

# Kerbside Recycling Weekly One – Pass Collection Model

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# Background

The previous recycling collection model in East Lothian was a fortnightly dual stream box collection of co-mingled materials, with separate containers provided for paper, card and cardboard, and for plastics, metals and glass.

The dual stream model had been operated since 2005 and, from 2015 had been further supported by a weekly food waste collection and a reduced non-recyclable waste collection of 120 litres per week. The service performed above the Scottish average recycling rate, contributing to a 55% recycling rate for the local authority.

Following successful trials of kerbside recycling collections and having reviewed the infrastructure available to East Lothian Council the decision was taken to contract this element of the service to a specialist private sector company. Over the years this has proven to be cost effective, and the service has benefited from the expertise brought by the private sector in delivering and developing recycling services.

# Tendering

As part of our commitment as signatories to the Household Recycling Charter, East Lothian Council's recycling services went out to tender in August 2020 with the principal aim of the procurement to move to a Charter aligned collection model that delivers best value through the return of high quality resources to the commodities market, while ultimately improving the service delivery to our citizens.

Following a negotiated procedure the Contract was awarded to FCC Environment, in two stages – the first being a continuation of the current fortnightly dual stream and weekly food waste collections, commenced 1<sup>st</sup> May 2021, with the second stage seeing the introduction of a Charter aligned single weekly pass service for source separated recycling and food waste in Nov 2021.

# Materials Collected

Material	Previous service litres/week	New service litres/week
Food Waste	23	23
Paper and card	11	44
Cardboard	11	44
Glass, plastic and metals	27.5	0
Glass		55/40
Plastics, metals and cartons	0	90
Batteries	0	7
Total litres/week	72.5	263/248



# New Model

Collections of recyclables and Food Waste are now carried out using 12 tonne RRVs, with these materials collected separately on the same vehicle. During recycling collections, the contents of containers are sorted into separate compartments on the RRV. Plastics, cartons; foil, aerosols, cans and tins are collected in an automated plastic and can press system on the upper deck of the vehicle. Cardboard is collected in a card press at the rear of the vehicle, while paper, food and mixed glass are segregated into stillage's on the same vehicle.

# Outcomes and Future Targets

Whilst the model change has been implemented and successful, the service has the ability to adapt to deliver additional benefits over the 8 to 10 year lifespan of the contract and is seen as the key part to enable future plans for East Lothian's waste service delivery to take fruition.

East Lothian Council is working in partnership with FCC Environment, one of the UK's most trusted resources and waste management businesses, throughout the Contract to deliver ongoing benefits to both the environment, local community and the wider Scottish circular economy.

The new model has created an additional 18 jobs due to the style of collection and there is an agreed commitment to employ at least one young person facing challenges, and one unemployed person. The contract also commits to the employment of a minimum of three apprentices. These will be Sustainable Resource Management Modern Apprenticeships with a duration of 12-24 months, and will therefore equate to between 3 and 6 years of apprentice employment, delivering significant social value and benefitting not just those within the local area, but the wider resources sector as whole.

In April 2024 the residual service will move from fortnightly to 3 weekly, with the aim to reduce disposal tonnage and drive up recycling capture further.

Service In  
Action Video



Food waste in the  
existing caddies

