

REDUCING LANDFILL



UNLOCKS POTENTIAL SAVINGS

West Lothian residents are being urged to help to save more than £2 million every year by choosing to reuse, reduce and recycle.

Householders are being asked to take a few minutes to recycle more for West Lothian this year.

Head of Operational Services Jim Jack said: "If every household in West Lothian took a few extra minutes to recycle using the kerbside bins available they could help

to save around £1.6 million each year in landfill costs."

If householders also used the 'bring sites' such as bottle banks and Community Recycling Centres, the figure saved could reach a massive £2.25 million."



GREY (LANDFILL) BINS HOLD THE KEY

Residents can help West Lothian to save more than £1.6 million by correctly recycling goods which are currently being sent to landfill.

A recent analysis of grey bins revealed:

- ◀ 28%, or 10,000 tonnes, of food waste is being sent to landfill at a cost of around £600,000.
- ◀ 23% is made up of newspapers, magazines, card and paper and plastics or 8,500 tonnes of material is being sent to landfill costing around £850,000.
- ◀ 7% is garden waste, representing 2,500 tonnes of material being sent to landfill costing around £200,000.

IF YOU REUSE, REDUCE AND RECYCLE, THE CONTENTS OF YOUR GREY (LANDFILL) BIN COULD BE REDUCED BY 75%.

USING 'BRING SITES' HELPS TO RELEASE EVEN MORE SAVINGS

More money could be saved in landfill tax if householders took glass, textiles and electrical and electronic items to a 'bring site' or a community recycling centre.

The research also showed that the grey (landfill) bins included:

- ◀ glass bottles and jars represent around 8% of waste in the grey bin or £400,000;
- ◀ textiles represent around 5% or £170,000;
- ◀ 1% or £40,000 for electrical and electronic items.

Executive councillor for the environment Tom Conn commented: "West Lothian residents have a big part to play in helping the council to save money. Recycling using the blue and brown bins and food waste caddies can save more than £1.6 million a year. We are asking everyone to make time to recycle more in 2015."

On average under a third of the material found in a grey bin should be actually be there. The rest could have been reused, recycled or composted.

YOUR BLUE BIN IS READY TO TAKE MORE

With so much material which could be within the blue bin it is important that residents ensure the materials put into the blue bin are on the GREEN list and CLEAN.

Currently the contamination rate within the blue bin sits at 16.1%. This means that whilst the council collects more than 12,000 Tonnes of household material per year around 2,000 Tonnes had to be landfilled at considerable cost to the council.

Waste Services Manager David Goodenough commented: "contamination by food, glass, clothing and grey bin rubbish causes big problems for the processing of blue bin.

Wet material and glass are the biggest problems as they can ruin a whole bin lorry of materials due to paper soaking up liquid and shards of glass preventing paper from being recycled. Residents can help by ensuring the right materials go into the blue bin and using their food caddies, clothing banks and glass recycling points for these other materials."

- Details of what you can recycle and where are shown on the councils website at : www.westlothian.gov.uk/recycling

Please recycle ✓

- ✓ Plastic pots, tubs and other food trays
- ✓ Plastic bottles and lids
- ✓ Juice and smoothie carton
- ✓ Clean steel and aluminium tins and cans
- ✓ Aluminium foil, trays and empty aerosol cans
- ✓ Empty plastic bags
- ✓ ALL paper, card cardboard and cardboard cartons

Please do not use the blue bin for ✗

- ✗ food and drinks waste
- ✗ glass
- ✗ polystyrene
- ✗ nappies or textiles
- ✗ general rubbish or black bin bags