

## Delivering a new Waste and Recycling Scheme

### What's happening?

Waste management at Aston University is being updated and we will be altering the way that we collect waste from offices and teaching spaces.

The existing mixed waste bins which are found under staff desks, in classrooms, in meeting rooms, and in communal areas will be removed and replaced with larger waste and recycling stations which will be placed in zones covering all areas of the University.

The bins will collect three waste streams:

- Mixed recycling: cans, plastics and glass;
- Paper and Card;
- General waste that cannot be recycled.

The waste and recycling stations will be checked by Campus Services Cleaners daily and emptied on a regular basis as required.

Other waste streams which are already being recycled at Aston University include furniture, I.T. and electrical equipment, light bulbs, inkjet/toner cartridges, confidential paper waste, cooking oil, food waste, books, batteries and textiles. For a recycling A-Z go to our [website](#).

### When is it happening?

The new recycling scheme has already been trialled in the Library and will be rolled out on a phased basis beginning with the South Wing, followed by the North Wing, CEAC, Main Building, Guild, ABS, Vision Sciences and finally Woodcock. Segregated recycling services are also being provided in Lakeside and Aston Student Village accommodation blocks.

### Why do we need to act?

**To improve our environmental performance** – waste management is one of the most significant environmental impacts of the University. We need to lead by example and at the very least meet the expectations of our staff and students. Many new students arrive at Aston having picked up good recycling habits from their schools and colleges and staff who recycle at home expect to be able to recycle in the workplace.

**To secure funding from HEFCE** – Under new arrangements for assessing the second Capital Investment Framework (CIF2) from HEFCE we are being asked to submit our waste disposal figures and set targets for absolute reductions up to 2014/15.

**To save money** –Landfill tax, the UK's first environmental tax, introduced in 1996 has been rising considerably over the past few years, from £24 per tonne in April 2007 to £48 per tonne in April 2010, and it is set to increase by £8/tonne per year until at least 2013, with some experts expecting it to rise to over £100/tonne thereafter. This cost is passed on from waste service providers to customers such as Aston University, and with such dramatic increases experienced and forecast, Aston aims to stay ahead of the taxes by significantly reducing the tonnage of waste that we send to landfill.

### **How will it be done?**

Aston University staff will tour the campus installing the new waste and recycling stations. If you no longer need your old mixed waste under desk and room bins, then please leave them by the recycling stations. Information posters will be distributed in the areas that have been visited to catch any staff that are away. As soon as recycling stations are in place you can begin to use them, and cleaning staff will empty them as usual. **Individual desk bins will no longer be emptied.**