Frequently Asked Questions

Morningthorpe Recycling Centre Drainage Improvement Works

Q. What is happening at Morningthorpe Recycling Centre?
A. Morningthorpe Recycling Centre is having essential drainage improvement works and repair work carried out to the hard standing.

Q. Why is the work needed?
A. To run a waste site we are issued with an environmental permit and there are requirements for effective surface water drainage management. Morningthorpe Recycling Centre is a very old site and the surface water drainage needs upgrading to ensure we remain compliant with the tough regulations which protect the environment from the impact of dealing with waste at the site.

The site also needs other essential repair work namely to the hard standing to ensure a safe surface for the public and also to allow bins to be lowered and lifted safely from our lorries.

Q. How long will it take?
A. The work will start on Tuesday 13th June and will last just under 8 weeks with the site reopening on Saturday 5th August.

Q. Why is the work going on during the busy summer?
A. A programme of work to upgrade surface water drainage has been ongoing across Norfolk’s Recycling Centres since 2008. Morningthorpe is the final site to be upgraded in the current programme of work. Planning permission was granted in January 2017 and an Environmental Permit was issued in 2016. The works were programmed to avoid the busy Easter and May Bank Holidays with the aim of reopening the site as close to the start of the summer holidays as possible. The work could not be further delayed due to the urgent need for repairs to the hardstanding.

Q. What does the work involve?
A. This is part of a programme of works to improve surface water drainage on Norfolk’s Recycling Centres and Morningthorpe will be the final site to be upgraded as part of this programme.

Whilst the drainage work is ongoing, work will also be carried out to the hardstanding. Damage has been caused by general wear and tear over time, particularly in areas where the bins are placed and picked up and along joints in the concrete. The repairs are necessary to ensure the damage doesn’t become a hazard for the staff and public using the sites.
Q. How much is it costing?
A. The works will cost approximately £90,000

Q. What am I meant to do with my waste and recycling while the site is closed?
A. We advised residents to use alternative recycling centres;
   • Ketteringham Recycling Centre, Station Road NR9 3AZ – full time, 9am – 5pm
   • Mile Cross Recycling Centre, Swanton Road Norwich NR2 4LH – full time, 9am – 7.30pm
   • Bergh Apton Recycling Centre, Welbeck Road NR15 1AU – part time, Friday – Monday 9am-5pm
   • Wymondham Recycling Centre, Strayground Lane NR18 9NA– part time, Friday – Monday 9am-5pm

   Usually your district council will offer a collection service of mixed dry recyclables or general waste on a fortnightly basis. Alongside these collections they may offer a charge for service for garden waste and bulky waste – please visit check with your local district or borough council directly for more information.

   The Recycle for Norfolk website has a handy locator tool for local bring and bottle banks which can be used by residents in their local area:
   http://www.recyclefornorfolk.com/where-can-i-recycle/recycle-locator/

Q. People won’t bother travelling further to an alternative site – this will lead to fly-tipping and extra cost to the tax payer in clearance?
A. We understand this concern as none of us want to see the countryside in Norfolk blighted by those that chose to break the law. This concern has been expressed previously when we’ve conducted maintenance works and had to temporarily close a recycling centre. For previous recycling centre closures we’ve found some items are left outside the site gates but we have not observed fly-tipping in and around the local area.

   We have found that typically those people who make the effort to drive to a recycling centre in the first place are not the type to fly-tip. The main cause of fly-tipping is not by householders but by rogue waste operators who charge people for waste disposal but won’t pay to use the commercial waste sites that they are supposed to use.

   Residents have a duty to take responsibility for their waste and ensure it is disposed of in a manner which does not cause harm to the environment. There are alternative recycling centres available to residents to dispose of their waste safely and legally – alternative sites have been listed above – so we feel that this 8 week closure will not lead to fly-tipping as alternatives sites are available.

   We ask that residents do not leave waste outside the recycling centre itself as this is fly-tipping and will block access to the neighbouring quarry and potentially cause delays to these works. If fly-tipping does happen outside the recycling centres, we will work with the District Council to provide CCTV and other evidence to bring prosecutions wherever appropriate.
Q. Will this change not lead to more people putting recycling in their kerbside general waste bin if they cannot be bother to travel further to an alternative site?
A. There is a possibility that this might happen. However, alternative recycling centres are available and residents may choose to fully load their car when travelling further to another site to make fewer trips.

Q. Will this not make the neighbouring sites really busy and lead to long queues to access the recycling centre?
A. We do anticipate that the four alternative recycling centres (Ketteringham, Mile Cross, Bergh Apton and Wymondham) may be a bit busier during this temporary closure. However, these are all bigger recycling centres so should be able to cope with a few extra visitors on these days. It’s difficult to predict which recycling centres residents will travel to and this will be depend on where they are travelling from and on which day as two sites (Bergh Apton and Wymondham) are open Friday to Monday only (inclusive). The busiest time for people wanting to use a recycling centre is at the weekends and all alternative sites listed will be open over weekends.

Q. Will I get a refund on my monthly council tax bill as you have reduced the service I receive?
A. Unfortunately this is not something we are able to offer.

Q. How and when was this closure communicated to the public?
A. Posters and flyers will be displayed at all recycling centres in the weeks leading up to the closure to give residents notice. The information will be detailed on our website, advertised through social media and local press.

Q. Who can I speak to about this?
A. If you need any more information please email recycling@norfolk.gov.uk or contact our Customer Service Centre on 0344 800 8020.