

Herefordshire and Worcestershire find a waste solution for a rubbish problem

Herefordshire Council and Worcestershire County Council have found a unique solution to reducing the amount of kerbside waste collected in their area - food waste disposers. In an effort to divert household waste away from landfill, both authorities now actively encourage residents to install food waste disposers with cash-back incentives. This has proved highly successful with hundreds of households taking advantage of the [Sink Your Waste](#) scheme.

All waste disposal authorities in the UK must reduce the tonnage of biodegradable waste going to landfill in line with EU regulations. The first target states landfill tonnage must be 25 per cent less than 1995 levels by 2010. It is the responsibility of local authorities to implement initiatives that enable the UK to meet these objectives.

Jeremy Howell-Thomas, waste management Project Development Officer for Worcestershire County Council commented; "Having examined the worldwide research into their use, the Council concluded that food waste disposers had a largely untapped potential for diversion of biodegradable kitchen waste from landfill."

To supplement this information, Worcestershire County Council conducted its own independent study into the impact of food waste disposers on waste management. Results demonstrated that food waste disposers can divert up to 27 per cent of household waste away from landfill.

The report also identified that food waste disposers are a simple and convenient, permanent, in-home solution that do not require a significant change of habits by the householder, making them a highly viable method of managing, and separating household rubbish at source. Food waste is simply washed down the sink in to the disposer where it is ground into fine particles before being flushed away by running water through the normal sink waste system.



Jeremy continued; "We created the [Sink Your Waste](#) campaign to promote the use of food waste disposers. As part of this, we offered residents cash-back of up to £80 against the cost of installing a food waste disposer in their home. To date we have handed out almost 600 rebates and are currently running a large advertising campaign, including billboards, to encourage more residents to take advantage of the scheme."

Feedback from residents has been very positive and we have projected that if we reach a 50 per cent penetration as in much of the U.S.A., the volume of biodegradable waste going to landfill would be just 15 per cent of the current level."