

What rate of compliance can be expected in Brighton UK when separate food waste collections start to ensure that food waste is not still included in black bag waste?

Brighton & Hove City Council plans to begin a phased rollout of **weekly household food waste collections** from **September 2025**, with **full coverage across the city by March 2026**. Kerbside households will receive a 5 L indoor caddy and a 23 L outdoor bin, while communal locations will have secure food waste bins emptied daily. The service will collect plate scrapings, peelings, tea bags, and more, aiming to compost it locally near Lewes [Brighton & Hove City Council+1Brighton and Hove News+1](#).



Estimated Compliance & Participation Rates

- Brighton & Hove households currently throw away about **2.8kg of food waste per household per week**.
- The council estimates that on average, each household will DIY recycle just **0.74kg per week** via the new scheme [Brighton & Hove City Council+3Brighton and Hove News+3BBC+3](#).

This implies that **only around 26%** of actual food waste is likely to be captured through the new collection system initially. This relatively low expected collection rate factors in:

- **Incomplete participation** (not everyone will actively use the service).
- **Behavioural changes**, where households intentionally reduce waste once aware of its weight/value → some food waste may no longer be generated or discarded .



So what compliance rate can you expect?

Based on the council's projections:

- Initial **participation** in the food waste collection scheme is likely to be **modest**, with around **quarter of food waste actually diverted** into the composting bins.
- In practice, that means **only about 25–30%** of food waste will exit the black bag stream initially.



Context: Brighton's Recycling Performance

- Brighton & Hove's overall household recycling rate has hovered around **27–30% in recent years**, well below the national average (~44%) [thetimes.co.uk+10Brighton & Hove City Council+10Brighton & Hove City Council+10thescottishsun.co.uk+3BBC Feeds+3BBC+3](#).
- A major driver for introducing food waste collections is to help improve these historically low figures.



Future Trends & Potential Uplift

- Participation may increase over time, especially with **targeted awareness campaigns** mandated as part of the national **Simpler Recycling** strategy launching in 2026 [BBC+1BBC Feeds+1thescottishsun.co.uk](#).
- Once awareness rises and routine use becomes normal, a higher share of food waste could be recycled — possibly exceeding **50%** participation. But the council's current projection centers on an initial **~26% yield**.



Summary Table

Metric	Current / Projected Figures
Average food waste generated	~2.8kg per household per week
Food waste likely collected via new service	~0.74kg per household per week
Expected initial participation rate	~25–30%
Overall household recycling rate (pre-rollout)	~27–30%

In Short:

Once separate food waste collections begin, **expect that about a quarter of your household's food waste will be diverted** into the new bins—at least initially. That means **compliance rates are likely to be moderate**, not universal, but could steadily improve with effective community engagement and education over time.

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