



## FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

### Food & Garden Waste Collections (Updated June 2010)

#### Why is the Council collecting food waste in the Brown bin?

It is estimated that around 30% of the waste contained in an average landfill bin is food waste. The Council needs to meet strict EU landfill diversion targets in order to avoid huge fines that will have to be paid for through increased rates. The collection of food waste will divert more waste from landfill and help the Council to meet these targets.

When food waste is placed in landfill and starts to breakdown it produces Methane gas (a greenhouse gas) and leachate. These are harmful to the environment. Composting food waste is better for the environment and more sustainable.

#### I don't have a brown bin how can I get one?

These are supplied and delivered free-of-charge by contacting the Council's Technical & Environmental Services.

#### Do I have to place food waste into my brown bin?

Whilst it is not mandatory for all householders to place food waste into the brown bin, the Council would strongly encourage all householders to participate. Placing food waste into the brown bin will reduce the amount of waste in the grey bin, so householders will have more space for other non-recyclable materials. By not participating, there is an increased risk of the Council not meeting its targets.

#### What is accepted in the brown bin?



All cooked and raw foods (excluding liquids and cooking oils) are accepted. This includes bread & pastries dairy, meat & bones, fish, fruit & vegetables, tea & coffee grounds, & garden waste. Food waste should be placed loose, 'lightly' wrapped in a single sheet of newspaper or in the biodegradable liners provided.

#### Can I place left over pet food into my brown bin?

Yes. All pet foods are accepted.

### **What isn't accepted in the brown bin?**

Any type of food packaging, cardboard, plastics, plastic bags, rubble, soil & sods, liquids, fats & oils, wood & timber. If it isn't food, we don't want it! Only use the biodegradable liners provided.

### **Will my brown bin collections change?**

No, brown bin collections will continue as normal as per the collections calendar  
<http://www.castlereagh.gov.uk/KerbCollect.asp>.

### **Will I have problems with pests and smells?**

The brown bin is a sealed container and if the lid is kept closed you should not experience problems with pests and smells. Food waste can be 'lightly' wrapped in newspaper or placed in biodegradable liners provided. This will help reduce smells.

### **What happens to the food waste after collections?**

Food waste is collected and transported to a local facility for in-vessel composting, an industrial form of composting in which air flow and temperature are strictly controlled.

### **What is produced after in-vessel composting takes place?**

The process produces compost, which can be used in horticulture, replacing natural peat-based composts.

### **Can I buy the compost produced?**

Yes, the compost that is produced by the local facility is called 'Rosey Lee' and is stocked in over forty garden centres in Northern Ireland and Ireland. You can also purchase the bagged compost from the Council.

### **Will the Council be providing kitchen caddies and liners?**

Yes, caddies and liners will be supplied to all householders with brown bin in June, July and August 2010. If you require a brown bin, caddies or liners please contact the Council's Technical & Environmental Services.

The 'Love Food Hate Waste' campaign offers some practical hints and tips on how to reduce food waste, you can find more information at <http://www.lovefoodhatewaste.com/>.

If you are a keen gardener and would like to make your own compost, the Council sells composters to Householders for a subsidised price of £5 and these are delivered free-of-charge. You can find more information on how to compost at <http://www.recyclenow.com/compost/>.