

Recycling plastic packaging

All 16 Somerset recycling sites can now take rigid plastic food and other household pots, tubs and trays (PTT) in the skips also used for plastic bottles.

Plastic bottles remain the only plastic we can accept at the kerbside, so please do not add PTT to kerbside recycling boxes.

It is planned to add new materials, such as PTT, beverage cartons (tetrapaks), batteries and small electrical items to the kerbside collections, as the [Recycle More](#) service rolls out from 2020. We're working hard to procure a new contractor, new vehicles and improved depots to enable this.

Suitable for recycling at all recycling centres:

- Plastic pots for yoghurt, soup, face cream, hair gel.
- Plastic tubs for margarine, ice cream, laundry tabs.
- Plastic trays (including black plastic) for meat, ready meals, and plastic punnets for fruit and mushrooms.

Please **remove** all foil, film covers, absorbent pads and card. Rinse out any contents and squash items to fit more in the skips.

Not suitable for recycling are plastic films, such as cling film, bubble wrap, carrier bags and film covers; plastic paint pots, plant pots or seed trays; or other plastics, such as toys, garden furniture, car parts, CDs, DVDs, VHS cases or tapes.

Pledge against Preventable Plastic

SWP has also launched a new postcard size "Pledge Against Preventable Plastic" with six easily-adopted ideas to cut down on plastic. To sign up to the pledge visit our website - <https://www.somersetwaste.gov.uk/actions-on-plastics/>. Hard copies are available on request for organisations, such as parish councils. For bulk copies, email enquiries@somersetwaste.gov.uk.

Recycle More procurement

The procurement process for the new Recycle More kerbside service (extra materials collected weekly for recycling and rubbish collected every three weeks) was launched in May. Over the summer and autumn SWP will be in dialogue with the selected suppliers. To ensure that [Somerset Waste Board](#) can review the outcome of the first stage of the competitive dialogue process and any changes to the final specification, an additional Board meeting has been arranged for 19 October.

Schools Against Waste update

SWP's Schools Against Waste project with Carymoor Environmental Trust is going from strength to strength with dozens of visits to primary schools either completed or booked for the summer or autumn term. Unsurprisingly, as pupils learn the new 3Rs – reduce reuse recycle – the Fantastic Plastic workshop is proving very popular. To find out more about how your school can receive a visit from the team visit <https://www.carymoor.org.uk/trips/schools-against-waste>

Seeking local Food Champions

SWP is running a further free Food Champion training event on 19 July at Oaklands Primary School, Yeovil (booking essential). Trained volunteers take waste prevention messages into their community.

Training may be beneficial for people providing support for others on budgeting, life skills, eating well or greener living where the resources can complement existing activities.

For more information and booking please see:

<https://www.somersetwaste.gov.uk/tackling-food-waste/>

Safe gas canister disposal

Viridor, SWP's recycling site contractor, has been running a national campaign to remind the public of the dangers of unsafe disposal of gas canisters, including smaller camping cylinders and those used for garden heaters and grills.

Ahead of summer barbeques, when residents may be purchasing new gas cylinders, residents are reminded **NOT** to dispose of gas cylinders in their refuse bins but to return these to their gas retailer. Alternatively, for a [small fee](#), spent gas cylinders can be taken to a [recycling centre](#).

Incorrect disposal of gas canisters that still contain flammable liquids and gases can lead to dangerous and costly explosions and fires if they are crushed or broken in rubbish trucks, at recycling centres or on landfill sites. Other risky items in rubbish bins include: hot coals, batteries aerosols. Our advice:

www.somersetwaste.gov.uk/slider/how-to-prevent-a-blaze-in-your-refuse-bin/

Latest media releases

Recent communications included:

- [Celebrating in May need not cost the earth](#)
- [All recycling sites take plastic food pots, tubs and trays](#)
- [Treat your garden to a compost bin this spring](#)

Somerset Waste Board

SWP is the executive arm of SWB, with two members nominated by each of the six Somerset partner councils, one of which must be the portfolio holder for waste and/or the environment. The Chair and Vice-Chair are elected at the Board AGM from its membership. The next SWB meeting is the AGM on Friday 29 June 2018. SWB meeting agendas, papers and reports are available [online](#). For more on SWP, SWB and waste services: www.somersetwaste.gov.uk.

SWB membership by council is:

- **Mendip** – Cllrs Nigel Woollcombe-Adams (Vice Chair), Nigel Taylor
- **Sedgemoor** – Cllrs Dawn Hill, Gill Slocombe
- **Somerset County** – David Hall, Clare Aparicio Paul
- **South Somerset** – Cllrs Jo Roundell Greene, Derek Yeomans (Chairman)
- **Taunton Deane Borough** – Cllrs Patrick Berry, Gwilym Wren
- **West Somerset** – Cllrs Martin Dewdney, Brenda Maitland-Walker

Information on SWP services

For all advice and information, visit www.somersetwaste.gov.uk. Follow us on [Facebook](#) and [Twitter](#). Sign-up to our e-zine on our [website](#). All partners' customer service helplines can assist with service enquiries.