



Bin swap is easier than I expected!

A mother is championing Tameside Council's bin swap scheme saying it helps her family of five to recycle more.

Leah Owen, who lives in Mossley with her husband and three children, has been on the [bin swap scheme](#) – aimed at reducing landfill waste and costs - since it was rolled out in her neighbourhood at the start of the year and has found it much easier than she first expected.

Bin swap simply means swapping the use of the green and black bins. The larger black bin is used for glass, plastic bottles and cans. The smaller green bin is then used for waste that can't be recycled and goes to landfill.

Leah said: "I was apprehensive at first as we are large family and I never thought there would be room for all the waste we produce. But it has made me realise just how much waste we were just sticking in the landfill bin when in fact it can be easily recycled."

The scheme inspired Leah to start using her food waste recycling caddy, which she rarely used before.

"Bin swap has given us that little push we needed to think about whether we were using the right bin. I have to admit, leftovers and vegetable peelings were often scraped into the landfill bin before but now I really enjoy using my food waste kitchen caddy and, as the brown bin is collected every week, there is plenty of capacity and no issues with smells."

The family also ordered an extra blue bin, for free, to increase their recycling capacity.

"Everything comes with so much packaging these days and, although we used our blue bin, we had been throwing excess paper and cardboard in our landfill bin. But now we have an extra blue bin, this isn't an issue."

Leah told how all her family's recycling habits had changed for the better.

"All the family are now keen recyclers - the kids have quickly learned to make sure they always use the right bin - and we like seeing how much we can reduce our waste by. Our landfill bin is now usually only three-quarters full when it is emptied.

BIN SWAP

We're rolling it out...



LOVE
Recycling
HATE
Landfill

"I understand people being sceptical but I would urge them to give it a go – it is easier and works better than you would expect and is clearly the right thing to do. It doesn't make sense to spend money on sending waste to landfill when this waste could be recycled and it also feels good to be green and do your bit for the environment."