

If residents fail to comply with dedicated food waste collections, will food waste end up in The Waste Transfer Station in black bag waste?

Yes, if residents fail to comply with dedicated food waste collections, **food waste is likely to end up in black bag waste**, which is then sent to **The Waste Transfer Station** along with general residual waste.

Here's what typically happens:

- **Non-separated food waste** placed in black bags is treated as residual waste.
- At the **Waste Transfer Station**, black bag waste is **not usually sorted for food waste**, as the materials are often too contaminated and sorting is not cost-effective.
- This means the food waste in black bags may ultimately be **sent to landfill or incineration**, instead of being composted or processed via anaerobic digestion (which is the goal of separate food waste collections).

So yes, non-compliance can undermine the environmental and economic benefits of separate food waste recycling.

Would you like help drafting a notice or communication to encourage compliance among residents?

Help Us Keep Food Waste Out of Black Bags! 🥕🥦

Dear Residents,

We need your help to make our community greener and cleaner.

Please place all food waste in your dedicated food waste caddy – not in black bin bags.

When food waste ends up in black bags:

- It **goes to the Waste Transfer Station** and is treated as general rubbish.
- It **cannot be separated or recycled** due to contamination.
- It often ends up in **landfill or incineration**, increasing pollution and costs.

By using your food waste caddy, you:

- Reduce harmful greenhouse gas emissions.
- Help produce renewable energy and compost.
- Keep disposal costs down for everyone.

What can be done if residents fail to comply?

If residents consistently fail to comply with food waste separation rules, here are several steps that can be taken—ranging from education to enforcement:



1. Education & Engagement (First Step)

- **Reminders & Signage:** Distribute clear flyers, posters, or door-to-door reminders.
- **Workshops or Demos:** Host short sessions to show how to separate food waste properly.
- **Translations:** Provide materials in multiple languages if needed.
- **Feedback Stickers:** Use “Oops!” tags on bins that show what was wrong (common in many UK councils).



2. Direct Warnings

- Send a **formal warning letter** explaining the problem, consequences, and how to improve.
- Include photos (if available) as evidence and explain that further non-compliance may result in enforcement.



3. Restrict Bin Collection

- Refuse to collect bins that are contaminated with food waste when it's meant to be separated.
- Leave a notice stating the reason and what needs to be corrected.



4. Enforcement

- Use local environmental regulations or tenancy agreements (for managed properties) to:
 - Issue **fines** (Fixed Penalty Notices) where allowed by local law.
 - Apply penalties or costs under **waste enforcement policies**.
- For council tenants or housing associations, non-compliance may breach tenancy agreements.



5. Engage with Property Managers or Landlords

- Work with landlords or managing agents to include waste rules in lease agreements or tenancy handbooks.
- They can support compliance through their own communications or enforcement mechanisms.

Here's a sample **formal warning letter** you can use or adapt to address non-compliance with food waste separation:

To: Resident / Tenant of [Address or Block Name]

Subject: Warning – Incorrect Disposal of Food Waste

Dear Resident,

We are writing to inform you that your recent waste disposal has not complied with the required food waste separation guidelines.

Food waste has been found in black bag waste or general refuse bins, instead of being placed in the dedicated food waste caddy provided. This is not acceptable under the current waste collection policy.

Why this matters:

- Food waste placed in black bags **cannot be recycled** and instead ends up in **landfill or incineration**.
- It contributes to environmental harm and increases waste disposal costs for all residents.
- It may attract pests and cause hygiene issues in shared areas.

What you must do:

- Use the **provided food waste caddy** for all food scraps (including vegetable peels, leftovers, coffee grounds, etc.).
- Do **not place food waste in black bin bags** or general waste bins.
- If you need a replacement or extra caddy or liners, please contact us.

Continued non-compliance may result in:

- Refusal of waste collection.
- Fines or penalties under [Local Environmental Regulations].
- Further action under the terms of your tenancy agreement (if applicable).

We appreciate your prompt attention to this matter. If you are unsure how to separate your waste correctly or need assistance, please contact [Waste Services Team / Housing Office] at [email/phone].

What is the likely rate of compliance with separate food waste collections in Brighton and Hove?

Brighton & Hove City Council is preparing to launch a city-wide food waste collection service later in 2025, backed by a £1.2 million investment. While the exact compliance rate is yet to be determined, several factors suggest that achieving high participation may be challenging without

significant community engagement and operational improvements.[Brighton Argus+2Brighton & Hove City Council+2Brighton Argus+2](#)

Current Recycling Landscape

Historically, Brighton & Hove has struggled with recycling rates. In 2022–23, only 28.3% of household waste was recycled, reused, or composted, placing the city 302nd out of 341 local authorities in England . This is notably below the national average of 44% .[Brighton & Hove City Council+7Brighton Journal+7Brighton Argus+7wikiwaste.org.uk+1Brighton Argus+1Wikipedia+1SussexWorld+1](#)

Contamination of recycling bins is a persistent issue. In the year leading up to April 2022, approximately 1,782 tonnes of household waste were rejected from recycling due to contamination, accounting for 5.5% of the total recycling stream .[Brighton ArgusSussexWorld](#)

Operational Challenges

The city's waste collection service, Cityclean, has faced operational difficulties, including high rates of missed collections. In 2019–20, there were 1,089 missed recycling collections per 100,000, significantly exceeding the target of 303 . These issues have led to resident dissatisfaction and may impact trust in new waste initiatives.[SussexWorld+3Brighton and Hove News+3Brighton and Hove News+3Brighton and Hove News+2More Radio+2SussexWorld+2](#)

Factors Influencing Future Compliance

Several elements will influence the success of the upcoming food waste collection service:

- **Public Awareness and Education:** Clear communication about the importance of food waste separation and proper usage of the new service will be crucial.[Brighton Argus](#)
- **Operational Efficiency:** Addressing existing collection issues and ensuring reliable service will help build public trust.
- **Infrastructure Readiness:** Ensuring that the necessary infrastructure, such as collection vehicles and composting facilities, is in place will support smooth implementation.
- **Community Engagement:** Involving local communities in the rollout can foster a sense of ownership and responsibility.

Outlook

Given the current challenges, achieving high compliance with the new food waste collection service will require concerted efforts in public engagement, operational improvements, and infrastructure development. Monitoring participation rates post-implementation will provide clearer insights into the program's effectiveness.

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