

Householders Told to Recycle or Pay

The Local Government Association (LGA) has launched a new campaign which could radically change the way our rubbish is collected. Homeowners who do not recycle could be penalised and charged additional fees to have their rubbish collected. The plan has sparked a wave of ill feeling with many arguing that we already pay enough through our Council Tax contributions.

The LGA believes individuals should be charged according to the amount of rubbish they dump. The plan, meant to encourage more people to recycle, may mean a cut in Council Tax for those who throw out the least rubbish. However, many remain sceptical of the new charge system – known as ‘save as you throw’ – and point out that many councils have already halved their spend by switching to fortnightly rather than weekly collections with no sign of reducing council tax.

A spokesman for the LGA’s Environment Board explained: “Britain is the dustbin of Europe with more rubbish being thrown into landfill than any other country on the continent.” Indeed, the average UK householder sends the equivalent of almost half a ton of rubbish to landfill sites each year. By contrast, Germany (where recycling has been the norm for years) produces less than half this amount despite having a 25% larger population. Based on current trends it is estimated that the UK may run out of landfill space within the next 10 years.

Few would dispute the need to encourage recycling, but the LGA campaign has met with fierce resistance by many who see it as

just another means of charging for a service which should already be covered by our Council Tax contribution – which has already risen beyond the rate of inflation in recent years. Many feel there are already too many different rubbish collection schemes in place - which often differ wildly from one council to the next – further adding to the confusion.



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