

24th October 2024 – Hunts Waste Busters

Attendees and Introduction

Heidi – Waste Minimisation Officer, HDC

Auriane – Waste Minimisation Support Officer, HDC

Chris – Huntingdon

Councillor Hunt – Huntingdon East

Caroline – St Ives

Mary – St Ives

Alan - Southoe and Midloe Parish Council

Liz - Houghton

Janice – Hemingford Grey

Kathy – Little Paxton

Richard – Huntingdon

Apologies

Nicola – St Neots Town Council

Harriet - Climate Co-ordinator, HDC

Irene – Somersham

Helen – Yaxley

Malcolm - Brampton

Jane - Holywell-cum-Needlingworth

Richard – St Neots

Eugene - Perry

Laure

Cllr Bulat - Councillor

Nic - St Ives

Welcome

Heidi introduced herself (waste minimisation officer) and Auriane (waste minimisation support officer). We welcomed everyone and had a quick round of introductions of the attendees.

Data & Trends

- The waste min team constantly use **data** such as recycling rates and bin rejections to measure our resident's behaviours. In September 2024, 50% of material collected was recycled or composted.

Rejects (Contaminated Blue Bin)

- **September Contamination Rate:** 13.2% (an increase partially due to a change of contract).
- **Overall 2024 Contamination Rate:** 7.5%
- **Primary Contamination Issue:** Food waste continues to be the leading cause of contamination in recycling bins.
- The amount of **textiles** we collected was sitting at 3.5 tonnes in September, compared to about 3.4 tonnes this time last year. Overall, there is no increase nor decrease in the amount of textiles we collected last year compared to this year.



Contamination rate year to date

Changes in legislations

Single-Use Plastic Ban

- **Enforcement Date:** October 2023
- On 1 October new legislation came into force prohibiting the sale, supply and offer of single-use plastic plates, bowls, trays, containers, cutlery and balloon sticks. Furthermore, businesses must not supply ready-to-consume food and drink in polystyrene containers.
- **Action Required:** Report any businesses using single-use plastic to wasteminimisation@huntingdonshire.gov.uk.

Environment Act 2021 Implementation

- **March 2025:** Mandatory food waste collection for businesses.
- **April 2025:** Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR) implementation to reduce waste.
- **March 2026:** Weekly food collection for all residents.

Vape Legislation

- **June 1, 2025:** Ban on selling and supplying single-use vapes in the UK.

Garden Waste Initiatives – [more here.](#)

- **Home Composters:** Approximately 360 units purchased to date.
- **Saturday Freighters:** 2,535 visits, 70.45 tonnes collected. This ran between April and September 2024 and a decision to renew the service will go through cabinet.
- **Free Soil Improver:**
 - 45 requests received, 39 deliveries made to date.

Positive feedback from Parish Councils regarding this initiative.

Some of our recent activities

Sanitary Products Offer - Round 1

- **Problem:** In 2019, 260 tonnes of menstrual products entered Huntingdonshire's waste stream.

- **Solution:** Partnership with Hey Girls to offer free reusable menstrual products to residents in need.

Offer: Free products available.

Sanitary Products Offer - Round 2

Heavily discounted reusable products (£5 vs. £23.50 retail). This will be run by ourselves but funded by [RECAP](#).

Food Waste Prevention Initiatives

- **Behavioural Expert Support:** Upcoming project in Yaxley and Huntingdon to reduce food waste.

Vape Recycling

- **Mapping of Recycling Points:** Identifying vape recycling points across Huntingdonshire.

Educational Outreach

- **School Talks:** Approximately 15 confirmed school engagements.

WEEE Bins

- **Impact to Date:** Over 2,366 kg of waste diverted from landfill.
- **Next Steps:** Additional funding received for further expansion; timeline TBC.

Additional Resident Incentives

- **Free Stickers** for waste reduction initiatives.
- **Water Stations:** Evaluating implementation of water refill stations.

Offers to residents (reminder)

Incentives

[10-25% discount on reusable period/incontinence products](#)

[10-25% discounts on reusable nappies](#)

[£20 off compost bins \(£16.99 left to pay\)](#)

Services

[WEEE bins available](#)

[Bulky Waste Collection](#)

[Litter Picking Utensils](#) (email - litterminimisation@huntingdonshire.gov.uk)

[Free loose compost](#)

[Saturday Freighters](#)

Community green bins for parish councils (free) – up to 10 garden bins to be sited in a communal location. These bins will need be accessible for local residents to use to deposit their garden waste and will be collected as part of the normal route scheduling for fortnightly garden bin collections.

It will be the responsibility of the parish council to manage these bins, the same as a household, ie no contamination, out for collection on the collection day. To request bins for your parish please contact wasteminimisation@huntingdonshire.gov.uk

Upcoming Events

- **Food for the Planet Festival:** Oct 26, 2024, at Cambridge Museum of Technology.
- **[Annual Climate Conference](#):** Nov 6, 2024, at Burgess Hall, St Ives.
- **St Neots Christmas Event:** Nov 30, 2024, at St. Neots Library.
- **December Waste Busters:** Date TBD.

Comments from attendees / Actions

Q: Question | C: Comment | A: Answer

Q – It can be hard to know where a recycling point is (clothes were mentioned in this example), what can you do about this?

A – We do have a [map](#) showcasing where your nearest recycling point is for key items such as clothe, however it doesn't include all the banks as some are installed by charities and we don't have any involvement with them. There is also [Recycle Now](#) which serves similar functions.

Action: check that Recycle New is up to date.

Q / C – I may be interested in getting a compost bin, but felt overwhelmed with all the options so ended up not getting any. Perhaps it would be useful to see a compost bin on display at a market square.

A – We will look at doing this in the spring. **Action:** Purchase and display a compost bin.

Q / C: We don't know where the Alconbury Weald Transfer Station is located, please could we have a what three word pin to know where to get the free soil improver offered there.

A - What three words - <http://trading.doses.pinging/> - Location: 52°23'40.6"N 0°15'31.7"W

Q: Please could we have better litter pick as they are not in great condition?

A – We will ask the Street Cleansing Manager. **Action:** Share this comment with relevant colleague.