

Frequently Asked Questions

Q. What is this all about?

Nearly 7,200 homes in Boston, North Kesteven and South Holland have been taking part in a trial to collect their paper and cardboard separately from the rest of their recycling for the last year. The aim of the trial, run by the Lincolnshire Waste Partnership, was to boost the quality and amount of paper and card recycled as well as improve the quality of the rest of your recycling. The participants in the trial have taken to this initiative extremely well and the outputs of the trial have given us invaluable data and feedback to help us move forward.

Q. Why are we doing it?

A. The reason we need to improve the recycling is simple. By putting the right thing in the right bin we can improve the quality of the recycling we collect in Lincolnshire and ensure that more items are successfully recycled back into products that can be used over and over again. The present method for collecting recycling (all in one bin) means that the vast majority of paper and card we collect is contaminated by the other items in the recycling bin, like glass and often food waste. Paper and card is also prone to becoming damp, wet and stained when mixed with other recycling. We believe that by collecting it separately in a different bin, it will be kept clean and dry, so it will be recycled rather than being lost because of the contamination. This also means that we can concentrate on the other types of material in your bin, plastics, metals and glass only to ensure that we can be as environmentally efficient as possible.

Q When will I get another bin?

A. (Boston BC) Starting in the spring 2021 we will be working with you to give you another bin or container to collect your paper and card separately and help make sure that you know what goes into each container and why.

A. (North Kesteven DC) rolling out in the Autumn of 2021

A. (All other Districts) we will be working across the county district by district to help introduce these changes. The whole of Lincolnshire will be working this way within the next 3 - 4 years. This may seem a long way off but we want to be able to help you all to get the right things in the right bin and need to make sure that we take the right amount of time to engage with you and support you so that this is easy for you. We will give regular updates to you and let you know well in advance when the changes will affect your household.

Q. What will the bin look like?

A. You will receive a black bin with a purple lid to put your paper and card into.

The bins used in the trial were a solid purple, the feedback from those taking part in the trial said they would have preferred a black bin with a purple lid; We listened to the feedback and so the bin that will be used for the roll out will be black with a purple lid.

Q. What can go into my paper and card bin?

A. All paper (except shredded paper or tissues) and cardboard can be put into your paper and card bin but it must be CLEAN WITH NO FOOD RESIDUE.

Customers will be sent further details at the time of the roll out.

Q. How often will my collections be?

Green lidded bin – four weekly

Purple lidded bin – four weekly

Sequence: Black – Green lidded – Black – Purple lidded – Black – Green lidded – Black - etc

Q. Can I have another/additional bin?

A. Not at this time as the data from the trial has shown that the bin you have been issued should be sufficient to collect all of your paper and card. If you have larger amounts of excess paper and cardboard, please visit your local Household Waste Recycling Centre <https://www.lincolnshire.gov.uk/recycling-waste/find-recycling-centre>

Q. Can I opt for a smaller bin?

A. There is no option for a smaller bin as part of the roll out.

Q. What happens if I put the wrong materials in the bins?

A. We cannot empty bins that contain wrong materials. Wrong materials can contaminate the load and make it unsuitable for recycling. Bins will be stickered/tagged and will not be emptied until the next relevant scheduled collection when you must have removed the items not suitable for recycling. If in doubt check website

Q. Will you take materials including cardboard placed next to the bin?

A. No. If you have large amounts of cardboard, please visit your local HWRC. <https://www.lincolnshire.gov.uk/recycling-waste/find-recycling-centre>

Q. Why can't you recycle wet/damp card/paper?

A. If your recycling is wet, the paper and cardboard can stick together and won't be able to be recycled

Q. Do I have to have another bin?

A. Yes, the trial has proved that that collecting paper and cardboard separately is the most efficient and effective method of collection and so paper & card won't be accepted in your current recycling bin. It will only be accepted in the purple lidded bin. We will be working with you to make sure that we get the right solution for you going forward,

Q. I don't want another bin, I will just put my paper and card into my green lidded bin?

A. As part of the roll out the Council will be serving notice that specifies the waste that can be placed into each bin for disposal. Where the incorrect waste is placed into the wrong bin may result in the bin not being emptied.

Q. I don't have room for another bin?

A. As we enter the roll out phase we shall work with residents to overcome any legitimate storage concerns.

Q. What is the cost and who is paying for this?

A. For all new ventures, we need to firstly invest in the required containers, materials and collection methods. This initial investment of around £3m should be recouped within three to five years and will be greatly outweighed by the long-term savings. That money could then instead be spent on other vital services in your community. It is important to remember that it isn't just about costs. It is about us doing the right thing to help protect the environment for the future, as our residents expect. By using a specialist paper recycler in the UK, we can reduce the amount of miles it travels before being fully recycled and consequently our carbon footprint and by reducing the contamination in the rest of the recycling this process also becomes more efficient both economically and environmentally.

Q. Will assisted collections continue to be available?

A. Yes. If you already have an assisted collection, this will continue.

Q. If we have to separate our paper & card now, what has been happening to it before?

A. Your recycling bin containing plastics, metals, glass and paper & card is currently sent to our contractor to sort. By separating your paper and card into a single bin this will avoid the paper and card becoming damp, wet and stained when mixed with other recycling. We believe that by collecting it separately in a different bin, it will be kept clean and dry, so it will be recycled rather than being lost because of the contamination.

Questions still awaiting answers for:

Q New properties have to pay for their bins, does this mean I have to pay for a purple bin as well?

A To be confirmed