

Northamptonshire free scheme for the collection and recycling of waste cooking oil and fats from food businesses and establishments

Environmental health officers in Northamptonshire are encouraging restaurants, takeaways, pubs and hotels, indeed any business with a catering outlet, to join a unique free scheme for the collection and recycling of waste cooking oil and fats. The scheme is being launched in the Heroes Suite of Northampton Saints Rugby Football Club on Tuesday, 8 July, at 10:30am to 12:30pm.

Businesses will be able to sign up to the free scheme which is being organised by Anglian Water, in partnership with Agri-Energy Food Service and environmental health officers representing all seven local authorities within Northamptonshire. It is an opportunity to show concern for the protection of the environment and acknowledgement of the effects fats, oils and grease (FOG) are having.

During the morning businesses will be able to find out from a number of speakers how to prevent FOG from clogging their own pipes and causing blockages and possible pollution of water courses, which is devastating for wildlife. Information will also be given about a new community environment award that food establishments will be entitled to enter.

The new scheme will make the collection and recycling of FOG easy and it will mean that food establishments can prove that they are disposing of their waste oils, and fats, responsibly with receipts forming a record of all waste taken away.

At any one time Anglian Water calculates that FOG is taking up 10 per cent of the public sewer with 10,000 tonnes of fat, which if converted would make enough biodiesel to fuel 8,000 family cars for a year. It creates odour nuisance, attracts rodents and is off-putting for potential customers.

If you would like to attend the launch it is important that you contact Northampton Borough Council's Environmental Health Team on 01604 838000 by Wednesday, 3 July. If you cannot attend but would still like to join the scheme there is a freephone number you can contact 0800 6123018.