw away and to increase what they recycle.

Litter –

The Council is responsible for the sweeping of streets and removal of litter.

The Council's streets are divided into zones, depending on the volume of traffic using the streets each day. The more frequently the road is used, the more often it will be swept.

However, if the visual appearance of an area should deteriorate to an unacceptable level between cleans, it will be cleaned up within a certain time, as laid down in a Litter Code of Practice under the Environmental Protection Act 1990.

Chester-le-Street District Council

Darlington Borough Council

Derwentside District Council

Durham County Council

Easington District Council

Liverpool City Council

In June 2000, Liverpool City Council set up a scheme in connection "Bulky Bobs" (part of the Furniture Resource Centre) to take over the domestic collection of bulky household items. The items are then sorted and those that are fit for re-use are placed for sale at their "Revive" store or at the Heritage Market in Liverpool. If the items can be repaired, they are so by trainee repair staff. This has two beneficial effects, a reduction of landfill waste, and it makes it possible for affordable furniture to be offered for sale to social landlords and financially disadvantaged people.

White goods, such as fridge and washing machines etc., are dealt with similarly, with the collection being dealt with by Bulky Bobs and the repair and reconditioning being carried out by trainee repair staff at CREATE, Community Recycling and Training.

With such efforts, the scheme has managed a recycling and diversion rate of 37%, with the funds for this coming from the Council's Waste Management Budget with an additional amount coming from a regeneration fund. This takes the place of the Council's function for the removal of bulky waste items, and the money generated from the scheme via the sale of the reconditioned goods goes back into the Bulky Bob and CREATE companies to generate more training opportunities and help expansion of the scheme.

Sedgefield Borough Council

Teesdale District Council

Teesdale District Council operate a similar scheme to Wear Valley (with "Gordon" the Green Box Man), though without barcodes on their boxes, and using a green box, black box and a blue sack to differentiate between differing types of waste. As regards commercial waste, this would be directed to the County Council. For unwanted furniture, there is a contact for the County Durham Furniture Help Scheme which is a registered charity (see their own section).

Fly-tipping is reported via their

Wear Valley District Council

Wear Valley District Council list a three point strategy on their website of Reduce, Reuse and Recycle.

Members of the public are encouraged to:

- **reduce** their output of waste via various methods, including a reduction in the purchase of disposable items (i.e. tissue, wipes etc.) and stopping junk mail by contacting the Mail Preference Service.
- **reuse** unwanted items by giving to charity shops, or donating furniture to schemes such as the Woodhouse Close Furniture Project.
- **recycle** via their Green Box Scheme, local recycling points and, for larger items, utilisation of the Household Waste Recycling Centres.

Commercial Waste

Wear Valley District Council do not collect or process commercial waste.

Litter

Litter ranges in size from a cigarette end, to a bag full of rubbish. The Environmental Protection Act of 1990 states that if a person drops, throws, deposits, or leaves anything that causes defacement in a public place, they are committing a littering offence. There are hundreds of litter bins in the Wear Valley District. Each bin is emptied to a minimum of once per week and can take bagged dog waste and litter. Also it has been shown that attractive, well cared for environments are less prone to vandalism and graffiti.