

Revised festive collections

Christmas week:

- Recycling/rubbish collections will be [two days later than usual](#), including Thursday pick-ups on Saturday 30 December and Friday pick-ups on Sunday 31 December.

New Year week:

- All collections [one day later](#), with Friday pick-ups on Saturday 6 January.

Garden waste:

- **No [garden waste](#) collections** between Monday 25 December and Friday 5 January (inclusive). - We do this every year to help the busy refuse crews.

All back to normal on Monday 8 Jan.

Recycling sites:

- Open on all usual days except all are closed on Christmas Day, Boxing Day and New Year's Day.

Christmas trees:

- Take natural, decoration-free trees to your local recycling centre for composting.
- If you have our [garden waste service](#) (or a neighbour who is willing to let you use theirs) put Christmas trees under 6ft beside your garden waste bin or sack.
- As an absolute last resort you can leave it out with your refuse on your usual collection day between 8-19 January, (but this does mean it is landfilled).

Wrapping paper (non metallic/plastic)

- Remove all decorations and recycle with cardboard in your black box or at recycling sites.

SWP 10th birthday

This autumn we celebrated the 10th "birthday" of Somerset Waste Partnership. Did you know that:

- SWP was formed in 2007 making it the first county-wide waste partnership in the country. We collect and dispose of waste from over 250,000 households every week .
- In 2009, SWP published the UK's first [End Use Register](#) , showing what happens to all our waste.
- 96% of the recyclable materials we collect at kerbside and at recycling sites is recycled in the UK.
- Since 2013 the Walpole anaerobic digestion plant has turned all of Somerset's food waste into energy and compost.
- By 2020 we will not send any refuse to landfill as our waste will instead be used to generate energy. This won't affect our drive to recycle more.
- Around half of what is in the average bin in Somerset could be recycled – so there is more to do.

Recycle More update

Recycle More will mean more collected every week at the kerbside (including small electrical appliances, food and drink cartons, plastic packaging). With so much collected each week, what little waste is left over will be collected every 3 weeks.

On 3 November the Somerset Waste Board and Kier agreed to end their kerbside waste and recycling collections contract 18 months early.

Ending this contract in March 2020 will enable us to procure a new contractor to implement [Recycle More](#), and aligns the start of the contract with the procurement of a new fleet of vehicles dedicated to the new service.

Until Recycle More service is rolled out we unfortunately cannot collect food and drink cartons or plastic tubs, pots and trays.

However, all **plastic bottles** from throughout the house, including those for cosmetics, oil and cleaning products, can go in your recycling box after being rinsed and squashed. Batteries and small electrical appliances can be taken to all recycling sites for recycling and food and drink cartons (e.g. Tetrapaks) can be recycled at centres excluding Castle Cary (Dimmer), Cheddar, Somerton and Dulverton Community recycling site.

Energy from Waste plant update

Somerset's new energy from waste plant is on track to start operating in April 2020. So whatever waste is left after everything has been recycled will be used to generate electricity. It will also deliver £1.3m annual savings. Walpole and Dimmer Waste Transfer Stations are expected to be operational by May 2019.

Latest media releases

Recent media releases and web posts included:

- [All change: more recycling and energy not landfill](#)
- [Somerset residents mark decades of waste progress](#)
- [Dark waste warning over Black Friday impulse deals](#)

Somerset Waste Board

SWP works to the Somerset Waste Board, which is made up of two members from each of the six partner councils. Our [website](#) has more details. The next board meeting is on Friday 15 December 2017 (papers available [online](#)).

Board membership by council is:

- **Mendip** – Cllrs Nigel Woollcombe-Adams (Vice Chair), Nigel Taylor
- **Sedgemoor** – Cllrs Dawn Hill, Gill Slocombe
- **Somerset County** – Cllrs David Hall, Clare Aparicio Paul
- **South Somerset** – Cllrs Jo Roundell Greene, Derek Yeomans (Chair)
- **Taunton Deane Borough** – Cllrs Patrick Berry, Steve Ross
- **West Somerset** – Cllrs Martin Dewdney, Brenda Maitland-Walker

Information on SWP services

For all advice and information, visit www.somersetwaste.gov.uk.

Follow us on [Facebook](#) and [twitter](#). Sign-up to Sorted e-zine on our [website](#).

All partners' customer service helplines can assist with service enquiries.

