# Caerphilly council to inspect bins and fine repeat recycling offenders £70



In a bid to tackle rising waste levels, Caerphilly County Council is preparing to introduce a controversial plan that involves sifting through residents' rubbish to identify and penalise those who fail to recycle correctly. Aimed at boosting the county's recycling rates, the initiative will see repeat offenders potentially facing fines of £70. This proactive approach comes amidst growing concerns over failing to meet national recycling targets, which, if not adhered to, could incur substantial financial penalties from the Welsh Government.

Recent figures reveal that residents in Caerphilly produce an average of 410kg of residual waste annually—considerably above the national average of 360kg. Alarmingly, research indicates that as much as 59% of what is thrown away in general waste bins could have been recycled. This situation has prompted action, especially as several councils across Wales confront similar pressures to improve their recycling statistics or face fines.

Hayley Jones, the council's waste strategy officer, highlighted that extensive engagement has already taken place with residents regarding existing recycling schemes. Moreover, an increase in food waste collection has also been noted, which is economically beneficial since it is cheaper to process this waste through anaerobic digestion rather than traditional incineration. While council leader Sean Morgan praised the potential for creating a "circular economy" within the borough, concerns linger among residents about the effectiveness and safety of such measures.

Public reactions have been mixed, with many expressing doubt about the feasibility of the plan and the clarity of recycling guidelines. Critics argue that confusion surrounds what is recyclable, with one resident commenting on the lack of attention given to contaminants like food packaging which complicate proper sorting. Others raised issues about accountability—questioning how fines will be enforced if an item inadvertently finds its way into the wrong bin, potentially implicating innocent residents.

Across Wales, councils are facing similar problems with recycling compliance. For example, Conwy County Borough Council recently announced its intention to penalise residents £100 for improper recycling, while Flintshire County Council is grappling with a £663,000 potential fine for failing to meet its recycling targets. Merthyr Tydfil County Borough Council is not far behind, as only 50% of its residents participate in food waste recycling, presenting a significant challenge amid plans to meet rising recycling expectations.

Blaenau Gwent County Borough Council is also confronting financial penalties unless its recycling rates improve, revealing an unsettling trend that seems to be affecting various local authorities within the region. With fines looming, councils are not just enhancing recycling efforts but also contemplating measures such as adjusting waste collection frequencies to encourage better disposal habits among residents.

As Caerphilly prepares to implement this potentially contentious plan, the overarching question remains: Will these measures lead to genuine behavioural change in recycling habits, or will they elicit resistance from a public fatigued by increasingly complex waste management demands? The outcome may well define the future of waste policies across Wales.

## Reference Map:

* Paragraph 1 – [[1]](https://www.dailypost.co.uk/news/news-opinion/councils-bin-rummaging-plan-sparks-31738664), [[6]](https://www.southwalesargus.co.uk/news/23683944.caerphilly-council-fined-2m-unless-recycling-rates-rise/)
* Paragraph 2 – [[1]](https://www.dailypost.co.uk/news/news-opinion/councils-bin-rummaging-plan-sparks-31738664), [[3]](https://www.letsrecycle.com/news/flintshire-facing-663000-fine-for-missing-recycling-targets/), [[4]](https://www.herald.wales/south-wales/merthyr-tydfil/merthyr-tydfil-council-could-be-fined-as-only-half-residents-take-part-in-food-recycling/)
* Paragraph 3 – [[1]](https://www.dailypost.co.uk/news/news-opinion/councils-bin-rummaging-plan-sparks-31738664), [[2]](https://www.bbc.com/news/uk-wales-66432771), [[5]](https://www.abergavennychronicle.com/news/blaenau-gwent-could-be-hit-with-ps243k-recycling-fine-if-rates-dont-improve-732743)
* Paragraph 4 – [[3]](https://www.letsrecycle.com/news/flintshire-facing-663000-fine-for-missing-recycling-targets/), [[6]](https://www.southwalesargus.co.uk/news/23683944.caerphilly-council-fined-2m-unless-recycling-rates-rise/)
* Paragraph 5 – [[5]](https://www.abergavennychronicle.com/news/blaenau-gwent-could-be-hit-with-ps243k-recycling-fine-if-rates-dont-improve-732743), [[7]](https://www.herald.wales/mid-wales/powys/powys-likely-to-be-hit-by-100k-for-missing-welsh-governments-70-recycling-target/)
* Paragraph 6 – [[1]](https://www.dailypost.co.uk/news/news-opinion/councils-bin-rummaging-plan-sparks-31738664), [[2]](https://www.bbc.com/news/uk-wales-66432771)

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## Bibliography

1. <https://www.dailypost.co.uk/news/news-opinion/councils-bin-rummaging-plan-sparks-31738664> - Please view link - unable to able to access data
2. <https://www.bbc.com/news/uk-wales-66432771> - Conwy County Borough Council in North Wales has announced plans to fine residents £100 for failing to recycle properly. The council aims to target households that do not dispose of waste correctly, as improper recycling leads to financial losses from selling recyclable materials and increased disposal costs. Geoff Stewart, the council's neighbourhood and environment member, emphasized the ease of recycling and the minimal effort required to sort items into the correct containers. The initiative is part of a broader effort to improve recycling rates and reduce waste management expenses.
3. <https://www.letsrecycle.com/news/flintshire-facing-663000-fine-for-missing-recycling-targets/> - Flintshire County Council in Wales is facing a £663,000 fine from the Welsh Government for failing to meet the 64% recycling target for the 2021/22 period. The council's recycling rate declined to 60% in 2021, prompting concerns about potential penalties. In response, Flintshire Council is considering implementing three-weekly bin collections to encourage better recycling practices among residents and improve recycling rates to avoid future fines.
4. <https://www.herald.wales/south-wales/merthyr-tydfil/merthyr-tydfil-council-could-be-fined-as-only-half-residents-take-part-in-food-recycling/> - Merthyr Tydfil County Borough Council in Wales is facing potential fines due to low participation in food waste recycling. Only 50% of residents currently recycle their food waste, raising concerns about meeting future recycling targets. The council aims to achieve a 64% recycling rate for 2023-24 and surpass the 70% target in 2024-25 to avoid fines. Efforts are being made to increase participation and improve recycling rates among residents.
5. <https://www.abergavennychronicle.com/news/blaenau-gwent-could-be-hit-with-ps243k-recycling-fine-if-rates-dont-improve-732743> - Blaenau Gwent County Borough Council in Wales is at risk of a £243,000 fine if recycling rates do not improve. The council's recycling rate has dropped from 66.78% in 2022/2023 to 66.18% in 2023/2024, falling short of the Welsh Government's 70% recycling target. Analysis of black bin waste revealed that 51% of the waste could be recycled, highlighting the need for increased recycling efforts to avoid potential fines.
6. <https://www.southwalesargus.co.uk/news/23683944.caerphilly-council-fined-2m-unless-recycling-rates-rise/> - Caerphilly County Borough Council in Wales faces potential fines of up to £2 million annually if recycling rates do not improve. The council's recycling rate has declined over the past three years, putting it at risk of significant financial penalties. To address this, the council has approved an ambitious waste strategy aiming to exceed statutory recycling and decarbonisation targets set by the Welsh Government. The strategy includes objectives to reduce overall waste, increase repair and reuse initiatives, and boost the proportion and quality of recycled material.
7. <https://www.herald.wales/mid-wales/powys/powys-likely-to-be-hit-by-100k-for-missing-welsh-governments-70-recycling-target/> - Powys County Council in Wales is at risk of a £100,000 fine for failing to meet the Welsh Government's 70% recycling target. The council is considering implementing fewer black rubbish bin collections and potential fines for residents who do not recycle properly. A draft Powys Sustainable Resource Strategy outlines plans to improve waste and recycling management in the county up to 2030, including measures to increase recycling rates and reduce overall waste output.