



NEW!

weekly food waste collections

in Staffordshire



Toolkit 2026



Staffordshire
County Council

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?

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

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



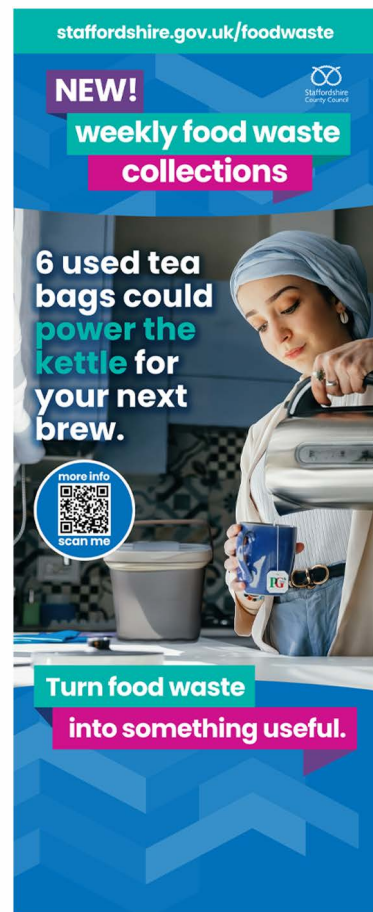
Your ready to use promotional campaign assets

On the following pages you'll find a selection of ready-to-use campaign assets to help engage and inform your audience.

[You can also download them all here.](#)

Download campaign assets >

- Posters and leaflets
- Social media graphics and videos
- Pre-written social media posts
- Newsletter and website copy
- Web banners and graphics



Posters and leaflets

Downloadable print-your-own posters ready to put up around your area in community centres, shops and offices or at other community hubs such as shops, schools, leisure centres can be found here.

[Download assets >](#)

If you'd like to request a supply of our free printed posters or leaflets please email communications@staffordshire.gov.uk



NEW!
weekly food waste collections in Staffordshire

Did you know that almost half of what's in the average household rubbish bin in Staffordshire isn't rubbish at all? It's food! And if collected separately, that food waste can be turned into something really useful here in Staffordshire.

Throughout 2026 a new weekly household food waste recycling service is commencing across Staffordshire to do just that!

Why is this happening?
Instead of being incinerated with general waste, your food waste will be recycled into renewable energy to power our communities and transformed into fertiliser for local farms and open spaces.

What can go in?
You can recycle all types of food waste, cooked or raw, including:

- 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

It's a simple change that makes a real difference. Reducing food waste could also save Staffordshire taxpayers up to £1 million in disposal costs per year.

How it works
There is no need to sign up. Everything you need will be delivered to your door.

Your local District or Borough Council will provide you with:

- A small kitchen caddy
- A larger outdoor caddy
- A starter roll of caddy liners

Get answers to even more frequently asked questions, along with helpful information about managing your household food waste, at:

staffordshire.gov.uk/foodwaste or scan the QR code below.

Turn food waste into something useful.
SCAN ME!
Staffordshire County Council

Newsletter template

We've written up the template opposite for you to use in your communications with residents – feel free to tailor it to your area!

[A Word version of the newsletter copy is available here.](#)

[Download assets >](#)

Headline: Turn your food waste into something useful

Did you know that in Staffordshire, almost half (48%) of what goes in the average general rubbish bin isn't actually rubbish at all? It's food!

From (INSERT MONTH FOR YOUR AREA) 2026 a new weekly food waste recycling service is coming to all households in [INSERT AREA/DISTRICT NAME]. This is part of a county-wide initiative involving all eight Staffordshire districts and boroughs to help us reduce waste, save money, and create renewable energy.

What you need to know

Once your service launches, you will be able to recycle your food waste every week on your normal bin collection day.

There is no need to sign up. Everything you need will be delivered directly to your door. To help you benefit from the service, your local council will provide a small kitchen caddy for your worktop, a larger outdoor caddy (to put out for collection) and a roll of caddy liners.

What happens to your food waste?

Currently when food waste is sent to the general rubbish bin, it is incinerated. By recycling it separately, we can turn it into renewable energy to power our communities and transform it into fertiliser for farms, parks and open spaces. So your leftovers are helping to power homes and support local agriculture.

Reducing food waste could also save Staffordshire taxpayers up to £1 million in disposal costs.

What can go in your caddy?

You can recycle all types of food waste, cooked or raw, including fruit and vegetable peelings. Tea bags and coffee grounds. Leftovers and plate scrapings. Meat, fish and bones. Bread. eggshells and dairy products.

Worried about smells?

Don't be! Your food waste will be collected every week, which is more frequent than your general rubbish collection. The outdoor caddy also comes with a locking handle to keep it secure.

Find out more

Deliveries of the new food caddies will begin soon. For specific start dates for your street and more information on how the service works, please visit: staffordshire.gov.uk/foodwaste. This dedicated website has everything you need to know about the new countywide food waste recycling service, plus FAQs, case studies and information and guidance about how to manage your food waste easily.

Web banners and digital screen graphics

Banners ready to use on your website, or digital screens, can be found here.

Download assets >



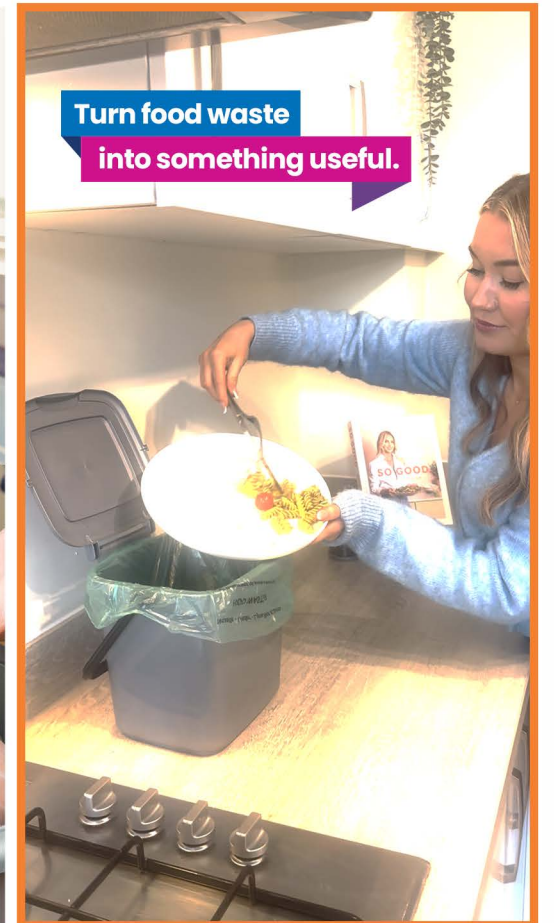
Social media posts and videos

We've put together a selection of ready-to-use posts, social graphics and videos that introduces the new food waste service and answers frequently asked questions about it.

Plus a selection of myth busting posts and videos that covers some common concerns.

Feel free to use them on your social media channels, and when doing so we'd be grateful if you could include the hashtag: **#WasteSavvyStaffs**

[Download assets >](#)



Pre-launch posts to be used ahead of the service starting in your area. These can be used along with any of the provided visuals or something relevant of your own. (Such as a local image/resident).

Download assets >

Hook	Main message	Call to action
<p>Did you know that almost half of what ends up in Staffordshire's general rubbish bins isn't actually rubbish at all?</p> <p>It's food!</p>	<p>When we throw food in the general waste, we throw away a valuable resource that could be turned into something useful for Staffordshire..</p> <p>That's why a new weekly food waste recycling service is coming to all households in Staffordshire throughout 2026.</p> <p>By separating our leftovers, we can turn them into renewable energy to power our communities, and into fertiliser for farms and open spaces.</p>	<p>Keep an eye out for your new food waste caddy pack being delivered to your doorstep soon and get ready to turn your leftovers into something useful.</p> <p>👉 Find out more at staffordshire.gov.uk/foodwaste</p> <p>#FoodWaste #WasteSavvyStaffs</p>
<p>What if your leftover plate scrapings could power your home? ⚡</p> <p>Soon, they will!</p>	<p>Staffordshire's new weekly kerbside food waste collection means your apple cores, tea bags, chicken bones and more will be turned into something really useful.</p> <p>By recycling it separately, we will turn it into renewable energy to power our communities and transform it into fertiliser for farms, parks and open spaces. So your leftovers are helping to power homes and support local agriculture.</p>	<p>Keep an eye out for your new kitchen and outdoor food waste caddies arriving soon.</p> <p>Learn what food waste you can recycle and how it all works at: staffordshire.gov.uk/foodwaste</p> <p>#FoodWaste #WasteSavvyStaffs</p>

Launch posts to be used when the service starts in your area. These can be used along with any of the provided visuals or something relevant of your own. (Such as a local image/resident).

[Download assets >](#)

Hook	Main message	Call to action
<p>Ready to turn your food waste into something useful. Your new weekly food waste collection has started in [BOROUGH/DISTRICT]</p>	<p>You should have already received a small kitchen caddy, a larger lockable outdoor caddy, and a roll of caddy liners to begin recycling your food waste every week.</p> <p>But what can you put in it and why should you?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Fruit & veg peelings ✓ Meat & fish (including bones!) ✓ Leftovers & plate scrapings ✓ Tea bags & coffee grounds ✓ Bread and eggshells ✓ Mouldy or out-of-date food (just remove the packaging!) <p>Your food waste will be collected weekly and turned into something really useful, such as renewable energy to power our communities or made into rich fertiliser for farms and parks.</p>	<p>So start filling your caddy and pop it out weekly on your collection day.</p> <p>For a full list of what's accepted, and find out your weekly collection dates visit: staffordshire.gov.uk/foodwaste</p> <p>#FoodWaste #WasteSavvyStaffs</p>
<p>Won't my new weekly food waste bin smell and attract pests?</p>	<p>Myth busted! Separating your food waste is often more hygienic than putting it in your general rubbish.</p> <p>Your outdoor caddy comes with a sturdy, lockable handle that seals in odours and keeps animals and pests out.</p> <p>Plus, it's collected every single week!</p>	<p>Keep your caddy locked and your kitchen fresh.</p> <p>Got more questions? We've got answers:</p> <p>staffordshire.gov.uk/foodwaste #FoodWaste #WasteSavvyStaffs</p>

Post-launch posts to be used once the service has been up and running for a while in your area. These can be used along with any of the provided visuals or something relevant of your own.

Download assets >

Hook	Main message	Call to action
<p>Think food waste and general rubbish end up in the same place?</p> <p>They don't!!</p>	<p>When food waste is separated, it can be recycled in a different way, creating renewable energy for our communities and made into nutrient-rich fertiliser which can be used by farms to improve soil and help grow more food.</p> <p>When it goes in your general bin, it cannot be processed as efficiently and is treated differently.</p> <p>Separating food waste means making better use of something we currently throw away. It's a simple change that makes a real difference.</p>	<p>Use your caddy every week to turn your food waste into something useful.</p> <p>Find out what happens to your food waste at staffordshire.gov.uk/foodwaste</p> <p>#FoodWaste #WasteSavvyStaffs</p>
<p>I eat all my leftovers, so I don't need to use the new weekly food waste collection caddy.</p>	<p>That is fantastic for your wallet, but some food waste is simply unavoidable!</p> <p>Even the most resourceful cooks produce eggshells, banana skins, meat bones, and used tea bags.</p> <p>No amount is too small. Every little bit you recycle helps generate renewable energy and fertiliser for Staffordshire.</p>	<p>Don't bin the unavoidable - recycle it!</p> <p>Discover how the magic happens: staffordshire.gov.uk/foodwaste</p> <p>#FoodWaste #WasteSavvyStaff</p>

Thank you for your support and stay in touch

Thanks for supporting and sharing the story and messages about the new Staffordshire weekly food waste recycling service.

If you need any help with spreading the word please don't hesitate to get in touch at:

communications@staffordshire.gov.uk

We'd be delighted to hear your questions, suggestions, or success stories.

And remember more information and resources can be found at:

staffordshire.gov.uk/foodwaste

