

WASTE

isn't

rubbish



**Birmingham
friends of
the earth**



**GO
Local**

Birmingham Friends of the Earth

is campaigning for a localised zero waste city that makes better use of the resources in Birmingham's waste

What's the Problem with Birmingham's waste system?

Birmingham regularly comes bottom of the league for recycling in the Midlands. The city only recycles around 30% of its household waste. This is compared to over 50% in other areas of the Midlands and over 60% in Wales!

Instead of making good use of the resources in our waste, most of it's just going up in smoke in the Tyseley Incinerator.

The amount of energy the incinerator produces is substantially less than we could produce by making more efficient use of these resources.

Waste is a rubbish fuel!

The current waste system is completely controlled by Veolia, who are paid by Birmingham City Council to dispose of our waste. Veolia owns all our waste and has no incentive to make better use of these resources.

Over 40% of Birmingham's residual waste could be composted or recycled in a food waste collection

As well as being a poor use of resources, burning waste in the incinerator does nothing to help the city's air quality problem, and is one the city's major emitters of carbon dioxide. This affects our health as well as contributing to climate change.

Who are Birmingham Friends of the Earth?

Birmingham Friends of the Earth campaigns for positive environmental change at a local, national and even global level

Birmingham Friends of the Earth campaigns for positive environmental change at a local, national and even global level. We work on a range of issues, and are the only organisation in Birmingham campaigning on energy & climate change, the economy, nature, planning, transport and waste. Our Go Local campaign aims to reconnect us with nature, recycle our waste and recirculate our resources.



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What's the solution?

A lot of people already compost which is fantastic, and having a food waste collection means that everyone would be able to separate their food waste - even if they don't have a garden for a compost bin. Separating food waste would prevent food being burnt in the incinerator, and stop other recyclable resources being contaminated - making them easier to recycle.

Food waste could be turned into biogas and fertiliser in an anaerobic digester. This biogas could be put into the gas grid, or better yet used locally to power buses or vans in our city!

By using local companies to process the city's waste, we could create more jobs and keep the value of the waste's resources in Birmingham.

What we're calling for

Waste isn't Rubbish is calling for a localised zero waste city. This would make it easier for everyone to reduce, re-use and recycle, so that Birmingham makes best use of its local resources.



Residents in Sandwell and Wolverhampton already have a food waste collection!

Having a food waste collection isn't something new. In fact over 60% of local authorities in the UK have one. Ask anyone you know in Wolverhampton or Sandwell how it works for them!



We're asking Birmingham City Council to:

- ✓ Make it easier for people to recycle food waste, by providing a food waste collection and more support for home and community composting.
- ✓ Make it easier for people to recycle more types of waste from home.
- ✓ Use local companies to process our waste.

So Birmingham City Council can close Tyseley Incinerator.

Why now?

Birmingham's waste contract with Veolia ends in four years, and Birmingham City Council is looking at what to do about its waste. Now is the perfect time to push for a greener waste system and get Birmingham City Council to think differently about the resources in the city's rubbish.



What you can do

If you agree that Birmingham needs a waste system that makes better use of our resources, then there are lots of ways you can support Waste isn't Rubbish and help push for a zero waste city!



- ✓ Take part in our Waste isn't Rubbish actions online or at one of our campaign stalls around the city.
- ✓ Share the action via social media using the hashtag #wasteisntrubbish.
- ✓ Write to your councillor to ask them to support the campaign.
- ✓ Ask any community or campaign groups you're involved with to support Waste isn't Rubbish.
- ✓ Take practical action such as setting up a compost bin if you have a garden or allotment.

Get in touch if you would like more information or to get involved!

Twitter: @inTheWarehouse | @Bham_FOE

Facebook: facebook.com/inthewarehouse | facebook.com/birminghamfoc

Address: The Warehouse, 54-57 Allison Street, Birmingham, B5 5TH

Phone: 0121 632 6909