

Cambridgeshire County Council set to introduce an e-permit scheme for vans and trailers at Household Recycling Centres

Back in May, Cambridgeshire County Councillors approved plans to introduce a van and trailer e-permit scheme at all nine household recycling centres (HRCs).

The scheme will start in October and will allow the Council to better regulate the use of vans and trailers, helping to ensure only household waste is delivered to sites. All commercial-type vehicles and cars towing trailers in excess of 1.5 m (5 ft.) (excluding towing mechanism) and 570 litres capacity will require an e-permit to enter any of Cambridgeshire's HRCs, some restrictions will still apply.

Population growth and changes made by neighbouring authorities mean there is increasing pressure on the HRCs. Between 2012/13 and 2016/17 there was a 20% rise in waste collected at them. The Council needs this scheme to allow them to monitor who uses their sites and ensure they can cope with a rising demand on the service.

Any resident planning to visit a HRC from October with a van or trailer will need to obtain an e-permit using an online system beforehand. The e-permits will be free and available online or through the Customer Contract Centre and

- will only be issued to Cambridgeshire residents
- are limited to one permit per household for a single nominated vehicle
- will allow 12 visits to any Cambridgeshire site in 12 months from the application date, and
- are for disposal of residents' own household waste only.

No restrictions will apply to small passenger vehicles or trailers of less than 1.5m (5ft) in length and 570 litres in capacity.

Additional temporary site staff will be available to help at all nine HRCs in the early months of the scheme being introduced.

National figures from a survey carried out by WRAP (Waste and Resource Action Programme) indicated that of the authorities that responded who had introduced similar schemes only four saw an increase in fly-tipping but that this was in line with trends nationally, other authorities saw no link between fly-tipping and the change to their service. Northamptonshire County Council successfully introduced the scheme in 2018.

All councils across Cambridgeshire are currently working on a joint education campaign through the RECAP partnership on the issue of fly-tipping. This has a particular focus on the responsibility of residents to ensure that any tradesperson or private waste disposal company that they use disposes of waste legally and the Council continues to support that message.

More information about how to apply is available on our website www.cambridgeshire.gov.uk/HRC-permits/ or if you have questions or wish to be notified when permits become available please e-mail wmt@cambridgeshire.gov.uk