

March 2025 Community Forums Briefing: New bin deliveries in May, ready for the new collection service in August

1. New arrivals: 240-litre blue-lidded cardboard and paper bins, from May

From early May, new 240-litre blue-lidded bins will be delivered to North Herts households, ready to use for cardboard and paper recycling when the new service starts on 4 August 2025. The new bin will be taped up with a note attached advising residents not to use it until that date.

Residents should continue to use their blue paper boxes until the new service begins. We will not be collecting the old paper boxes. We recommend that residents use them for storage, or for putting out additional recycling or cardboard and paper side waste for collection. If unwanted, these can also be recycled at local recycling centres.

The introduction of a separate cardboard and paper waste stream meets the Government's 'Simpler Recycling' requirement, to reduce cross-contamination and increase the quality of cardboard and paper recycling. Annual increases in home shopping deliveries, and manufacturers and retailers moving from plastic to cardboard packaging, is resulting in a greater amount of cardboard arriving in households. This bin helps residents process that. The cardboard and paper that we collect goes to Edwards Recycling. Income from it is used towards the costs of waste collection.

2. Expanding food waste recycling to the majority of flats/communal bin stores

Food waste recycling collections will be reintroduced to flats and areas with communal bins that do not currently have this service.

3. Further changes to the bin collection service in North Herts

The new three-weekly collection cycle for non-recyclable waste, mixed recycling and the new cardboard and paper bin will start from 4 August 2025. Most flats and households with communal bins will stay on fortnightly collections. Food waste collections remain a weekly, with subscription garden waste collections continuing fortnightly. Revised bin collection days will be promoted and circulated nearer the time.

From 4 August, residents can put loose plastics in their mixed recycling bin, in line with the Government's Simpler Recycling requirement for recycling 'soft plastics' from home¹.

Further information

A Waste Department representative has requested to present to the Community Forums across North Herts on the new bin collection service in June, to go through the changes.

In the meantime, the Council webpage covers the key points and offers FAQs: www.north-herts.gov.uk/bin-collection-service-changes.

¹Trailblazers Knebworth, Royston, & Sawbridgeworth should continue using their current system for soft plastics recycling, then switch on 4 August to adding these loose their mixed recycling bin