

# DEMAND IS INCREASING FOR THE PERFECT FOOD WASTE TAKEAWY



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In March 2024, the Government released the long awaited capital funding, to support UK local authorities with the procurement of containers and vehicles for the introduction of weekly food waste collections.

As a result, demand for specialist food waste vehicles is high, with DEFRA estimating that an additional 1500+ vehicles are required. So it's more important than ever for manufacturers to collaborate with customers to meet the 31st March 2026 implementation deadline.

Hillend Engineering with a 50-year heritage of manufacturing refuse collection vehicles, have a suite of specialist food waste products working hard for local authority and private waste management customers up and down the country. In developing our latest upgraded products, we have worked closely with customers to identify and overcome the challenges they face in making the transition.

With such a large requirement for vehicles in a relatively short space of time, it is essential for local authorities to evaluate and differentiate products, whilst marrying up the benefits of each with the nuances of their individual collection territories.



## Industry Collaboration

There is currently a great deal of industry collaboration in support of the local authority waste management teams, including from individual authorities sharing their own experiences with peers when they have successfully gone through the process. This has been exceptionally useful in meeting one of the biggest challenges, which is to predict the amount of food waste that is likely to be collected within an authority's district, and therefore enabling the appropriate vehicle capacity to be specified.

WRAP (The Waste Resources Action Programme) have simplified the selection process for councils, through the introduction of a standardised vehicle specification, based on a one-piece tipping body, at 7.5T and 12T. This is useful to Procurement teams, and it's then up to manufacturers like ourselves to provide the best-in-class products to meet collection requirements.

In addition to functionality and efficiency, the ability to introduce an electric vehicle to support local authority net zero goals has been an important factor, and Hillend Engineering's relationship with Electra enables us to meet these customer needs.

An additional challenge for local authorities begins on their own doorstep, with the logistics of introducing new vehicles to their already busy working depot yards, literally having enough parking and room to manoeuvre, and then gearing up workshop space and manpower to maintain vehicles and keep the fleet clean. Our vehicles provide high capacity on a small footprint, which is helpful when introducing them to an already busy working yard.

## Meeting Customer Needs

Our MICRO XHD specialist food waste vehicle has been designed and built to meet the challenges of a busy collection route. It is compact and agile, to cope with today's busy city streets and narrow country lanes, whilst also featuring a specialist compaction system to make the most of the over 5 tonne payload.

We have invested £4M in a major refit and modernisation of our Hillend Engineering factory and operation in Dunfermline, including the introduction of a state-of-the-art Brake Press, precision cutting equipment, and the latest advancements in paint facility, to provide customers with a high-quality paint finish.

Our 2024 and 2025 upgraded MICRO XHD has advanced electrics and proportional hydraulics, which in practice means greater control with the bin lift and tip mechanism, to provide optimum cycle speed combined with care and precision.

Customers have been pleased with the ease of operation, the controls are exceptionally straightforward to use, so that the operator can be trained quickly and have a fully efficient vehicle with minimal delays during collection rounds.

The introduction of weekly food waste rounds is a new challenge for many local authorities, and great progress has been made up and down the country already. With the knowledge that Hillend Engineering can bring from supporting these customer transitions, and with total confidence in our food waste products, we are geared up and ready to meet customer procurement needs.

