

Somerset Waste Partnership

Briefing for Members, Partners and Staff

December 2019



Tracking every tonne of recycling

Our latest annual report on where all Somerset's recycling goes is out, complete with a commitment to reprocess more materials in the UK.

In 2008, SWP was the first in the UK to publish detailed information each year on what happens to your recycling. Many others have followed that lead.

The full "Beyond the Kerb – Recycling to Resources" report tracks the destination of the 133,734 tonnes collected in 2018-19 for recycling and reuse, from cans to clothes, including all the carbon saved.

It shows that over half stays in Somerset and over 90% stays in the UK. Somerset is ranked as England's seventh-best area for carbon saving, equal to taking more than 25,000 cars off the road for a year.

Somerset did not send abroad for reprocessing a single glass bottle or jar, steel or aluminium can or any of the millions of plastic pots, tubs, trays and bottles taken at every recycling site.

See the attached SWP Extra, and read the [full report](#) and [infographic](#).

Slim My Waste, Feed My Face

Most Somerset residents recycle food waste, but too much still ends up in Somerset's rubbish, with a quarter of the average Somerset refuse bin being food

waste. Somerset's colourful new fun campaign will help change that.

Slim My Waste, Feed My Face will add bright yellow taped "no food waste" reminders to every rubbish bin, deliver a helpful leaflet to all homes to prompt food recycling, and encourage us all to use free stickers to give our food waste bins powerful personalities – and spread the word by sharing pictures on social media to win free "eco-goodies".

The food waste in our bins is a bigger cause of climate change than the plastic. Yet Somerset wastes 42,000 tonnes of food a year. Recycling all of it through the anaerobic digestion plant near Bridgwater to generate electricity would bring annual savings of nearly £1 million and 882 tonnes of CO₂ equivalent.

A briefing will be shared with councils and members in January focussing on this campaign, but in the meantime to find out more about the Slim My Waste, Feed My Face campaign – [click here now](#). Before it starts, do you need a free food bin? [Order one online here](#).

Recycle More's action plan

As with all new Somerset collection services, Recycle More will be rolled out in phases to ensure that all elements – vehicles, depots, containers, staff and more – are in place and implementation improves at each stage.

Recycle More will start for over 50,000 homes in Mendip in June-July, at least 60,000 in South Somerset in September-October, 70,000 in South Somerset and Somerset West and Taunton (SWAT) in June-July 2021, more than 55,000 in Sedgemoor, Mendip and SWAT in September-October 2021, and just over 17,000 in the western part of SWAT in February-March 2022.

Recycle More weekly recycling will include all existing materials plus:

- Plastic pots, tubs and trays
- Tetra Paks, other beverage cartons
- Household batteries
- Small electrical items

All that extra recycling will leave rubbish bins far emptier so these will then be collected every three weeks.

Details will be delivered to every home well ahead of time, and full support will be available for anyone concerned they may have problems.

Reminder: Christmas collection dates

Usual day	Revised day
Mon 23 Dec	No change
Tue 24 Dec	No change
Wed 25 Dec	Fri 27 Dec
Thu 26 Dec	Sat 28 Dec
Fri 27 Dec	Sun 29 Dec
Mon 30 Dec	No change
Tue 31 Dec	No change
Wed 1 Jan	Thu 2 Jan
Thu 2 Jan	Fri 3 Jan
Fri 3 Jan	Sat 4 Jan
Mon 6 Jan	Back to usual

No garden waste pick-ups 23 December to 3 January; they resume from 6 January. Individual recycling site timetables vary – [check details here](#) – but the network is open every day except 25-26 December and 1 January. All 16 sites open 9am-4pm every Saturday and Sunday.

Latest SWP media

Our latest communications include:

- [Keep card clean for recycling sites](#)
- [Repair cafes – get it fixed for Xmas](#)
- [What is real purpose of ecobricks?](#)
- [100+ less-waste shops for Xmas](#)

Future focus: Do it online, Recycle More, garden waste, and all the news of Slim My Waste, Feed My Face.

Somerset Waste Board

SWP's governing body has two members from each of five partner councils, including the portfolio holder for environment: **Mendip** Cllrs Tom Ronan, Matthew Martin; **Sedgemoor** Cllrs Janet Keen, Andrew Gilling; **Somerset County** Cllrs David Hall, Clare Paul (Vice Chair); **Somerset West and Taunton** Cllrs Federica Smith-Roberts, David Mansell; **South Somerset** Cllrs Sarah Dyke (Chair), Tim Kerley. SWB's next meeting is 14 February. Agendas and papers are available [online](#).

Information on SWP services

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