

# Renfrewshire Council

Striving for Excellence 2025

We are **fair**, We are **helpful**, We are great **collaborators**, We value **learning**



# Renfrewshire Council

- Renfrewshire Council is the 10<sup>th</sup> largest local authority in Scotland.
- We deliver waste services to 90,000 households, running a 7 days a week service.
- We are a predominantly urban authority, with some rural properties giving a mix of challenging circumstances for service delivery.
- Our recycling rate for 2023 was 44%.



## 2022 Composition Analysis

- In 2022, Renfrewshire Council carried out a Waste Composition Analysis to understand the ongoing impact of our 2018 service change.
- From this we found that **61%** of materials collected in the residual waste bins should have been recycled or disposed of elsewhere.
- **34%** of waste should have been disposed of in brown bins, with **33%** being food waste.
- Of the **6%** of items that should have been taken to the Recycling Centres, **1%** was Small WEEE.
- This data has informed our programme of work for the last year...



## Food Waste Project Phase One

- Phase one of the food waste improvement project we supplied all household's already receiving a comingled food and garden waste collection with the below:
  - Annual supply of free food waste liners to their doorstep and indoor food waste caddy, if required
  - “No Food Waste” sticker manually applied to residual waste bins
  - Comprehensive marketing and education campaign including leaflets and advertisement
- A review of other studies and local authorities shown the above actions to be beneficial for engagement of residents with the food waste service.



## Food Waste Project Phase Two

- In phase two, we introduced food waste collections to communal properties not previously on the service. We supplied them with:
  - Annual supply of free food waste liners and indoor food waste caddies to their doorstep
  - Reusable 60L bags for transporting dry recycling to communal bins
  - Shared bins with restricted lid openings
  - Additional 1280L blue and green recycling bins where under capacity





## Food Waste Project Phase Three

- In phase three, we standardised food and garden waste collections to properties previously without access due to issues with storage of wheeled bins and rurality, introducing the following:
  - 240L brown bin provided to 5000 households
  - Outdoor food waste caddy provided to 1000 households
  - Annual supply of free food waste liners and indoor food waste caddies to their doorstep



## Results

- 100% of Renfrewshire residents now have access to a food waste collection, regardless of location.
- There have been **321.3 tonnes** more comingled food and garden waste collected **between 01 January and 31 March 2025** compared to the same period in the previous year (1495.72t 2024 and 1817.02 in 2025), a **22% increase**.
- From this, there has already been an approx. **276 tonnes CO2e carbon benefit** from the project.
- We have received overwhelmingly positive feedback from residents on the impacts of this project.

I want to thank the council so much for finally providing bins for kitchen waste in our block of flats near the town center. It is a joy to be able to keep my kitchen scraps from going in the regular bin. And I thought the information that was given out with the bins was an excellent explanation of why it is important to recycle this material. Well done!

Thank you for providing the bin for compostable waste and bin bags. My flatmate and I were trying to be more environmentally friendly and this has helped.

## WEEE Banks

- Alongside our food waste improvement project, we rolled out a project to improve WEEE recycling within Renfrewshire.
- The purpose of the WEEE bank project was to not only increase access to recycling but also reduce risks of WEEE and batteries being disposed of incorrectly.
- We installed 12 x 110L recycling bins and 18L battery bins in all our library locations.
- It was also hoped that this would help to drive footfall in libraries.
- Thus far, we have collected 1.6 tonnes of WEEE within first 5 months of operation, exceeding original projections.
- Feedback from elected members, library staff, and users has been overwhelmingly positive.

“Handy to have, they are especially good if you don't drive and can't easily access the recycling centre”





## APSE Striving for Excellence 2025

For these projects, the team won gold 🏆 in the waste category at the APSE Striving for Excellence Awards in Aviemore this year.



## What's Next?

- Due to the success of the WEEE banks, we will be increasing locations, with the long-term aim to have them in all public buildings in Renfrewshire.
- We currently have a pilot scheme for WEEE reuse which we hope to expand, having collected 1.83 tonnes for reuse in 2024.
- A re-route which decouples residual bins from recycling bins is currently underway.
- A rolling programme of workshops and engagement with our waste advisers empowering the community to take ownership of their waste and local environment.



# Any questions?

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