

News Release



**To News Editors for Immediate Use
8 January 2010**

Allerdale Borough Council strives to empty bins in severe weather

Allerdale Borough Council would like to reassure residents that refuse collection crews are doing all they can to empty household rubbish bins across the borough.

As a result of icy road conditions caused by the current severe weather, it has been impossible for collection vehicles to safely reach some properties on their normal collection days. However, the crews have been making every effort to return to properties that were missed as soon as conditions allow.

The Council estimates that so far around 86 per cent of properties across the borough have received refuse collections.

The collection of garden waste has been temporarily suspended in Allerdale so that refuse crews can concentrate their efforts on picking up excess household rubbish, which was not collected due to icy road conditions, as quickly as possible.

Residents are therefore requested to leave their uncollected refuse out so it can be collected as and when crews are able to access their roads.

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Ernie Davidson, Allerdale Borough Council's Environmental Services manager said: "The collection crews from FOCSA Services have been working flat out to empty as many bins as is safely possible. They've been doing a smashing job in some horrendously difficult circumstances.

"As well as difficulties faced by the crews in terms of icy road conditions and bridge closures caused by the floods, the sub-zero temperatures mean that once the trucks leave the depot in the morning, the switch gears on the back of the vehicles risk freezing which means they cannot tip the bins into the back of the wagon.

"We will not take any risks that could endanger the safety of the public or our crews but we are assessing the weather conditions on an hourly basis to ensure that we make collections to properties wherever we can.

"We would like to assure residents that we will collect any excess rubbish bags put out along with full bins and we thank residents for their patience and understanding."

Although some parts of towns and villages have been able to get normal refuse and recycling collections, the dangerous conditions caused by snow and ice on the roads has made it unsafe to drive collection lorries down particular streets in both rural and urban areas.

The collection of compostable garden waste is hoped to resume in the week commencing Monday 18 January, weather permitting.

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ENDS

Notes

1. For more information contact Daniel Cattanach or Helen Murphy on 01900 702526, corp.comms@allerdale.gov.uk