

# Recycling soars - but... Labour abandon weekly food waste collection

Oxford's recycling rate hit a new high of 42% for May - with more and more people participating.

Food waste must be diverted from landfill, where it causes highly damaging methane emissions. Surveys conducted in Summertown showed great support for a weekly collection of food waste, to reduce possible nuisance from having to store food waste for two weeks as well as to reduce what goes to landfill. The city council budget approved in February made full provision for a pilot scheme, planned to start in June 2008. This would have guided the citywide scheme to be introduced by April 2009, once the County Council had provided a treatment plant.

Astonishingly Labour have dropped this plan - despite the budget being in place and the clear demand from the public. Cllr Jean Fooks, who was in charge until May, said "Has Labour already forgotten the pledge to reduce the city's carbon footprint and reduce its contribution to global warming?"

In Parliament Liberal Democrat MP Jo Swinson has been urging the government to act to cut excess packaging. She says "Present laws on acceptable packaging are not working; tough action is needed to reduce this huge unnecessary contribution to waste tonnages."

**Your local LibDem councillors:**

City councillor **Stuart McCready**  
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City and County councillor **Jean Fooks**  
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County councillor **Dermot Roaf**  
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**Useful numbers:**

City Works for all recycling and street cleaning queries .	252900
For all antisocial behaviour, day or night, including noise	742138
Parking enforcement	793147
Police non-emergency 505505	08458
City Housing matters	0800 227676

**Can we help? Do you have any questions or comments for us?**  
Let us know by returning this form to one of your local councillors.

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..... e-mail.....