

## **Chargeable Garden Waste Policy (Updated January 2020)**

### **Provision of Garden Waste Collection**

- Our aim is to make the garden waste collection service available to as many households as is practicable, provided we are able to operate an efficient collection route and that it is operationally feasible to provide the service.
- This is not a statutory service; there is an annual charge for providing this service.
- The charge does not include the cost of composting the material collected.
- The service will operate every two weeks, and the collection dates will be advertised on our website. The service will cease for a period of 4 weeks (i.e. two collection cycles) in winter.
- A variation of the service is available on defined streets in the Colinton area. This service is provided by Tiphereth/Colinton Community Compost. Residents in those streets who register to receive a garden waste collection will receive the sack based service as provided by Tiphereth, and not the standard brown bin service provided by the Council.

### **Eligibility**

- This service is provided for the collection of household waste.
- The Council does not operate a commercial waste collection service, and commercial premises are not eligible to receive the service. The Council does not operate a commercial waste collection service and commercial premises are not eligible to receive the service. Separate arrangements for bowling, lawn tennis and some other clubs are in place. We will contact you directly regarding these.
- Ambassadorial and other embassy premises may be eligible to receive the service but will be required to register and pay for it in the normal way.
- Places of worship premises may be eligible to receive the service but will be required to register and pay for it in the normal way
- Council premises who request the service will be able to do so but must register and pay for the service.
- Organisations who operate community gardens on Council premises may receive the service but must arrange this through the Council service (e.g. libraries, housing, etc.) who are responsible for that land, and they will be required to pay for the service.

### **Exemptions from Payment**

- Some people do not have to pay to use the garden waste service, however they must still register to use the service using either their mygov account or one of the other registration routes.
- People who need to register for the service but do not have to pay for it are:
  - People who are in receipt of the welfare benefit Council Tax Reduction (previously called Council Tax Benefit)
  - People who live in a household where someone is registered with Council Tax as being Severely Mentally Impaired
  - People who receive the Council's Garden Aid service AND are also exempt from paying for it.

## **Paying for the service**

- The annual charge covers a full 12 month period which runs from October to September. Collections will be suspended for a 4 week period (2 collections) in winter.
- The registration period for the year will take place in June/ July. If you subsequently join the service during a later registration period, you will still be required to pay the full annual charge.
- You can register on our website to receive a reminder to register;
- You may register and pay for the service on behalf of someone else, e.g. a relative.
- We are not able to accept householders who wish to join the service outwith a defined registration period.
- The charge will apply per bin – you may sign up more than one bin. We will only empty bins which carry the relevant sticker to show that they have been registered.
- The chargeable service may be transferred to a new property subject to the new property being eligible to receive the service. It will be the responsibility of the customer to provide a minimum of six weeks notice of the change; the customer will be responsible for transferring the bin to the new location.
- If your new property does not receive the service (or is outwith the Council boundary) please leave the bin at the current address so that the new residents can use it for the remaining period.
- If you wish to share a bin with a neighbour, or neighbours, only one person should sign up to the scheme and make payment, and ensure that the bin is properly presented on the correct days.
- The bin will be registered to that property (e.g. their flat) and all correspondence, enquiries or complaints relating to the service must be directed through that person.
- There is no discount for the smaller size bin.
- Residents that qualify under the Council Tax Reduction scheme (previously Council Tax benefit), or where someone at the address is registered as severely mentally impaired, will be exempt from paying for the service.

[http://www.edinburgh.gov.uk/info/20127/benefits\\_and\\_grants/43/claim\\_a\\_council\\_tax\\_reduction](http://www.edinburgh.gov.uk/info/20127/benefits_and_grants/43/claim_a_council_tax_reduction)

## **Use of the service**

- It is important that your brown bin is only used to collect the correct materials as outlined below. All materials must be loose, and not in a bag. We do not accept any kind of bag or liner in the brown bin.
- Bins which contain other materials will not be collected and we will not issue refunds for these collections
- You must present your bin by 6AM on the day of collection and remove it as soon as possible after collection.
- The bin must be presented at the kerbside outwith your property (except where an assisted collection has been arranged) with the lid fully closed, and in line with our normal policy on the Presentation of Waste.

- Our normal Assisted Collection Policy will apply to this service.
- All bins must display the garden waste collection scheme sticker for the appropriate year.
- Where the service is provided to a Council building or land, (e.g. a community garden), or to a bowling club, etc, it is the sole responsibility of the group responsible to arrange for the bin(s) to be presented for collection and then removed from the street on the correct days.
- Should this prove to cause conflict with the Council's policies on the presentation of waste (e.g. if this means that bins are left out in an area where the other premises are commercial) it may be necessary to review or remove the service.

### **Collection of garden waste**

Collections will take place from 6am on the collection day.

### **Failed collections**

- Collection crews will record instances where bins are not presented or where the contents are contaminated with other types of waste or are too heavy to lift. Those bins will not be uplifted, and no refund will be issued.
- You should remove any contaminants or reduce the weight of the bin, and present the bin again by 6 AM on the next collection date.
- We regret that we are not able to collect garden waste when the contents are frozen due to weather conditions. We will collect on the next scheduled collection; we will not issue a refund in these circumstances.
- Where we are not able to collect your bin due to circumstances outwith our control (such as roadworks or no access) crews will record this and we will seek to return as soon as possible. We will not issue a refund.
- Where we are not able to collect your bin due to circumstances within our control (such as vehicle failure) crews will record this and we will return to collect it within two working days.
- Where we fail to collect your bin as a result of our error, we will return to collect it within two working days of being notified. (Please refer to the operational days for the service).

### **Materials accepted in brown bins**

- You can put these in your brown bin:
  - Flowers, plants and weeds
  - Grass cuttings and leaves
  - Hedge clippings, twigs and small branches
  - Christmas trees (all decorations must be removed; Christmas trees may also be presented beside the bin in January only; (please cut trees in half )
- You can't put these in your brown bin:
  - Food
  - Animal waste and bedding

- Plant pots
- Soil and turf
- ANY TYPE OF BAG (including bags labelled compostable, degradable or biodegradable)