

# Changes in waste collection and recycling 2024

Dear inhabitants of Strandabyggð,

We want to start by thanking you for how well waste has been recycled in our area, but throughout the years recycling and the tidiness around the recycling containers has been ideal. We can however always do better, and we want to remind people to **pay special attention to make sure no batteries or hazardous waste ends up in the paper or plastic containers**. Since our paper and plastic are compressed in a special press, batteries and other objects like hazardous materials can create risk of explosions. We of course, accept batteries and hazardous waste at the waste collection site. We also want to remind you that only packaging waste should go to the plastic and paper containers, please make sure there are no other materials mixed in with it. Please note you are always welcome to **contact us** at [sorpsamlag@holmavik.is](mailto:sorpsamlag@holmavik.is) if there is any doubt about how to recycle but instructions are also available here.

## New machinery

We are happy to tell you about the new machinery that Sorpsamlag Strandasýslu has taken into use recently. Namely a big press we use to press paper and plastic which results in us being able to transport five times as much material in each trip to Reykjavík than we could before, which is both convenient and more economical per trip. We have also been testing out a composting machine for households and it has been quite successful. We will soon introduce it better on strandabyggd.is.

## New laws on circular economy

New laws on circular economy took effect in the beginning of 2023 and the changes in recycling and waste management have been widely discussed.

The main change for this area is that household waste will be collected for composting. Then there are also changes in from where household waste can be collected. In dense population (þéttbýli) waste should be collected from the corresponding lot. In most areas e.g. the capital area this has been executed by placing 4 bins in front of each home. But other solutions are possible since it allowed to collect waste from connected lots. In rural inhabitancy it is allowed to set up larger containers instead of collecting waste from each home.

We are now in the process of deciding which path will be taken for collection of waste in densely populated areas in Strandabyggð, that is within Hólmavík. There are two possible solutions that are suitable for our area. Firstly that four bins will be placed in front of every home (for general household waste, paper, plastic and food waste) or we would put up community bin units where waste is collected from connected lots as is permitted in [regulation about waste management](#). These community bin units would vary in size around the village but would never be further than 100-200 meters away from any home. The collection site in Skeiði would still be open for the

categories that are not collected by the community bin units. Plans are in place for a closed collection site in Skeiði for timber, metals and other materials.



Here on the side, you can see an example of how the community bin units could possibly look though that is subject to change.

We are also looking into different ways to collect compostable food waste. There are few possibilities e.g. Reenecler home compost machine that decreases the volume of organic waste by 90% in 24 hours, Bocashi bin that filters water from food waste and utilizes microorganisms to break down organic matter faster. Worm compost uses special worms that eat the leftover food and leave behind quality compost. Lastly there is the classic outdoors compost bin where organic matter breaks down slowly without using any special ways to speed up the process.

These are big changes and we realise that with these changes the cost of waste collection will increase. We are doing our best to keep the process efficient and economical and create value from the waste that is collected resulting in lower fees for the inhabitants. Therefore, we want to make these changes democratic and involve inhabitants in the decision. That is why we ask you to answer a survey on which option you would prefer. You can access the survey here or by scanning the QR code on the side. The survey is open until 14th March. It is enough to send one answer for each household. When the results are clear the new system will be introduced thoroughly e.g. in a town meeting.

Spurningakönnun um  
sorþirðumál



## Collection sites.

The collection site in Skeiði will still stay open and there we will accept the following categories:

- Glass packaging (jars and bottles)
- Metal packaging
- Electronics
- Paper
- Plastic

- Coarse waste, building material
- Textiles
- Deposit drink packages (donated to Björgunarsveitin Dagrening)
- Garden waste
- Hazardous waste
- Iron
- Timber

Sorpsamlag Strandasýslu also has collection containers in Bitrufjörður, Drangnes, Bjarnafjörður, Norðurfjörður, og Djúpuvík but not all categories are accepted there