

Somerset Waste Partnership

Briefing for Members, Partners and Staff

September 2019



No change to permit scheme

If you have a free van or trailer permit for recycling sites with a 30 September expiry date, don't worry, there's no need to get a new permit as the scheme is rolling on unchanged. The only change is that new permits will be blue with no expiry date. Whatever its colour, your card is still valid – the only time you need to apply for a new permit and destroy your old card is if any of your details change, such as your address or vehicle.

Somerset's recycling sites have 1.6m visits a year and, following controls by all nearby councils, permits have cut congestion, crime and waste, maintained safety and efficiency, and helped Somerset's long-term fall in fly-tipping. [Click here for details or to apply.](#)

Check recycling site winter timetables

All [16 recycling sites](#) start new winter timetables on Tuesday 1 October 2019. When open weekdays, all sites will start at 9am and close at 5pm. Saturday and Sunday hours at all 16 sites remain 9am-4pm all year round. Summer hours - 9am-6pm when sites open weekdays - resume on Wednesday 1 April 2020.

Bomb alert on waste safety

A suspected grenade – subsequently proved harmless – has prompted a reminder for people to check if items are hazardous before taking them to a

recycling site. Recycling sites don't accept explosives or ammunition, and petrol and diesel must be drained from machinery before recycling. Fuel in mowers and strimmers can start a fire, endangering lives and diverting firefighters from other blazes. Contact police about ammunition or explosives if you have questions, and take petrol and diesel to a garage. [Check here for hazardous waste advice.](#)

Get ready for Recycle More

The amount of Somerset plastic being recycled is rising fast, thanks to thousands of you taking millions of household and food plastic pots, tubs and trays to our 16 recycling sites. Don't forget, the Recycle More service of expanded weekly recycling collections – those plastic pots, tubs and trays, plus beverage cartons, household batteries and small electrical items – and three-weekly rubbish pick-ups starts rolling out across Somerset from mid-2020. To know more about plastics, check out our new web resources, including [a great new Q&A on what happens to your plastics.](#)

It's in our hands: empty, rinse, squash

Upcoming Recycle Week - 23-29 September – reminds us all that recycling is "in our hands", and urges us to empty, rinse, squash, sort and separate all suitable materials. The week highlights that more and more people

are recycling, and how easy it is to join them. Make a note of the dates and share the colourful posts on our website and social media using hashtags #recycleweek and #inourownhands.

Spot twin skips – ask staff for advice

As part of the 2020 switch from landfilling rubbish in Somerset to using almost all of it to generate power at a brand-new Resource Recovery Centre (RRC) plant in Avonmouth, all recycling sites have trial twin skips for unrecyclable waste. One is for materials that will soon go to the new RRC, the other for materials that must still be landfilled. Ask staff which skip to use. NB: Staff may check your waste to ensure all recycling has been separated.

Free eco-education – here's how

Backed by Somerset Waste Partnership, [the successful Schools Against Waste campaign](#) led by Somerset eco-education specialists Carymoor Environmental Trust is starting a new term, and your child's school could get a free visit. Schools or groups tackling Key Stage I or II can request fun workshops on plastics or composting, and a "rubbish assembly". To apply, email education@carymoor.org.uk

Watch out for Your Somerset

The latest Your Somerset newspaper will hit your doormat in the next week or so, with a four-page pull out on all our services and the latest news about kerbside collections and recycling sites.

Latest media

Our latest communications include:

- [Holiday food giveaway advice.](#)
- [Our 70+ list of low-waste shops.](#)
- [One-bag fly-tip costs man £250.](#)
- [Repair cafes around Somerset.](#)

We'll now be focussing on waste reduction and safety, from tasty Halloween pumpkin recipes to preventing post-bonfire bin blazes.

Somerset Waste Board

SWB is SWP's governing body, with two members from each of the five partner councils, one of which is the portfolio holder for environment and/or waste. The Chair and Vice-Chair are elected at SWB's AGM from its membership. SWB's next meeting is 27 September. SWB agendas and papers are available [online](#). [Click here for more on SWP, SWB and waste services.](#)

SWB membership: **Mendip** – Cllrs Tom Ronan, Adam Boyden; **Sedgemoor** – Cllrs Janet Keen, Gill Slocombe; **Somerset County** – Cllrs David Hall and Clare Paul (Vice Chair); **Somerset West and Taunton** – Cllrs Alan Wedderkop, David Mansell; **South Somerset** – Sarah Dyke (Chair), Tim Kerley

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.