

Sustainable waste management

Types of kerbside recycling



Prepared for the Auditor General for Scotland and the Accounts Commission
September 2007

Auditor General for Scotland

The Auditor General for Scotland is the Parliament's watchdog for ensuring propriety and value for money in the spending of public funds.

He is responsible for investigating whether public spending bodies achieve the best possible value for money and adhere to the highest standards of financial management.

He is independent and not subject to the control of any member of the Scottish Government or the Parliament.

The Auditor General is responsible for securing the audit of the Scottish Government and most other public sector bodies except local authorities and fire and police boards.

The following bodies fall within the remit of the Auditor General:

- directorates of the Scottish Government, eg the Health Directorate
- executive agencies, eg the Prison Service, Historic Scotland
- NHS boards
- further education colleges
- Scottish Water
- NDPBs and others, eg Scottish Enterprise.

The Accounts Commission

The Accounts Commission is a statutory, independent body which, through the audit process, assists local authorities in Scotland to achieve the highest standards of financial stewardship and the economic, efficient and effective use of their resources. The Commission has four main responsibilities:

- securing the external audit, including the audit of Best Value and Community Planning
- following up issues of concern identified through the audit, to ensure satisfactory resolutions
- carrying out national performance studies to improve economy, efficiency and effectiveness in local government
- issuing an annual direction to local authorities which sets out the range of performance information they are required to publish.

The Commission secures the audit of 32 councils and 41 joint boards (including police and fire and rescue services). Local authorities spend over £14 billion of public funds a year.

Audit Scotland is a statutory body set up in April 2000 under the Public Finance and Accountability (Scotland) Act 2000. It provides services to the Auditor General for Scotland and the Accounts Commission. Together they ensure that the Scottish Government and public sector bodies in Scotland are held to account for the proper, efficient and effective use of public funds.

Note:

Prior to September 2007 the Scottish Administration was generally referred to as the Scottish Executive. It is now called the Scottish Government. When dealing with the earlier period this report refers to the Scottish Executive. Recommendations for the future refer to the Scottish Government.

Types of kerbside recycling by local authority as at March 2007

| Local authority | Residual waste bin | Container 1 | Container 2 | Container 3 | Container 4 |
|-------------------|--|---|---|--|---|
| Aberdeen City | Non-recyclable general household waste. Collection frequency: Weekly. | White bag: cardboard, paper, Yellow Pages. Fortnightly. | Black box: aluminium cans, glass, plastic bottles (all types), steel cans. Fortnightly. | Brown Bin: garden waste. Fortnightly. | Mini recycling point: cardboard, paper, Yellow Pages. As required. |
| Aberdeenshire | Non-recyclable general household waste. Fortnightly. | 240 Litre blue-lidded bin: paper, thin card. Monthly. White bag: paper, thin card. Fortnightly. | Black box: aluminium cans, glass, plastic bottles (all types), steel cans. Fortnightly. | Battery collection bag: household batteries. Fortnightly. | |
| Angus | Non-recyclable general household waste. Fortnightly. | Green box: aluminium cans, glass, paper, plastic bottles (all types), steel cans. Weekly. Carrier bag: paper. As required. | Green bin: garden waste. Fortnightly. | | |
| Argyll and Bute | Non-recyclable general household waste. Weekly/fortnightly depending on area. | Blue bin: cardboard, paper. Fortnightly. | White bag: (campbeltown waste watchers bag scheme) aluminium cans, cardboard, paper, plastic bottles (all types), steel cans, textiles. Fortnightly. | Green bag: (green bag and white bag scheme) aerosols, aluminium cans, food and drink cartons, plastic bottles (all types), steel cans. Fortnightly. | White bag: (green bag and white bag scheme) cardboard, handbags & shoes, paper, textiles. Fortnightly. |
| City of Edinburgh | Non-recyclable general household waste. Weekly. | Blue bag: paper, Yellow Pages. Fortnightly. Blue box: aerosols, aluminium cans, glass, steel cans. Fortnightly. | Red box: cardboard, food and drink cartons (eg, tetrapak), thin card. Fortnightly. | Brown bin: garden waste. Weekly. Community compost bag: (Colinton community compost bag scheme) garden waste. Weekly. | Salvation army bag: handbags & shoes, sheets, blankets etc, textiles. Fortnightly. Packaging point: Separate on-street bins for a variety of recyclables. |

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|---------------------|---|--|--|---|--|
| Clackmannanshire | Non-recyclable general household waste. Fortnightly. | Blue bag: paper. Weekly. | Blue box: aluminium cans, glass, plastic bottles (hdpe), plastic bottles (pet), steel cans, textiles. Weekly. | Brown bin: cardboard, garden waste. Fortnightly. | |
| Dumfries & Galloway | Non-recyclable general household waste. Weekly. | Blue box: paper. Fortnightly. | | | |
| Dundee City | Non-recyclable general household waste. Weekly. | Blue bin: paper, Yellow Pages. Monthly. | Green box: aluminium cans, glass, plastic bottles (hdpe), plastic bottles (pet). Fortnightly. | Brown bin: garden waste. Fortnightly (summer). Monthly (winter). | |
| East Ayrshire | Non-recyclable general household waste. Fortnightly. | Blue bin: cardboard, paper. Monthly. | Black box: aluminium cans, glass (mixed), steel cans. Fortnightly. | Brown bin: garden waste. Monthly. | |
| East Dunbartonshire | Non-recyclable general household waste. Fortnightly. | Blue box: cardboard, paper, plastic bottles (all types), Yellow Pages. Weekly . | Black box: aluminium cans, glass, steel cans. Weekly. | Green bin: garden waste. Fortnightly. | Communal recycling bin: Separate bins for paper, aluminium cans, steel cans, plastic bottles. |
| East Lothian | Non-recyclable general household waste. Weekly. | Blue box: paper. Fortnightly. | Green box: aluminium cans, glass, plastic bottles (all types), steel cans. Fortnightly. | Brown bin: garden waste. Fortnightly. | |
| East Renfrewshire | Non-recyclable general household waste. Weekly. | Blue bin: paper, thin card, Yellow Pages. Fortnightly. White sack: paper, thin card, Yellow Pages. Fortnightly. | Blue box: aluminium cans, glass, steel cans. Fortnightly. | Biobag: garden waste. Fortnightly. Brown bin: garden waste. Fortnightly. | |

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| Eilean Siar | Non-recyclable general household waste. Fortnightly. | Hessian sack: Christmas cards, paper, Yellow Pages Fortnightly. | Blue basket 1: aluminium cans, steel cans. Fortnightly. Blue basket 2: glass (mixed). Fortnightly. | Plastic bag: Plastic bags, plastic bottles (all types), plastic food containers. Fortnightly. | Brown bin: garden waste. Fortnightly. |
| Falkirk | Non-recyclable general household waste. Fortnightly. | Action recycle blue bag: aluminium cans, paper, steel cans, textiles. Fortnightly. | Blue bin: aluminium cans, cardboard, paper, plastic bottles (all types), steel cans, Yellow Pages. Fortnightly. | Brown bin: garden waste. Monthly. | High-rise and tenemental. Blue bag: paper, Yellow Pages. – weekly. Mini blue bin: aluminium cans, cardboard, plastic bottles, steel cans, textiles – weekly. Battery collection box: (high-rise and tenemental) household batteries. As required. |
| Fife | Non-recyclable general household waste. Weekly/fortnightly. | Blue bin: cardboard, food and drink cartons (eg, tetrapak), paper, Yellow Pages. Fortnightly/monthly. | Brown bin: garden waste. Fortnightly (summer). Monthly (winter). | | |
| Glasgow City | Non-recyclable general household waste. Weekly. | Blue bin: aluminium cans, paper, plastic bottles (hdpe), plastic bottles (pet), steel cans. Monthly. | Brown bin: garden waste. Fortnightly. | Communal blue bin: aluminium cans, paper, plastic bottles (hdpe), plastic bottles (pet), steel cans. Fortnightly. | Mini recycling point: aluminium cans, paper, plastic bottles (hdpe), plastic bottles (pet), steel cans, glass. As required. |

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| Highland | Non-recyclable general household waste. Weekly. | Black box: aluminium cans, paper, steel cans, textiles, Yellow Pages. Fortnightly. Only paper can be recycled in the fort william area. | Brown bin: garden waste. Fortnightly. | Golspie recycling and environment action network kerbside collection: 55 litre green box: cardboard, glass, paper, textiles, Yellow Pages – weekly. Plastic bag: aluminium cans, plastic bottles (hdpe), plastic bottles (pet), steel cans – weekly. | |
| Inverclyde | Non-recyclable general household waste. Fortnightly. | Blue bin: aluminium cans, cardboard, paper, plastic bottles (hdpe), plastic bottles (pet), plastic food containers, steel cans, textiles, Yellow Pages. Fortnightly. | Blue bag: aluminium cans, cardboard, paper, plastic bottles (hdpe), plastic bottles (pet), plastic food containers, steel cans, textiles. Fortnightly. Blue box: aluminium cans, cardboard, paper, plastic bottles (hdpe), plastic bottles (pet), plastic food containers, steel cans, textiles. Fortnightly. | Brown bin: garden waste. Fortnightly. Biobag: garden waste. Fortnightly. | Tenemental scheme. 140 Litre communal blue bin: aluminium cans, cardboard, paper, plastic bottles (hdpe), plastic bottles (pet), plastic food containers, steel cans, textiles. Fortnightly. 140 Litre communal brown bin: garden waste. Fortnightly. |
| Midlothian | Non-recyclable general household waste. Fortnightly. | Blue box: cardboard, paper, plastic bottles Yellow Pages. Weekly. | Red box: aluminium cans, glass, steel cans. Weekly. | Brown bin: garden waste. Fortnightly. | |

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| Moray | Non-recyclable general household waste. Fortnightly. | Blue box: cardboard, food and drink cartons (eg, tetrapak), paper, Yellow Pages. Weekly. | Orange box: aerosols, aluminium cans, aluminium foil, glass, steel cans. Weekly. | Brown bin: garden waste. Fortnightly. | Communal recycling bin: glass (mixed), cardboard, paper, Yellow Pages. Aerosols, aluminium cans, steel cans. Weekly. |
| North Ayrshire | Non-recyclable general household waste. Weekly. | Blue bag: paper, Yellow Pages. Fortnightly. | Black box: glass. Fortnightly. | Brown bin: garden waste. Weekly. | |
| North Lanarkshire | Non-recyclable general household waste. Weekly. | Blue bin: cardboard, paper, Yellow Pages. Monthly. | Green bin: glass. Monthly. | Brown bin: garden waste. Fortnightly. | |
| Orkney Islands | Non-recyclable general household waste. Weekly. | Green box: glass, paper. Fortnightly. | Bundles: garden waste. As required. | | |
| Perth & Kinross | Non-recyclable general household waste. Fortnightly (new kerbside recycling service). Weekly (paper and garden waste kerbside recycling). | Blue-lidded bin: (new kerbside recycling service) aluminium cans, cardboard, paper, plastic bottles (all types), steel cans. Fortnightly. Blue-lidded bin: (paper and garden waste kerbside recycling) paper. Monthly. | Brown-lidded bin: (new kerbside recycling service) food waste, garden waste. Fortnightly. Brown-lidded bin: (paper and garden waste kerbside recycling) garden waste. Fortnightly (summer). Monthly (winter). | | |

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| Renfrewshire | Non-recyclable general household waste. Fortnightly. | Blue bin: paper, thin card, Yellow Pages. Fortnightly. Blue box: paper, textiles, thin card. Fortnightly. | Green box: aluminium cans, glass (mixed), plastic bottles (hdpe), plastic bottles (pet), steel cans. Fortnightly. | Brown bin: garden waste. Fortnightly. | Mini recycling centre: (highrise household recycling service). Aluminium cans, steel cans. Glass (mixed). Paper, thin card. As required. |
| South Ayrshire | Non-recyclable general household waste. Fortnightly. | Blue bin: aluminium cans, cardboard, paper, plastic bottles (hdpe), plastic bottles (pet), steel cans, Yellow Pages. Monthly. | Black box: glass (mixed). Fortnightly. | Brown bin: garden waste. Monthly. | Biobag: garden waste. Monthly. |
| Scottish Borders | Non-recyclable general household waste. Weekly. | Lilac bag: cardboard, paper, Yellow Pages. Weekly. | Clear bag: aerosols, aluminium cans, plastic bottles (hdpe), plastic bottles (pet), steel cans. Weekly. | Green-lidded bin: garden waste. Weekly. | |
| Shetland Islands | Non-recyclable general household waste. Weekly. | Blue/green sacks: aluminium cans, glass, steel cans. Fortnightly. | | | |
| South Lanarkshire | Non-recyclable general household waste. Fortnightly. | Blue bin: aluminium cans, cardboard, paper, plastic bottles (hdpe), plastic bottles (pet), steel cans. Fortnightly. | Blue bag: glass. Fortnightly. | Garden waste uplift. As required. | Communal blue bin: aluminium cans, cardboard, paper, plastic bottles (hdpe), plastic bottles (pet), steel cans. Fortnightly. |
| Stirling | Non-recyclable general household waste. Fortnightly. | Blue box: aluminium cans, glass, paper, plastic bottles (hdpe), steel cans, textiles. Weekly. | Brown bin: cardboard, garden waste, Yellow Pages Fortnightly. | | |

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| West Dunbartonshire | Non-recyclable general household waste. Weekly. | <p>Bag: (bag scheme) aluminium cans, paper, plastic bottles (hdpe), plastic bottles (pet), steel cans. Fortnightly.</p> <p>Blue bag: (blue box and bag scheme) aluminium cans, cardboard, paper, plastic bottles (hdpe), plastic bottles (pet), steel cans, Yellow Pages. Fortnightly.</p> <p>Blue bin: (blue and brown bin scheme) aluminium cans, paper, plastic bottles (hdpe), plastic bottles (pet), steel cans, thin card, Yellow Pages. Monthly.</p> | <p>Bag: (bag scheme) garden waste. Fortnightly.</p> <p>Blue box: (blue box and bag scheme) aluminium cans, cardboard, paper, plastic bottles (hdpe), plastic bottles (pet), steel cans, Yellow Pages. Fortnightly.</p> <p>Brown bin: (blue and brown bin scheme) garden waste. Monthly.</p> | | |
| West Lothian | Non-recyclable general household waste. Fortnightly. | <p>Blue bag: (action recycle blue bag scheme) aluminium cans, paper, steel cans, textiles. Weekly.</p> | <p>Blue bin: (blue bin and brown bin scheme) aluminium cans, cardboard, paper, plastic bottles (hdpe), plastic bottles (pet), steel cans, Yellow Pages. Monthly (summer). Fortnightly (winter).</p> | <p>Brown bin: garden waste. Monthly.</p> | <p>Blue bin: (scheme for flats with blue storage/transfer bags) aluminium cans, cardboard, paper, plastic bottles (hdpe), plastic bottles (pet), steel cans, Yellow Pages. Monthly.</p> |

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Audit Scotland, 110 George Street, Edinburgh EH2 4LH
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