

Your cut out and keep guide



Your handy guide to waste and recycling changes



Changes are underway to waste and recycling services across Westmorland and Furness, and we know it's important you have clear, reliable information. That's why we've put together this four page pull out guide with everything you need to know in one place.

SUBSCRIBE

Inside, you'll find details on the new garden waste subscription service, what's changing (and when) for household waste and recycling collections, and how to stay informed as services are updated in your area.

You can pull out and keep these pages to refer back to whenever you need them.



Garden waste collections...

SIGN UP NOW!

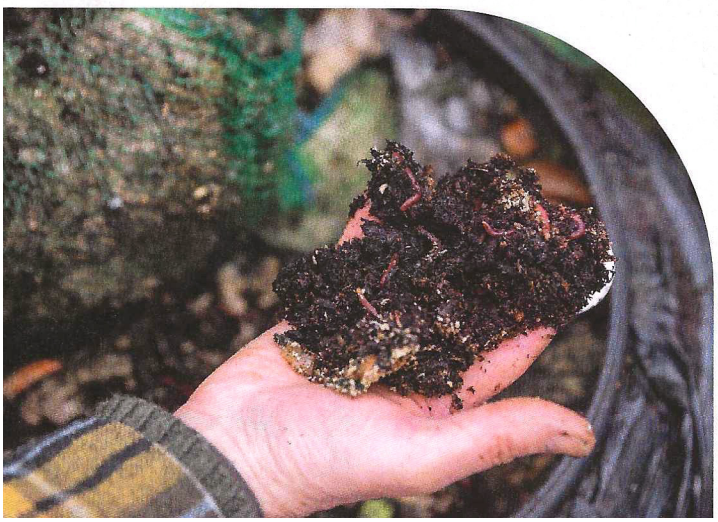


Westmorland and Furness Council has introduced a new subscription-based garden waste collection service. To continue using the service, or start using the service, you'll need to subscribe.

- Cost: £60 per bin, per year
- Sign up by 28 June to avoid interruption to your collections as from 29 June, only bins with a valid subscription sticker will be collected
- If you subscribe after 28 June, your collections will start once you've signed up and received your subscription sticker(s).

What your subscription includes

- A sticker will be posted to you to stick to each bin you've subscribed for
- Existing bin holders continue to use their current bin
- New subscribers without a garden waste bin receive their first garden waste bin free
- Additional bins available for a £25 one-off cost
- Collections every two weeks between April and March with no collections in the non-growing seasons in December, January and February.



How to sign up

- Visit: **westmorlandandfurness.gov.uk/gardenwaste**
- Scan the QR code
- Alternatively, call: **0300 373 3300**.

Your general household waste and recycling collections will continue as normal.

Don't want to subscribe?

You don't need to contact us.

Your options for garden waste if you don't subscribe

- Compost at home – an easy, environmentally friendly solution
- Cumbria Master Composters promote home composting. Scan the QR code to learn more and find your nearest compost demonstration site.
- Use a Household Waste Recycling Centre – garden waste accepted free of charge.

What happens to your unwanted bin

Towards the end of the year, garden waste bins still at households that haven't subscribed for a garden waste collection will be collected and removed. We'll contact you in advance with details for your area.



Important changes coming to your waste and recycling service

Why services are changing

We're bringing waste and recycling services together into one consistent system across Westmorland and Furness. This will make it easier to recycle more, cut down on waste, and deliver a service that is reliable, cost effective, and better for the environment.

We currently carry out around 7.5 million collections every year for around 117,000 households, and harmonising services will help ensure everyone receives the same high quality service, wherever they live.

What's happening now

The new garden waste subscription service is the first step in a wider programme to bring waste and recycling services across Westmorland and Furness into a single, consistent system.

What's happening next

Over the coming months, we'll begin to roll out changes to household waste and recycling services in different areas of Westmorland and Furness. These changes will be introduced gradually, with different areas moving to the new arrangements at different times. In each area, changes will be phased in over a number of months to ensure services remain reliable and residents have time to adjust.

Depending on where you live, this may include changes to bin sizes or containers, how often collections take place, or how different types of waste and recycling are collected.

Not every area will see changes at the same time, and your current collections won't change without notice.

There's nothing you need to do at the moment.

We'll contact you directly before any changes take place in your area, explaining exactly what's changing, when it will happen, and what you need to do.

Expected roll out by locality

These timeframes are indicative and may be subject to change. Not every household within an area will move at the same time.

Furness

In Furness, we expect to begin moving to the new household waste and recycling arrangements from summer/autumn 2026.

South Lakeland

In South Lakeland, we expect changes to recycling collections to be introduced from autumn/winter 2026. There are no planned changes to the size of household (residual) waste bins or how often they are collected.

Eden

In Eden, we expect to begin moving to the new household waste and recycling arrangements from summer/autumn 2027.

Area	Household waste changes	Recycling changes
Furness	Summer/Autumn 2026	Summer/Autumn 2026
South Lakeland	No change at this stage	Autumn/Winter 2026
Eden	Summer/Autumn 2027	Summer/Autumn 2027

Stay informed... don't miss



As the changes are rolled out, we will be keeping residents informed and updated throughout but to make sure you don't miss any updates that affect your household, we're launching a new 'Waste Harmonisation Newsletter' which will be the best way to stay informed throughout the changes.

What you can expect

Get updates straight to your inbox, including:

- When your area will move to the new harmonised service
- What your new schedule will look like
- Any changes to bin types, colours or sizes
- What to do with old or unwanted bins/ containers
- Bespoke arrangements, including assisted collections
- Which items go where, how to prepare materials, and how to avoid contamination
- Where to find extra help or guidance.

Sign up by scanning the QR code.

Want to know more

Visit our website for more information on harmonisation and the service.

Waste changes

westmorlandandfurness.gov.uk/waste-harmonisation

Information about our service

westmorlandandfurness.gov.uk/our-bin-service

We'll continue to add new details as the changes are due to roll out.

Why aren't we collecting food waste?

Some residents have recently contacted us to ask why a weekly food waste collection hasn't been introduced yet.

The Government's Simpler Recycling in the Environment Act came into force in April 2026 meaning most local authorities are now required to collect weekly food waste collections. However, Westmorland and Furness Council is not introducing this service at present because of how our waste is currently managed and the timing of existing contracts.

Household waste across Westmorland and Furness is managed through a long term Public Private Partnership contract with Biffa until 2034. As a new authority, we are also working to harmonise waste and recycling services across the area. In recognition of these factors, the Government granted us an exemption until the current contract ends.

What happens to food waste now

All general waste collected in Westmorland and Furness is largely processed at the Mechanical Biological Treatment facility in Barrow where it is turned into fuel used in cement kilns and energy from waste plants to generate electricity - diverting almost 100% of waste away from landfill.

What you can do with food waste in the meantime

While we're not introducing a separate weekly food waste collection at this stage, there are still simple ways to manage food waste at home and reduce what goes in your general bin.

Composting at home

Many food scraps can be composted safely and easily, including:

- fruit and vegetable peelings
- tea bags and coffee grounds
- eggshells
- leftover cooked vegetables
- small amounts of bread and grains

Home composting:

- reduces the amount of waste in your household bin
- creates nutrient rich compost for your garden
- helps cut down on food waste overall

If you don't have space for a compost heap, food waste caddies or enclosed composters can be a good option in smaller gardens.

Reducing food waste

Simple steps can also help reduce waste:

- plan meals and shop with a list
- store food correctly to make it last longer
- freeze leftovers for another day

All remaining food waste can continue to go into your general household waste bin.