**What is happening?**

From September through until summer 2015, we will be replacing the red and blue boxes with a wheelie bin and a box. We will be rolling out this new recycling service to approximately 140,000 residents with individual wheelie bins.

The new service will allow residents to recycle more of their waste and make it easier by having fewer items to sort. They will also be able to recycle lots more plastics; including bottles, pots, tubs and trays and also small electrical items.

We will be supplying residents with a smaller wheelie bin (140L) that will be used for general waste. Their standard green wheelie bin will then be used for mixed recycling and they will continue to use their blue box (for glass), food and garden recycling. The red box will no longer be used, and we will collect those that residents don’t want to keep.

All bin collections will be on the same day each week - one week it will be general waste and food bins. The next week it will be the recycling bin and box, garden waste and food waste bins.

For example:

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Monday Week 1** | **Monday Week 2** |
| Landfill | Garden |
| Food | Food |
|  | Recycling Bin |
|  | Recycling Box |

Introduction of the new service will be done in phases to ensure that we are able to resolve any issues as they arise, and can look to make any improvements, as the service roll out progresses.

**How will you let residents know about the changes?**

We will be running a full scale communications and engagement campaign to support residents throughout the roll out. This will include information being sent direct to those affected before the start of the new service with introductory information on the new service.

We will send another information pack near to the start date that will include a collection calendar, details on what items go in each bin, a sticker for their glass box, and where to find out more.

Posters, signs, press, web and social media updates will also happen throughout the roll out.

We will be running events across the city from the summer onwards, to speak to residents about the new service. We will also be briefing our customer and neighbourhood teams to make sure they are aware of the changes.

**Why are you changing?**

To help residents recycle more of their waste by providing them with extra space and increasing the amount of materials that they can recycle. An analysis of general waste took place in 2010 which indicated that over 2/3rds of the contents of the bin can be recycled.

Recycling helps protect our environment and means that valuable resources can be used again, and again.

We ran focus group consultations with residents from all different backgrounds to find out their views of the proposed new service. These groups responded positively to the changes.

**What goes in the recycling bin?**

Paper
Cardboard
Plastic bottles, pots, tubs and trays
Metal food and drink cans
Empty aerosols
Clean foil

**What goes in the recycling box?**

Glass bottles and jars
Batteries (in a small, clear bag)
Small electrical items such as toasters, kettles and hairdryers
Textiles

**Why are you giving us a smaller bin?**

In Edinburgh we currently recycle nearly 40% of our waste. However, we need to do more. We know that sending waste to landfill is damaging to the environment and a waste of precious resources.

Councils across the UK have introduced a smaller bin and have found that residents are able to cope with this change and it significantly increases recycling rates, and decreases the amount sent to landfill.

With the standard 240 litre green wheelie bin being switched to recycling, a recycling box, weekly food waste collections and garden waste recycling, we are providing an increased amount of capacity for people to recycle most of their waste – even with the smaller bin.\*

\*Although the landfill (140litre) bin is smaller, the reduction is compensated by the increase in recycling capacity. With all the recycling services included, recycling capacity goes from 150 litres to 295 litres – an increase of 96%.

**How is this improving our service?**

**It is a simpler system** - the new bin will require residents to do less sorting of their waste by putting cans, cardboard, paper and plastics into the same bin. The recycling will also be collected on the same day as the other bins provided by the Council (currently some residents have their recycling boxes collected on a different day).

**More materials** - we are accepting a wider range of materials, including additional plastics and small electrical items.

**Increasing capacity –** we are increasing the amount that people can recycle by creating greater capacity with the wheelie bin for recycling.

**What if I can’t cope with a smaller bin?**

Residents will be advised that they can contact us if they are struggling with the capacity and we can arrange a site visit with one of our recycling advisors to discuss other options available and provide them with additional information on recycling.

 **I currently have red and blue boxes but do not have an individual wheelie bin; will I keep the recycling boxes?**

Those on boxes who are unable to take a wheelie bin and do not have access to shared recycling bins, will remain as they are. For those in flats with wheelie bins, who may have difficulties storing additional bins, we will be assessing these properties and looking at alternative options which may include sharing recycling bins.