

Extract from *Litter Strategy for England April 2017*

Household Waste Recycling Centres (also known as civic amenity sites, or local 'tips')

There is a long-established precedent of free access for local residents to deposit household waste at household waste recycling centres (HWRCs) and this is now reflected in Regulations brought into force in 2015. This service enables residents to dispose of their household waste without charge and reduces the risk of fly-tipping and backyard burning.

Government's view is clear: DIY waste is classed as household waste if it results from work a householder would normally carry out. A number of local authorities have introduced additional charges for the deposit of waste which local authorities categorise as 'waste other than household waste'. However, as Government made clear following the consultation on preventing 'backdoor' charging at HWRCs, this can inconvenience residents and make disposing of their waste more difficult. There is also a risk these charges can be counterproductive and simply transfer costs to dealing with additional fly-tipping and littering. It is therefore important that, where charges are proposed, they are proportionate and transparent and are made in consultation with local residents so that local services meet local needs.

We welcome the #crimenottocare campaign recently launched by Keep Britain Tidy, which recognises that two-thirds of fly-tipped material is household waste, and is aimed at raising householders' awareness of the Duty of Care.¹¹

The Government also supports the industry-led 'Right Waste, Right Place' campaign, which was established alongside the Waste Duty of Care Code of Practice to help business understand how to manage their waste properly. The campaign is managed by the Environmental Services Association, sponsored by the Environment Agency, the Chartered Institution of Wastes Management and the Environmental Services Association Education Trust. It has strong support from a number of waste-producing and waste management businesses. A number of trade associations and several large waste management companies have now endorsed the campaign by signing up to its Ambassador programme, extending the reach to many thousands in their supply chains.

We also want to help smaller businesses to use existing waste collection and disposal infrastructure more effectively and at proportionate cost. This will help to make recycling and responsible waste disposal cheaper and more convenient. In particular, we want to encourage local authorities to consider whether HWRCs, and other bring-bank recycling facilities, could be adapted to accept waste and recycling from local traders or small business at an affordable cost to the user. Accepting waste from small businesses at HWRCs may also have a subsidiary benefit to local authorities and household residents: a number of less cost-efficient sites are

currently under threat of closure but the revenues generated from accepting waste from small businesses could help provide the funds needed to keep them open. Through WRAP, we have provided guidance to local authorities on how they can resolve practical issues associated with adapting HWRCs and ensure that charging is fair, easy to understand and transparent to business and local householders.

We will work with WRAP and local authorities to:

- explore further ways of managing these services to facilitate access by small businesses;
- review current guidance to ensure this reflects changes in the law and to make clear what can and cannot be charged for at HWRCs (including in respect of DIY waste); and
- explore ways of managing HWRC services to facilitate access for local householders (and their waste other than household waste) and for small businesses at proportionate cost. Revised guidance will be published by the end of 2017.

Two-tier authorities

In two-tier local authority areas we are aware that inefficient transfers of cost between waste collection and waste disposal authorities can hinder joint working and good management of waste and recycling services. We will work with WRAP and local authorities to explore how cost-sharing arrangements for waste and recycling, especially in two-tier areas, can work most effectively.

Pages 20-21

https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/630999/litter-strategy-for-england-2017-v2.pdf (accessed 3 October 2017)