

Somerset Waste Partnership

Briefing for Members, Partners and Staff

August 2020



Recycling is on the up ...

More recycled and £15 million of landfill costs avoided is the key highlight in the latest "Beyond the Kerb – Recycling to Resources" report.

Cans to card, electricals to wood, this pioneering Somerset Waste Partnership report analyses what happens to all the materials residents put out kerbside or take to recycling sites.

In all, 135,420 tonnes were kept from landfill in 2019-20, up 1,686 tonnes on a year before, and the carbon savings were equivalent to taking almost 26,000 cars off the road for a year.

Annual reports since 2008 show how residents and waste staff have driven up recycling rates from 15% to 52.8% today, up about 0.5% over 2018-19.

More than half of the recycling stays in Somerset, including 18,572 tonnes of food waste turned into electricity and farm compost by the county's anaerobic digestion plant, and 42,490 tonnes of garden waste that become compost.

And 90% of Somerset's recycling stays in the UK, including all or most cans, glass bottles and jars, beverage cartons, oil – engine and cooking – and the fast-rising levels of plastic pots, tubs and trays.

See: [somerset.gov.uk/beyond-the-kerb](https://www.somerset.gov.uk/beyond-the-kerb).

... but is set to go even higher

The roll-out of Recycle More, helping everyone to recycle much more and waste far less, is starting in Mendip (only) in late October, with the rest of Somerset following in 2021 and 2022.

By recycling extra each week – plastic pots, tubs, trays; cartons/Tetra Paks; small batteries and electrical items – Recycle More will empty Somerset's rubbish bins so they need only be picked up every three weeks.

The recycling rate will jump and, as new facilities come on line, including a big Avonmouth plastics plant, even more of our recycling will stay in the UK.

Every Mendip household will be sent full details soon, plus their new Bright Blue Bag to help with all that extra recycling.

Full Recycle More details and dates: [somersetwaste.gov.uk/recycle-more](https://www.somersetwaste.gov.uk/recycle-more).

One-day-later Bank Holiday pick-ups

No collections on Bank Holiday Monday 31 August mean one-day-later pick-ups all week, including Friday's collections on Saturday 5 September.

Recycling sites will all remain on their usual summer schedules, with 16 open 9am-4pm on both Saturdays and Sundays, and 12 sites open 9am-6pm on Bank Holiday Monday itself.

Your bargain compost bin offer

Somerset Waste Partnership has teamed up with getcomposting.com to provide an exclusive offer of 1,000 home compost bins for as little as £10.

Home composting cuts CO₂ emissions and turns kitchen and garden waste into a free supply of compost to keep your garden blooming year after year.

Two sizes of compost "converters" are included: the 220 Litre is only £10, the larger 330L is just £12.50.

Save even more with the buy-one-get-one-half-price deal for two of the same size. Delivery is £9.99 per order, so why not order two and share delivery with a friend, neighbour or relative?

Voted best "budget buy" in Gardeners' World Magazine, the bins are made from recycled plastic, require no assembly, and are guaranteed for seven years. Optional base plate available.

Buy your bins at getcomposting.com; offer details and helpful composting tips at somersetwaste.gov.uk/home-composting.

Got your 'My Account' yet?

My Account is the free-and-easy way to manage your waste services online 24/7. With it, you can report missed collections after 6pm on the due day, check dates, order free recycling boxes and food waste bins, arrange paid-for bulky waste collections, buy garden waste sacks and request garden sack

collections, submit reports, and more. No emails, no calls, no fuss. **Sign up now: www.somersetwaste.gov.uk.**

Recycling sites' shop-style safety

All sites are operating as usual and recycling the full range of materials, with shop-style safety restrictions:

- Gloves worn outside vehicles
- Maximum two people per vehicle
- Strict social distancing
- No site staff manual assistance
- No one with COVID-19 symptoms, or those asked to shield
- Permits system for vans, pick-ups, motorhomes, minibuses and trailers still applies.

Next time: all recycling sites switch to their winter hours from October, and more progress with Recycle More.

Somerset Waste Board

SWP's governing body has two members from each of five partner councils: **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 Sarah Wakefield, David Mansell; **South Somerset** Cllrs Sarah Dyke (Chair), Tim Kerley. SWB agendas: somersetwaste.gov.uk/somerset-waste-board

Information on SWP services

Visit somersetwaste.gov.uk for advice and to sign up for our e-newsletter. Follow @Somersetwaste on Facebook and Twitter. All partner customer services can assist with enquiries.