

Green light to boosting recycling rates in Hampshire



Based in Eastleigh, the new Materials Recovery Facility (MRF) is expected to be up and running by the end of 2027, and will support all households across the Hampshire region to recycle:

- a much wider range of plastics, including pots, tubs, trays, cartons, and soft plastic film
- glass
- metal
- paper and cardboard

The proposal to build a new £50.5 million Materials Recovery Facility has been developed in conjunction with Hampshire's neighbouring waste disposal partners, Portsmouth City Council and Southampton City Council, who will jointly fund the project ensuring a consistent service across the region.

Residents are keen to do more, and I receive regular questions about when and how a greater variety of materials will be able to be recycled more easily from home. To help people recycle well and recycle better, we need the right processing facilities in place to make that happen. We also need to be better able to adapt to changes in consumer trends and what types of materials may need to be recycled in the future. Investing in this new facility represents a major milestone in what and how we recycle across Hampshire.

The new approach being taken in Hampshire, aligns with Government's [Simpler Recycling](#) guidance on residential kerbside recycling – separating dry materials from other waste to reduce contamination – which occurs when dry recyclable material, such as card, is unable to be recycled if it gets wet or stained with food residue or mixed with glass. Managing waste in this way will minimise the cost of sorting 'contaminated' materials (currently around £2 million every year) and ensure the recyclable materials, carefully sorted by Hampshire residents, can be put to be best possible use.

As a reminder, food waste recycling will begin across Test Valley on the 13th October. Residents and parishes will receive the latest information and further details as we get closer to that date.

<https://www.hants.gov.uk/News/20250429MRF>

Update from Hampshire County Council – May 2025

Hampshire celebrates and remembers on 80th anniversary of VE Day



This year, 80 years of peace and our collective resilience and unity will be celebrated by communities across Hampshire as we also pay tribute to those who fought for the freedom we all enjoy today.

To mark the 80th anniversary of VE Day, Hampshire Archives has organised a free exhibition, running until 25 June, which explores the role of [The King's Royal Rifle Corps and The Rifle Brigade](#), both historically based in Winchester, in the lead up to VE Day, highlighting soldiers' experiences during the final days of World War II in Europe.

On Saturday 3 May and Sunday 11 May, a free guided tour of the Netley Military Cemetery, Royal Victoria Country Park will mark [VE Day](#) and [War Graves Week](#).

More information and links to [VE Day events](#) in Hampshire, as well as guidance for community celebrations such as street parties, can be found on the County Council's webpages.

<https://www.hants.gov.uk/News/20250417VEday>

Primary school place offers confirmed by Hampshire County Council

The County Council has processed more than 20,000 applications for children to start school in reception year (Year R) and to move from infant to their first year of junior education (Year 3).

More than 98 per cent (98.67 per cent) of parents have been offered a reception year place for their child in one of their three preferred schools, with over 92 per cent (92.27 per cent) allocated a place at their first preference school.

Of pupils transferring from infant school to junior school (Year 3), more than 99 per cent (99.73 per cent) received a place at one of their three preferences, and over 99 per cent (99.02 per cent) obtained a place at their first preference school.

Parents who applied online have been notified of their offers by email. They can also view their offer by logging into the secure, online portal using the same log-in details provided when making their online application. Those small numbers of parents who applied in writing without providing an email address should receive letters by post in two to three days.

<https://www.hants.gov.uk/News/20250416NationalPrimaryOfferDay25>

David Drew
Test Valley Central Division, HCC