



MEDIA RELEASE

Ref: 0012DN Green Waste Charging

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Changes to the green waste collection scheme

As a result of public consultation events held in the summer of 2010 and significant reductions to the council's central government grant, SKDC will introduce a small annual charge for the collection of green waste from April 1. This will help offset, but not cover, the operational costs of the service and effectively means that those who use the service will contribute towards it.

SKDC's portfolio holder for healthy environment, Cllr John Smith said: "The issue of green waste charging was first raised in November 2007 when we said we might have to look at charging for the service so we have been able to put this off for five years.

"It is important to remember that this is an optional service for our residents so if people decide they don't want to pay they can choose not to use the service."

Although SKDC will be charging for this service it is not the first authority to do so. Many councils nationwide already charge for the collection of garden waste.

SKDC's service is more comprehensive than most district councils in Lincolnshire with collections running all year round and not stopping altogether in the winter.

Cllr Smith added: "We are keen to promote recycling and are adding fortnightly collections back in for November and March.

"By making a small charge of just £25 a year for those who want to use the service we are able to keep council tax at the current levels for the 2012/13 financial year."

ENDS

Notes;

Just under half of households use the service currently out of a total of approximately 60,000.

The council collects around 10,000 tonnes of green waste each year.

For media enquiries contact:

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