Somerset Waste Partnership
Briefing for Members, Partners and Staff
December 2020 - Festive special

Say yes to a low-cardboard Christmas

With the festive season here, do what you can to keep waste to a minimum.

Food: Holiday meal planning will make sure you cut food waste by buying only what you need and eating all you buy.

Decorations: Winter foliage, paper and card are the perfect substitutes for plastic, as is a real tree unless your artificial one lasts for many years.

Gifts: Keep a lid on the cardboard this year by thinking outside the box when shopping online – vouchers, digital subscriptions and memberships make great gifts and no packaging. Shop local, ask for wish lists and invest in presents of real quality that last.

Wrap: Use paper wrapping. Glitter, plastic or metallic wrapping cannot be recycled so will need to go straight into the rubbish. Reuse wrapping if you can, or put it in the correct kerbside recycling box. Got lots? Take it all to one of our 16 recycling sites. Each will have a special drop-off point just for wrapping paper.

Tree: Compost your real Christmas tree at home or add it to your garden's wildlife corner. If you subscribe to the garden waste service, leave the tree next to your green bin for collection. Not a subscriber? Decoration-free trees must be taken to a recycling site; they will not be collected from the kerbside.

Christmas and New Year 2020/21

Usual collection day	Revised collection day
Thu 24 Dec	No change
Fri 25 Dec	Mon 28 Dec
Mon 28 Dec	Tue 29 Dec
Tue 29 Dec	Wed 30 Dec
Wed 30 Dec	Thu 31 Dec
Thu 31 Dec	**Sat 2 Jan**
Fri 1 Jan	Mon 4 Jan
Mon 4 Jan	Tue 5 Jan
Tue 5 Jan	Wed 6 Jan
Wed 6 Jan	Thu 7 Jan
Thu 7 Jan	Fri 8 Jan
Fri 8 Jan	**Sat 9 Jan**
Mon 11 Jan	Usual collections resume

There are no garden waste collections Friday 25 December - Friday 8 January (inclusive). Friday 8 January collections will be a day later; garden waste pick-ups restart from Monday 11 January.

Recycling sites: These are on winter hours, except all close as usual on Christmas Day, Boxing Day and New Year's Day. They are a good way to dispose of large loads, especially if weather delays collections. Be sure to socially distance and follow all other safety guidance. Empty cardboard boxes of plastic and other packaging, then flatten them before you come.

Collections: Recycling and rubbish collection days change over Christmas. Check your days using My Collection Day at somersetwaste.gov.uk or contact your council customer services. In severe weather, check the website and @somersetwaste on social media.



Food waste, it's out of date

Last year, Somerset recycled 18,500 tonnes of food, preventing vast amounts of climate changing CO_2 from being released into the atmosphere. That is great effort, but it would be even better if we could cut out the waste altogether.

Food is a quarter of what is in our rubbish bins so Somerset Waste Partnership is backing a national campaign to make wasting food a thing of the past. If we all stopped throwing away food at home for a day, it could do the same for climate change as planting over half a million trees. For easy ideas to reduce your food waste, including shopping hacks, leftover recipes and storage tips, visit **outofdate.org.uk**

Recycle More piles up the plastic

The new Recycle More collections are continuing to become embedded in the Mendip waste routine. The vast majority of people are putting out all the extra recycling on the right day and using the new Bright Blue Bags. The result: Recycle More is collecting around an extra 60 tonnes a week, including a 20% rise in plastic pots, tubs, trays and bottles.

As well as protecting the environment and helping tackle climate change, the new service frees up funding for other vital local services. From Mendip, Recycle More will be rolled out over 18 months as collection depots are upgraded for the extra recycling. It is due in south Somerset in summer 2021, and the rest of the county by early 2022.

For more on Recycle More, see somersetwaste.gov.uk/recycle-more

Get it done 24/7 - no bother or fuss

There is a trouble-free way to manage many waste tasks: use the My Waste Services menu at somersetwaste.gov.uk. Order recycling containers, report missed collections and much more. No internet connection? Contact your district council customer services.

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.