# Frustration in Lancashire as recycling centres close amid surge in demand



Residents in Lancashire have expressed their frustration following the temporary closure of three recycling centres due to increased demand stemming from the recent sunny weather. The closures, implemented by Lancashire County Council, affected the recycling sites in Burnley, Altham, and Haslingden since the weekend. This decision has left many locals angry and unable to dispose of their waste properly, as they encountered full skips upon arrival.

The council has stated that the closures are not attributable to contractors but rather to a surge of residents engaging in spring cleaning activities brought on by the warm weather. A spokesperson for Lancashire County Council noted that the high demand resulted in the halt of waste acceptance at several of their 16 Household Waste Recycling Centres (HWRCs). They advised residents to plan their visits during quieter periods to avoid long queues and congestion, particularly stressing that the least busy times tend to be weekdays between 10 am and 4 pm.

The public reaction on social media has been overwhelmingly negative, with many residents questioning the rationale behind the closure of recycling facilities. One commenter remarked, "Is this what Council Tax increases have gone towards... withdrawal of important facilities?" Another expressed their disbelief at the situation: "This has got to be a joke right?! You want folk to recycle and dispose of waste properly yet you close down all the recycling centres across the county and the ones left can't cope!!"

As the hot weather prevails, with forecasts predicting temperatures soaring to 21 degrees Celsius by Friday, families across the UK have been out enjoying the sunshine in parks and pub gardens, celebrating the onset of the Easter Bank Holiday. The sunny conditions, however, have not only led to overcrowding at recycling facilities but have also caused wildfires in other regions, particularly in Northern Ireland.

In Co Down, more than 50 firefighters have been battling a significant wildfire in the Mourne Mountains, which has escalated in intensity since its onset over the weekend. A major incident was declared as crews responded to an influx of calls related to multiple wildfires. The Northern Ireland Fire and Rescue Service (NIFRS) reported 240 calls on Monday alone, with a focus on the Bloody Bridge area of the Mourne Mountains, where firefighting operations have been ongoing.

First Minister Michelle O'Neill commented on the destruction caused by the wildfires, calling it "absolutely devastating" and emphasising the necessity for collectively working on preventive measures to mitigate future fire outbreaks. She herself was set to hike in the Mournes but had to cancel due to the ongoing emergency efforts.

In response to the escalating situation, Environment Minister Andrew Muir warned individuals about the serious implications of deliberately setting fires, stressing that such actions pose dangers to lives and can lead to severe legal consequences, including possible manslaughter charges. He urged the public to report any knowledge of arson-related activities to the police, underscoring the ongoing risk wildfires present to both the environment and public safety.

As communities across the UK deal with the effects of record-breaking temperatures and the current weather, the interaction between the warm, sunny spells and their impact on public services and safety has become a notable topic of concern.

Source: [Noah Wire Services](https://www.noahwire.com)

## References

* <https://www.lep.co.uk/news/major-update-after-disruption-at-household-waste-recycling-centres-following-surge-in-demand-5074078> - This article corroborates the temporary closure of Household Waste Recycling Centres in Lancashire due to high demand caused by recent good weather. It mentions specific sites affected by closure and provides updates on their reopening status.
* <https://www.lancashire.gov.uk/waste-and-recycling/recycling-centres/> - This webpage lists the locations of Household Waste Recycling Centres in Lancashire, further supporting the closures mentioned at specific sites such as Chorley and Clitheroe.
* <https://www.noahwire.com/News/Details/19759> - Although specific details from this source are not provided, it typically covers news related to current events. However, the exact details could not be verified without specific content.
* <https://www.belfastlive.co.uk/news/northern-ireland-news/mourne-mountains-wildfire-update-fire-25908217> - This article discusses wildfires in the Mourne Mountains, Northern Ireland, highlighting the severity of the situation and the efforts by the Northern Ireland Fire and Rescue Service.
* <https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/northern-ireland> - BBC News Northern Ireland reports on various regional events, including wildfires and their impacts. While specific coverage of the Mourne Mountains wildfires may vary, it highlights the current weather-related incidents in Northern Ireland.