

Environmental Information Regulations – Response - 27354

Please treat this as a request under the Environmental Information Regulations 2004 (or, if more appropriate, the Freedom of Information Act 2000).

I am requesting information relating to the rollout of Suffolk's household food waste collection service and the provision of compostable/biodegradable food waste liners.

Please provide:

1. The total cost incurred by Suffolk County Council (or on its behalf) for the purchase and supply of compostable/biodegradable food waste liners distributed as part of the household food waste rollout.

2. The quantity of liners purchased.

3. The supplier(s), contract value(s), procurement route, and any contract award documentation.

4. Any business case, procurement justification, environmental assessment, officer reports, or decision papers relating to the decision to supply these liners.

Food waste liners were purchased by the district and borough councils across Suffolk. Please contact the relevant district or borough council.

5. Any technical guidance, contractor advice, or internal correspondence confirming whether these liners are compatible with the anaerobic digestion process used for Suffolk's collected food waste.

Both of the contractors handling Suffolk's food waste have advised that they support the use of liners to improve customers' use of the food collection service and they are happy to accept the liners at their anaerobic digestion plants. The liners are mechanically removed from the food waste at the first stage upon arrival at the Anaerobic Digestion site.

[FAQs - Suffolk Recycling](#) Early in the Anaerobic Digestion process, all bags are separated from the food. The compostable liners don't break down properly in the conditions used for Anaerobic Digestion and plastic bags cannot be recycled so are disposed of separately. The remaining food waste is then processed into a high quality biofertiliser which can be spread on farmland.

6. Confirmation of what happens to these liners after separation from the food waste stream (e.g. energy recovery, landfill, or another disposal route).

The liners are expected to be disposed to energy recovery; however the service only started 2 days ago. End destinations will be reported quarterly to Waste Data Flow.

7. Any associated disposal or treatment cost attributable to the separated liners.

There is no cost specifically associated with disposal of liners. The gate fee for the food waste allows for all operational costs including disposal of any non-recyclable items.

8. Any assessment or comparison undertaken between:

- o supplying compostable liners*
- o recommending paper liners*

- *advising residents to present food waste loose*
- *encouraging reuse of existing household waste packaging (for example bread bags or carrier bags, where permitted)*
- *allowing residents to use their own liners only*

[FAQs - Suffolk Recycling](#) In Suffolk food waste is accepted loose, in plastic bags such as an old bread bag (not black bin bags), or in compostable bags. Suffolk's waste authorities agreed this position following discussion including consideration of the WRAP Household Food Collections Guide. [WRAP-HHFW-Collections-Guide-Dec-2025.pdf](#)

9. Any evidence, modelling, or behavioural research used to support the decision that supplying new compostable liners represented the most environmentally beneficial or cost-effective approach.

Page 33-44: [WRAP-HHFW-Collections-Guide-Dec-2025.pdf](#)