

Somerset Reuse Week 16-23 July

Summary

- **SWP will be running its first Somerset Reuse Week this month.**
- **It will run from Saturday 16 July to Saturday 23 July.**
- **We would appreciate the support of Councillors in raising awareness.**

What is Somerset Reuse Week?

Organised by SWP, an awareness week devoted to promoting reuse and encouraging more people to consider reuse rather than buying new, recycling or throwing away.

Reuse is a step above recycling in the "Reduce, Reuse, Recycle" waste hierarchy, the prioritisation of actions to manage waste better and protect our environment. Recycling is great (and Somerset's recycling rate has never been higher) but reuse is even better.

There are endless opportunities for reuse in all our daily routines, whether it's donating to or buying from charity shops, repairing instead of throwing away, or repurposing something old to give it a new lease of life

SWP will use Reuse Week to share information, highlight local opportunities and spark ideas.

There will be dedicated information on the **SWP website** (somersetwaste.gov.uk/reuse-week) and lots of content shared through the **@somersetwaste** Facebook page (which has more than 18,000 followers), Twitter and Next Door.

People will be encouraged to share their **reuse success stories** with us for the chance to win a "repaired for reuse" laptop or tablet.

A key strand will be a busy itinerary for the [Fixy initiative](#) spear-headed by the Fixy van. It is promoting the repair and reuse of electricals and electronics, giving practical and promotional support to Somerset's network of repair cafes and groups.

And, through local Community Interest Company, Donate IT, Fixy also offers a **"tech amnesty"** service, taking donations of unwanted smart tech (laptops, tablets, PCs, digital cameras, routers, smart phones) to be refurbished and passed on to local people in need.

Key activities

Saturday 16 July:

- Dedicated webpage goes live somersetwaste.gov.uk/reuse-week
- Launch of competition – send your reuse success stories, through social media or email, and one lucky winner wins a 'repaired for reuse' refurbished laptop or tablet.
- **Fixy at the Yeovil Ecofair.** 10am-4pm, (Holy Trinity Church, Lysandar Road). Talking reuse, sign-post to local opportunities, encourage volunteering and run a "tech amnesty".

Monday 18 July:

- Special Reuse Week edition of SORTED distributed to 11,000 subscribers.
- Somerset Reuse Week discussion on BBC Somerset (TBC).

Tuesday 19 July:

- **Fixy in Chard.** 10am-2pm, (Bath Street, opposite Sainsbury's). With the Chard Community Hub promoting its new General Repair Hub and Sewing Repair Hub, as well as talking wider reuse, encouraging repair volunteering and running a "tech amnesty".

Wednesday 20 July:

- Facebook "Reuse: Ask the expert" lunchtime trouble-shooting session from 12noon-1pm. Experts on hand to answer all your questions about reuse.

Thursday 21 July:

- **Fixy in Ilminster.** 8.30am-12noon, (in the Orchard Vale Car Park, off Wharf Lane), Supporting the nearby Ilminster Repair Shop. Talking reuse, sign-posting to the shop, encouraging repair volunteering and running a "tech amnesty".

Friday 22 July:

- **Fixy in Frome.** 11am-2pm, The Welsh Mill Hub (Park Hill Drive). Talking to staff at the shared workspace, encouraging repair volunteer and running a public "tech amnesty".

Saturday 23 July:

- **Fixy on the Blackdowns.** 10am-1pm, (Hemyock Parish Hall). Supporting Blackdown Hills Repair Café, talking reuse, encouraging repair volunteering and running a "tech amnesty".

Did you know

- There are 15 repair cafes or similar in Somerset (see [Fixy page](#) for details): Blackdown Hills, Bridgwater, Frome, Glastonbury, Green Wedmore, Ilminster, Otterford, Porlock Vale, Taunton, Wells, Wellington, Wincanton, Wiveliscombe, Langport, Bishops Hull.
- There are three active [furniture reuse groups](#) across the county, collecting suitable items and providing them at low cost to families on low incomes.
- Last year, nearly 2,200 tonnes of material (clothing, shoes, furniture, bric-a-brac) were reused through SWP.
- The Freecycle online community has 37,000 members in Somerset and last year helped them give away 4,649 items.
- The average home has 20 unwanted electrical items that could be passed on or mended.

How can you help?

- Raise awareness of Somerset Reuse Week in your community. Talk about it and sign-posting to somersetwaste.gov.uk
- Share our Somerset Reuse Week @somersetwaste content on Facebook and Twitter
- Come along to one of our Fixy events and talk to the team.
- Include the following in any newsletters you submit content to: *"Look out for the first Somerset Reuse Week running from Saturday 16 July to Saturday 23 July. Recycling is great, but reuse is even better and Somerset Waste Partnership will be using the week to encourage more people to consider reuse rather than buying new, recycling or throwing away. The [Fixy](#) van will be out and about and there will be a chance to win a refurbished laptop or tablet by sharing your reuse success stories. Visit somersetwaste.gov.uk for more information."*

Somerset Waste Partnership