

WASTE SERVICES

Briefing for Community Councils



Please find an update below from Scottish Borders Council's Waste Services team on Community Recycling Centre winter opening hours getting underway, and the new Millions of Reasons to Recycle campaign.

Community recycling centre winter opening hours begin on Monday 30 September 2019

Changes to the opening hours of community recycling centres began on 1 April 2019 with new later summer opening hours.

As previously communicated, the new winter opening hours for all community recycling centres will now begin on Monday 30 September.

The new winter opening hours are:

- Weekdays – 10am to 4.45pm
- Saturday and Sundays – 9am to 4.45pm

The only change is the weekday closing time now being 4.45pm from Monday 30 September, having previously been 6.45pm during the summer months.

Lunchtime closure remains – 1.15pm to 2pm each day – and the specific weekday closure at each site remains the same – please visit www.scotborders.gov.uk/recyclingcentres for full details.

Usage of new later summer hours

Figures available from five of the seven community recycling centres show almost 10,000 visits were made to the sites during the new later summer opening hours (5pm to 6.45pm) from April to August.

Reasons for changes

The Council took the decision to move to summer and winter opening hours this year to ensure the service better met the needs of the public, and ensured it remained sustainable for the local authority.

The changes follow an extensive review which considered waste survey results and community recycling centre user figures:

Waste survey

- Received over 1,400 responses from members of the Borders public in 2016 and revealed 62% of people would manage if all community recycling centres were open less often.
- A total of 46% of respondents also said they would use a community recycling centre if open later (between 5pm to 7pm) in summer.

User figures

- Community recycling centre statistics show user figures are 45% higher in the summer than the winter, with centres also used 11% more at weekends than weekdays.

Communications

We issued a variety of communications ahead of the new summer opening hours being introduced in April 2019, including details on the winter hours.

However, as this is the first time the winter opening hours have operated, we have issued further communications, with temporary signage, social media messages and a news release being issued to remind users of the new hours.

Millions of Reasons to Recycle campaign

We have now launched our Millions of Reasons to Recycle campaign which is encouraging the public to get involved and put the right stuff in the right bin.

The local initiative aims to highlight the environmental and financial need to recycle, and what can and cannot be recycled.

Digital materials – based on graphics provided by Zero Waste Scotland – to guide households on what items can be recycled are now available at www.scotborders.gov.uk/millionsofreasons.

Other activities being taken forward by the campaign include:

- [Zero Waste School Champions pilot project](#) involving pupils at 19 schools which are aiming to encourage their families and communities to recycle more. This project was launched this month with the help of the Learning For Sustainability Teachers Group with all resources being made available online. The results of the pilot will be revealed in December with Councillors invited to attend.
- [News release issued last](#) week to support the national Recycle Week campaign run by Zero Waste Scotland
- An advertising campaign with Radio Borders is underway to coincide with the national Recycle Week initiative. Alongside the radio adverts running for the next month, we have a [section on Radio Borders website](#) dedicated to the campaign. In addition, a social media video with a Borders school was filmed this week and will be available in the coming weeks to further support the campaign
- A social media campaign which will include the Millions of Reasons to Recycle graphics as well as Journey of your Waste and Radio Borders promotional videos
- Sharing future national and local environmental and recycling campaigns on social media

Why is it needed?

- 70% of materials in our grey general waste bins could have been recycled
- If waste is correctly placed in recycling bins, it would save £1.1million on landfill tax per year
- This saving could be used towards other services.
- 92% of respondents to our waste and recycling service survey in 2016 support us doing more to recycle
- Scottish Government is targeting 70% of all waste to be recycled or prepared for reuse by 2025
- It is estimated that we are currently consuming resources as if we had three planets, leading to environmental destruction

The campaign coincides with the opening of the new Waste Transfer Station, which means the Scottish Borders is now landfill-free area.

We have a short [video available to tell you more about the new facility](#).

West Lothian based company Levenseat now treat our residual waste rather than it being dumped on a landfill site to sit for hundreds of years and create harmful greenhouse gases.

[Levenseat also have a video](#) explaining more about how they deal with our waste.

The closure of the landfill site is also expected to lead to improved recycling rates for the Scottish Borders.

Getting involved

Please share the social media messaging around the campaign, as well as the materials which are available [online to download](#).

If there are any positive community projects going on which we could share, please get in touch with the [Communications team](#).

Should you wish for some printed copies of the Millions of Reasons to Recycle materials, [please let us know](#) – this is an environmental campaign so we are trying to reduce the amount we print, however we can make a limited number of copies available should you need them.