



**Roinn Cumarsáide, Gníomhaithe  
ar son na hAeráide & Comhshaoil**  
Department of Communications,  
Climate Action & Environment

## **New Incentives to Reduce Waste and Encouraging Recycling**

### **What is going on with the bin charges?**

The Government is phasing out flat rate fees for Household Bin Collections in the coming year.

### **What is a flat rate?**

A flat rate fee is when a customer pays a single agreed price for waste collection. The payments can be monthly quarterly or annually. This does not change no matter how many times the bins are put out for collection or how heavy the bin is. No matter how much or how little you create, you pay the same price for collection.

### **Will it affect me?**

Only if you are currently on a flat rate charge bin collection service. More than half of Irish households will not be affected by the changes as they are already using a pay by weight system or pay each time their bins are collected.

### **What will happen to the green bin or brown bin charges?**

The Government has not introduced any changes to recycling or organic/food bin charges. These charges depend on your service provider. Some collectors charge separately for them, and some collectors bundle them in your collection fees.

### **If I am not already paying per weight or paying per collections what happens?**

New payment plans will be introduced by your bin company from autumn this year as your current contract comes to an end. Other options will be:

- pay each time your bin is collected
- pay based on the weight in your bin (e.g., per-kilogramme; weight bands; weight allowances)

### When will my new charges start?

It depends when your current flat rate contract runs out. The first thing you should do is contact the company who collect your bins now and ask them when they plan to change. That way you can plan ahead.

### Can my prices change even if I am already on an incentivised scheme?

Yes, that is currently the case. It is open to a bin collector to change the service pricing plan within the bounds of consumer and contract legislation.

However, the Government are putting in place a Waste Watchdog who will carefully monitor the situation in the months ahead. In the meantime, you should keep in contact with your service provider and do everything you can to reduce your waste costs and help the environment.

### Why is this happening?

Research shows that you generate significantly less waste by using one of these options. Therefore, the Government believes that the new system will help prevent greater waste problems for future generations while at the same time it can help you to control your own bin costs. It can potentially save households money and it will help us to deal with the growing problem of landfill waste.

Those, who are already recycling as much as they possibly can, cannot continue to pay for everyone else. We have to try to educate people and make individuals responsible for the waste they generate. Waste has an environmental and economic impact on our country and our planet. If you are doing all that you can in your household, perhaps you can help others to follow your example.