

Green Waste collections

- your questions answered

As announced in March this year, green waste collections will be suspended across East Lindsey during November until March/April 2010.

Keep a look out for a hanger showing your future collection details! It is being fastened to your bin now and over the next few weeks.

You can also print a collection calendar from the Council's website at www.e-lindsey.gov.uk/wastecollection

The decision to suspend green waste over the winter period was made in March 2009 when the Council set its budget and the Council Tax levels for the current year. The District Council collects all Council Tax on behalf of the County Council, the Police, and Parish and Town Councils. An average Band D Council Tax payer in East Lindsey contributes £2.10 per week for the services the District Council provides.

Nationally, Councils need to reduce their running costs. East Lindsey, like all other Councils, will need to make substantial savings running into millions of pounds over the next five years. Not an easy challenge for any Council.

The suspension of green waste has given the Council an opportunity to improve the service both environmentally and financially, saving 145 tonnes of carbon emissions and over £170,000 each year.

Q: Why are you suspending green waste collections?

A: Green waste collections are being suspended during November, 2009 until March/April, 2010. For the actual dates when your collections will stop and resume again, please read the calendar attached to your bin or visit www.e-lindsey.gov.uk/wastecollection. In the last few years, our vehicles have collected greatly reduced amounts of green waste from across the district during these months.

Q: What is the benefit of suspending the collections?

A: Suspending collections will save over £170,000 each year. It will also reduce the Council's carbon emissions by 145 tonnes each year. Because so little green waste is collected during the winter period, our recycling and composting rate will only be slightly affected. It is anticipated that it will reduce by around 4%, from the current rate of 60% to 56% diverted from landfill.

Q: Can I find out now when my green waste collections start and finish?

A: You can view the waste collection calendar for your property by entering your postcode into the Council's website www.e-lindsey.gov.uk/wastecollection. Alternatively ring Customer Services on 0800 08 55 037. You will also have a calendar fastened to your bin.

Q: I still produce some green waste over winter, what should I do with it now?

A: If you generate green waste over the winter months please try home composting. Home composters can be purchased at a reduced rate through a Lincolnshire wide scheme available on line www.lincsc.com/getcomposting.com, or call 0845 130 6090. If you already compost at home, but still generate more green waste than you can manage, please

take it to your local Household Waste Recycling Centre.

Further details can be found at www.recycleforlincolnshire.org.uk.

Q: But doesn't taking green waste to a Household Waste Recycling Centre increase carbon emissions?

A: Ideally residents should compost where possible, or try to incorporate a visit to the Household Waste Recycling Centre into normal routines such as shopping trips. Average fuel consumption for a car is 35 miles per gallon. The refuse and recycling collection vehicles travel at around 4 miles per gallon. During the two-week collection period for green waste, vehicles travel around a 700sq mile district, producing large amounts of carbon in comparison.

Q: I still produce small amounts of green waste during the winter period, can I still use my green bin?

A: Yes, if you only generate a small amount of dry green waste over winter, you can continue to put it in your green waste bin and then re-present it when your collection resumes.

Q: Will the collection of my black domestic bin or grey recycling bin change?

A: Yes. In ensuring that the collection of your domestic waste and recyclable materials remains operationally efficient, the Council has had to change the combination of bins presented by some residents. If you normally put your black domestic waste bin out with your grey recycling bin, when your green waste collection ceases you will be asked to present your black bin and grey bin on alternate weeks.

Q: Will Christmas affect the days when my waste is collected?

A: If you normally have a collection on a Monday or a Friday, you will be affected by changes to collections

over the Christmas period. The changes will be included on a calendar that will be attached to your bin during October/November. They are also included on your calendar at www.e-lindsey.gov.uk/wastecollection. Alternatively you can call Customer Services on 0800 08 55 037.

Q: How shall I dispose of my old Christmas tree?

A: Old Christmas trees can be taken to your local Household Waste Recycling Centre for disposal, alternatively buy a Christmas tree with roots that can be put in the garden after Christmas, or perhaps buy an artificial tree and re-use it each year.

Q: Can I have a reduction in my council tax?

A: The Council Tax level set in March 2009 already included the savings achieved from the changes to the green waste collection.

Q: Why are the green collections not starting earlier?

A: There was clear evidence that we were collecting minimal green waste over the winter. The start date reflects our best estimate of when the amount of green waste might increase again.



FACT

During the summer months of 2008 we collected enough green waste to fill around 300 waste collection vehicles every month but during the winter months we didn't collect enough to fill 50 vehicles each month.

 recycle for East Lindsey

RECYCLING HOTLINE 0800 08 55 037