



**Have  
your say!**

9 October until 19 November 2023

**Recycling Centre Bookings  
Frequently asked questions**

**How many bookable slots do you offer each week?**

We offer more than 51,000 bookable slots per week in the summer months. The number of bookable slots is slightly lower in the winter months as operating hours are shorter.

**Why are bookings required at all sites and at all times?**

Bookings are required at all sites and across all operating hours to prevent demand being moved from high demand locations to lower capacity sites, leading to an increase in congestion.

**Will the booking system increase fly-tipping?**

Since launching the booking process for all vehicles across all sites, we have not seen a significant increase in fly-tipping incidents in the county. National studies by the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (Defra) carried out last year also haven't identified any link between booking systems and fly-tipping levels.

**Why can't the council provide more recycling centres?**

Although our recycling centres are very busy sometimes, there are times during the working week when the sites are quiet and underutilised. Whilst expanding the sites or building a new facility is a valid approach to the issues of queuing and congestion, it is a high-cost solution which will also introduce more underused capacity during the low peak times. A booking process smooths usage across the operating hours and is a more cost-effective approach to deal with the operational challenges we face.

**How can users without online access make a booking?**

Residents who don't have online access can phone the Essex County Council Contact Centre on 0345 743 0430, Monday to Friday, 8.30am to 5pm, to make a booking.

**Will you start charging to use recycling centres?**

Although we're asking you to book a slot to visit, access to the recycling centres is free of charge. Providing places for local residents to dispose of household waste free of charge is part of our duty under the Environmental Protection Act 1990.



### **Why don't Blue Badge holders need to make a booking?**

Blue Badges are provided for a variety of reasons. These can affect the holder's ability to access the booking system or the holder may require longer time on-site to unload waste. It is, therefore, proposed to exempt blue badge holders from the requirement to book. An Equality Comprehensive Impact Assessment was carried out as part of our decision to trial the recycling centre booking system.



### **How do I respond to the public consultation?**

The proposal document and supporting evidence is available online at [www.essex.gov.uk/recyclingcentrebookings](http://www.essex.gov.uk/recyclingcentrebookings) or available at your local library. The Public Consultation Questionnaire is available at [consultations.essex.gov.uk/rci/essex-recycling-centre-vehicle-bookings](http://consultations.essex.gov.uk/rci/essex-recycling-centre-vehicle-bookings) for six weeks. To request them in another format, please call 0345 603 7625.



### **When is the public consultation open?**

The consultation period will open on 9 October 2023 and closes on 19 November 2023. Paper copies will be accepted via post for a further five days, closing on 24 November 2023.



### **What happens next?**

We will publish a summary report of the consultation feedback after the consultation is complete and responses have been analysed.

The feedback obtained from responses to the Public Consultation Questionnaire and other consultation mechanisms, together with other relevant information, will be used to inform a future decision on whether to keep a booking process for recycling centres in Essex.

This information is issued by:  
Essex County Council  
Recycling and Waste

Contact us:  
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