

50% Recycling Target is on the Horizon

West Lothian Council is asking residents to take extra care with the contents of their brown bin in order to secure the next recycling target of 50%.

Earlier this month it was announced that West Lothian was one of the first areas in Scotland to achieve the 40% recycling target. Now the council is encouraging residents to keep up the momentum and work towards the 50% target, which is set for 2013.

One of the first steps that residents can take towards achieving the new target is to help make better use of their brown bin and help to reduce the amount of contamination.

Garden waste from brown bins is used to make high quality compost. This year for the first time free compost has been available to residents who present a voucher that was included on the 2010-11 brown bin calendar.

Executive Councillor for the Environment Robert De Bold commented: "While 40% recycling is a remarkable achievement compared to a recycling rate of only 5% less than a decade ago, it is important to build on this success and to move towards the Government recycling and composting target of 50% by 2013.

"We are especially proud of our ability to produce extremely high quality compost from collected garden waste and a national quality certification (PAS 100) has been awarded to our compost. Not only do the wrong items in brown bins severely restrict the ability to process garden waste into good quality compost, they also add more to the cost. I would urge all householders to check their brown bin calendars to see what can be recycled in this bin."

Items that **CAN** be recycled in the garden waste brown bin collection include:

- flowers and plants
- garden weeds
- grass and hedge cuttings
- small branches and twigs
- leaves

Items that **contaminate** brown bin collections include:

- kitchen or food waste
- plant pots and timber
- all plastic, including bags and bin liners
- general waste
- glass
- animal waste/bedding
- soil and turf
- building rubble, stones and bricks

"The wrong waste in the brown bin causes problems at the council's garden waste composting site in West Lothian meaning that some of the material which has been collected cannot be composted. Items found to date have included plastics, metal containers, filled black refuse sacks and food waste," added Councillor De Bold.

Householders are asked to follow these guidelines to help ensure bins are collected:

- Put your bin out by 7am (6am Saturday collections) and leave it out until it is emptied;
- Please do not contaminate recycling bins with non recyclable materials or the bin will be rejected;
- Ensure all waste is contained within the bin and the bin lid is fully closed or it will not be emptied;
- Please consider where you park your car to ensure our vehicles are able to enter and exit streets as safely as possible (a refuse lorry is the same size as a Fire Engine).

Excess household waste or recyclables should be taken to any of our six Community Recycling Centres; Broxburn, Blackburn, Linlithgow, Whitburn and Deans or Oakbank (off A71) in Livingston. The recycling centres are open as normal: Monday to Friday 8am to 8pm and Saturday/Sunday 9am till 6pm.

For further updates call the council's Customer Information Service (CIS) centre on 01506 775000.

Date: 16-06-2010