



From mountain to sea

Frequently Asked Questions Business Waste Drop-off Service

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1. Background

Q: Why can businesses not take their waste and recycling to recycling centres like anybody else?

A: Recycling centres are provided for householders to use.

The aim is to create space for additional recyclable materials at recycling centres to improve services to households.

Currently some businesses unlawfully use recycling centres by disguising their business waste as household waste. Based on car counts and anecdotal evidence, business waste is estimated to be up to 20% (10,000 tonnes) of the waste handled at recycling centres annually and cost around £0.5 million to dispose of – this is paid for by taxpayers.

Q: Who was consulted on these proposals and who made the decision?

A: Following a public consultation in the autumn 2018 on the Council's new 5-year waste strategy, Infrastructure Services Committee approved the waste strategy, including the proposals to move trade waste from recycling centres to waste transfer stations, in January 2019. Area committees were then consulted in June 2019 on the proposals on how this would be done in practice. Infrastructure Services Committee approved the new arrangements in August 2019.

Q: How can the Council justify reducing services – what do I pay my business rates for?

A: Business rates are a tax on non-domestic properties to help pay for local council services – they are not a service charge. Local authorities administer and collect the tax, whilst the Scottish Government sets the tax rates.

Q: Will the new system lead to fly-tipping? What are you going to do about that?

A: Businesses fly-tip as is. There are always concerns about fly-tipping when waste and recycling services are changed. In Aberdeenshire's and other local authorities' experience, fly-tipping resulting from service changes tends to be time-limited and usually very localised.

2. How will the system work

Q: What are my options if I can't take my business waste to recycling centres any longer?

A: The Council provides a [trade waste collection service for businesses](#) from their premises across Aberdeenshire – this collection service is provided for glass, plastic bottles, pots, tubs & trays, paper, card & cardboard, metal tins, cans, aerosols & foil, cartons (tetra-pak type packaging) and non-recyclable waste. Businesses also have the option of using private waste management companies for the disposal and recycling of their waste. The new drop-off service at the Council's waste transfer stations is aimed at those businesses which do not have space to keep bins in their premises for a trade waste collection service, have other materials to recycle or cannot organise a skip collection through a private waste management company for the site they are working at.



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Q: Why do I have to segregate my waste for recycling?

A: Businesses are legally obliged to separate out recycling from waste, store their waste securely and to dispose of it responsibly through a licenced contractor as set out in the Environmental Protection Act 1990 and Waste (Scotland) Regulations 2012.

Q: Where can I drop-off my business waste?

A: From 14th July 2020 you can drop off your business recycling (cardboard, garden waste, plasterboard, rubble, soil and wood) and non-recyclable waste to one of the following waste transfer stations on Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Thursdays from 7.30am till 10.30am:

- Banchory - Crow's Nest, Upper Lochton Road AB31 4EQ
- Ellon - Balmacassie Commercial Park, Balmacassie Brae AB41 8BY
- Macduff - Tarlair Way, Macduff AB44 1RU

Q: What are the opening hours?

A: The three waste transfer stations (Banchory, Ellon and Macduff) accept recycling and waste from businesses on Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Thursdays from 7.30am till 10.30am.

Q: Can I just turn up?

A: That's correct, no pre-booking will be required.

Q: What materials can I drop off?

A: You can take cardboard, garden waste, plasterboard, rubble, soil, wood and non-recyclable waste to waste transfer stations.

Q: How much does it cost?

A: You pay by weight and the price per tonne depends on the type of material you want to dispose of - recycling is cheaper than non-recyclable waste. The prices are as follows:

- Cardboard, garden waste, rubble, soil and wood - £77 per tonne (minimum charge £20 per load)
- Plasterboard - £136 per tonne (minimum charge £20 per load)
- Non-recyclable waste - £170 per tonne (minimum charge £20 per load)

Q: How do I pay?

A: The payment is by card using chip&pin at the waste transfer station. We cannot accept any other forms of payment.

Q: What do I need to do when I get there?

A: On arrival you should drive onto the weighbridge and report to the weighbridge office. If there is a queue, please wait in the waiting area signposted.

You will be asked what types of recycling and non-recyclable waste you have in your load. You will also be asked to show your [SEPA waste carrier registration document](#).



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The site attendant will explain any site rules you should be aware of and what Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) you should wear, typically protective footwear, a hi-visibility top and a hard hat.

You will be directed to the tipping area for the material you have in your load.

If you have both recycling (cardboard, garden waste, plasterboard, rubble, soil or wood) and non-recyclable waste in your load, then you will need to drive over the weighbridge before emptying your second material to ensure we can charge you a lower rate for your recycling.

Similarly, if you also have plasterboard (which is priced differently from the other recyclable materials), you would need to weigh on the weighbridge before tipping that.

Once you have emptied all the materials from your load, you return to the weighbridge to be weighed empty.

The site attendant will calculate the total cost based on the weights of the different materials.

You pay by card using chip & pin (we do not accept any other forms of payment) and are given a receipt and a waste transfer note.

Q: Why do I need a SEPA registration and how do I get one?

A: You need to register because it is a legal requirement and you need to show your registration document to us, so we know you are a registered business.

There are two types of registration, depending on whether you carry waste from your own business or transport somebody else's waste.

Waste carriers transport somebody else's waste as part of their business. A business must register, even if they only carry waste once in a while – this is a legal requirement. Details of charges are available on SEPA's website.

If a business only carries waste that they have produced as a result of their business (excluding construction and demolition waste), they must ensure they are entered on SEPA's register of professional collectors and transporters of waste. There is no charge for this type of registration.

See <https://www.sepa.org.uk/regulations/waste/waste-carriers-and-brokers/> for more information.

Q: Why do I have to wear PPE?

A: Waste transfer stations are industrial scale waste management units – they handle large quantities of household and business waste and have busy site traffic consisting of articulated lorries, collection lorries and loading shovels.

PPE is required at waste transfer stations to keep people safe and to prevent injuries. You will need to leave your vehicle at the waste transfer station to go to the site office and to remove your waste from your vehicle, hence it is important to wear the PPE required and follow the site rules to keep you safe.



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Q: Do I need to do anything before I turn up?

A: Ensure that you have the PPE you need at the waste transfer station and remember to take your payment card with you.

Please also pre-sort your materials into non-recyclable waste and into the various recycling streams before arrival at a transfer station as this will make the process quicker at the waste transfer station.