



Bin swap works for our family-of-five

A mother has told how her family of five has adapted well to bin swap despite her initial reservations.

Alex and Ceri Thomas and their three children aged six, 10 and 12 have been on the bin swap scheme since it was rolled out in their Stalybridge neighbourhood at the beginning of the year.

And, despite their initial scepticism, they have found they have enough room for all their waste.

Alex said: "My initial feeling was of panic – I wondered how we were ever going to have room for all of our waste. We have three children and a dog and in addition to that my husband and I run our two businesses from home so we probably produce more waste than the average family.

"But to be honest since we started on the scheme it hasn't been a worry – I personally haven't found it any major hassle at all.

"It's true we have to be very pedantic about making sure we separate our waste and putting everything in the right bin but I that's how it should be – it just feels awful to put something that can be recycled in a bin that goes to landfill.

"I'm not a massive environmentalist but our country is not very big and we can't just keep putting all our rubbish into the ground when so much of it could be recycled. I also think people need to understand the bigger picture that sending waste to landfill costs money that could otherwise be spent on local services.

"You need to have a system that works for your family and be fairly military about it to make sure things don't end up in the wrong bin. I have a bag in my kitchen which we sort at the end of the day into all the correct bins. I also use my food waste kitchen caddy with the free compostable liners and there isn't any problem with smells, flies or other things people may worry about.

"You don't always realise how much food you throw away so it makes a difference to recycle it. Equally, people may not realise that things like foil and drinks cartons can



be recycled. It just ends up being plastic packaging that goes in the landfill bin and it's surprising how much that can be squashed down.

“The only time we run out of space is if we have a big clear out and we have to do a tip run but we would have had to do that anyway before bin swap and it's surprising how much of that can still be recycled at the tip.

“It would help if manufacturers and supermarkets also did their bit to reduce packaging but we all need to be responsible for reducing waste and recycling. It should just be the norm and once you get into the habit you don't really have to think about it.”