

London Borough of Bexley

News Release

For Immediate Release

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NEW FOOD AND GARDEN WASTE SERVICES START IN BEXLEY

Residents in Bexley will begin to receive their new food only recycling box from this week. Every household in the Borough will automatically get a food recycling box and a leaflet explaining the new service by 4 October.

Your old food and garden waste brown bin will be removed when the new food recycling box is delivered and free weekly food only recycling collections will start. This will happen on one of your normal collection days in September. Residents should leave their brown bin out for collection as usual each week during this period.

Garden waste will no longer be collected from households once they get the new food recycling box unless they have signed up for the chargeable garden waste service.

Those who have already signed up for the chargeable garden waste service will start to get their new bigger garden waste bin from this week. Fortnightly garden waste collections will start as soon as the new bin arrives, on the opposite week to the green bin collection. In total there will be 25 collections of garden waste a year with no service over Christmas and New Year.

Residents who choose not to use the new chargeable service can either home compost their garden waste, or take it free of charge to one of Bexley's two reuse and recycling centres. Limited numbers of reuseable bags for transporting garden waste will be available to purchase at a cost of £3 each or 2 for £5 from the Civic Offices, Central Library, Bexleyheath, or recycling centres, from 14 September.

Cabinet Member for Community Safety, Environment and Leisure Councillor Peter Craske said: "The roll out of the new free food only recycling service and separate chargeable garden waste service will take place from September. Residents should continue to recycle their waste as normal and changes will automatically be made on one of their collection days during this period. The only action that residents need to take is to sign up for the new chargeable garden waste service if they wish to continue to have their garden waste collected from their home".

Over 25,000 people have already signed up for the new garden waste service. It costs £1.32 per collection, or £1.20 if households take advantage of the £30 discount price which is available for the first year of the service, for those who sign up before

31 December 2015.

New refuse vehicles which can collect food recycling and paper in separate compartments will start to operate in September. Garden waste will be collected in separate refuse vehicles that will only be going to those houses who have signed up for the new service. Green bins which are found to contain garden waste will not be collected. Paper garden waste sacks will no longer be collected once your current brown bin is removed.

Sign up for the new chargeable garden waste service by visiting www.bexley.gov.uk/gws or call 020 8303 7777 and ask for 'garden waste'.

If you would like more information please visit one of the food and garden roadshows which will be running until October. Full details on the roadshows and more information on the changes can be found at www.bexley.gov.uk/foodandgarden.

ENDS

