



# GET STARTED WITH HOME COMPOSTING!

As the impacts of climate change make themselves ever more apparent, the positive impacts of gardens will become ever more important.

Here are 5 ways you can maximise the benefits.

- 1. **Green up your outside space** - Plants are one of our most powerful weapons in the fight against climate change.
- 2. **Adopt new ways of growing** - Green roofs and walls can result in year-round home energy savings due to a cooling effect in summer and an insulating effect in winter.
- 3. **Be water-wise** - Water butts help prevent flooding by reducing the load on drains during rainstorms, and help conserve water during droughts.
- 4. **Avoid peat-based composts** - Peatlands store huge amounts of carbon. Use peat-free composts.
- 5. **Reduce, Reuse, Recycle, Reinvest.** Get inventive creating your own insect hotels. Adopt the 4R's. **Reduce** the use of resources in your garden wherever possible. **Reuse** household materials and seasonal items year on year. **Recycle** your garden waste, plastic, glass and metals and **Reinvest** and help stimulate demand for recycled products by buying recycled items.

- **Reduce your food and garden waste**
- **Enrich your soil and build resilience in your garden**
- **Save money and greenhouse gas emissions**
- **Support wildlife**

Buy a reduced-price bin and learn how to get the most out of your compost at [www.lovesessex.org/composting](http://www.lovesessex.org/composting)

Reduced-price bins are made in the UK from 100% recycled plastic.

Buy one and get the second half price!

Available in 220 litre and 330 litre.



## NEW WEEKLY GARDEN WASTE SUBSCRIPTION SERVICE

From Monday 5 June, garden waste collections will become a weekly subscription service for households in Basildon.

Unless residents are signed up to the yearly subscription service, their garden waste will no longer be collected once the new service goes live.



Together we can make a difference  
[www.lovesessex.org](http://www.lovesessex.org)



## 1 How to sign up

To sign up for the service go to [www.basildon.gov.uk/gardenwaste](http://www.basildon.gov.uk/gardenwaste) and complete the required form, or please scan the QR code with your phone to sign up. For residents who do not have online access please contact Basildon Council.



## 2 Receiving your permit sticker

Once you have signed up, you will receive a permit sticker within ten working days to stick to your green wheeled bin, to show you have subscribed. Please sign up early to make sure you receive your permit sticker prior to the service going live.



## 3 Garden waste charges

The standard subscription year runs from the 1 April to 31 March each year, in 2023/24 it will start on the 5 June.

In the first year of the new subscription service, there will be a discount and then the full charge will be introduced the following year, as detailed below:

**2023/24: £25 for one garden bin collection subscription and £15 per additional bin (37 Collections)**

**2024/25: £50 for one garden bin collection subscription and £25 per additional bin (46 collections)**

If you would like an additional bin, the bin you receive may be from refurbished stock.

**Thank you if you have already subscribed to the service, you do not need to take any further action. However, you may continue to receive promotional material about this service.**



## 4 What can I put in my garden waste bin?

### Yes please



**Grass cuttings, shrubs, plants, branches, weeds, leaves, windfall fruit, cut flowers and house plants**

### No thanks



**Plastic, cardboard or cans, flower pots, soil/mud/hardcore, food waste, treated wood and pet waste**

## 5 What are the alternatives to a weekly garden waste collection?

### Compost at home

You could buy a discounted compost bin from Love Essex <https://getcomposting.com/> and compost your food and garden waste at home. It is great for the environment, and will create soil improver you can use in your garden.

### Go wild

You could leave your garden wild and let nature take its course. This will allow for a variety of wildflowers to form, giving bees

and other wildlife a home as well as vital food sources to keep the pollination cycle going – a cycle that creates about 1/3 of the food we eat.

### Take it to Barleylands

At the Barleylands Recycling Centre, we have a public drop off for a number of recyclable items from cooking oil, to books, to scrap metal, and garden waste.

[www.basildon.gov.uk/barleylands](http://www.basildon.gov.uk/barleylands)

## 6 Why are we making these changes?

The new service will be more financially sustainable. The current economic climate has impacted the council's financial position. It is an optional service, only properties that require garden waste collections, will pay for it. This means that increases

to council tax can be limited or reduced, resulting in a fairer collection service.

In England around 2/3 of local authorities charge for garden waste collections.

Following your feedback, we are bringing back weekly collections.

### Will the service run all year round?

Garden waste will be collected 46 weeks of the year. The service will not run for up to six weeks around Christmas and dates will be communicated with residents prior to the service stopping.

### Can all properties sign up for garden waste collections?

Some properties are not operationally suitable for collection. If you don't currently receive a garden waste collection you won't be able to sign up for the service. If you would like to check please contact - [recycling@basildon.gov.uk](mailto:recycling@basildon.gov.uk)

### What do I do with my green wheeled bin if I don't sign up?

You can request for your green

wheeled bin to be collected, though we will not be collecting garden waste bins from properties within the first few months of the service going live.

You can keep the bin at your property, however you are able to drop it off at Barleylands Recycling Centre.

### Is the subscription available online only?

Online is the quickest and easiest method, all you need is a credit or debit card and property details. We do not accept cash or cheque payments. If you are not able to do it online, please ask family or friends to complete the form on your behalf. If you do not have online access, please contact Basildon Council.

To sign up and for more information about the service visit [www.basildon.gov.uk/gardenwaste](http://www.basildon.gov.uk/gardenwaste)



**Keep up to date:**  
Download free: Our Streets Basildon App  
[www.basildon.gov.uk/ourstreets](http://www.basildon.gov.uk/ourstreets)

