

Get ready for Recycle More



South Somerset June 2021

What is Recycle More?

A new recycling service for Somerset, allowing people to recycle more from their kerbside every week.

Most people in Somerset are recycling. We are making it easier for everyone to recycle even more which will reduce waste, protect your environment and help tackle climate change.

When are things changing?

Recycle More is due to launch across South Somerset at the end of June.

It is being introduced in phases so we can upgrade our depots to handle the extra recycling and give help and guidance to anyone who needs it.

Successfully launched in Mendip at the end of October 2020, it will be available across Somerset by early 2022.

Why Recycle More?

Somerset has a proud recycling record, but we can do even better. More than half the contents of the average Somerset bin could have been recycled.

In its first 12 weeks, Recycle More collected 1,275 extra tonnes of recycling in Mendip, including 105 tonnes of extra plastic - the equivalent of 20 double-decker buses. 98% of our recycling currently stays in the UK and we are aiming for 100%.

Recycle More should also save £2m a year, money that can go into other local services.



What is changing?

Collecting more recycling from the kerbside.

As well as all the things we already collect, the following **extra items will be picked up every week:**

- Plastic pots, tubs and trays
- Food and drink cartons such as Tetra Paks
- Small electrical items, toasters to laptops
- Small household batteries

Properties with communal/shared collection (such as flats) will have the full Recycle More service or expanded communal collections wherever possible.

Schools collections will be expanded and improved during 2022.



Three-weekly rubbish collections

Recycling more means more space in rubbish bins. So, rubbish will be collected every three weeks. This is working well for Mendip and for millions of people in other parts of the UK.

Improved collection routes mean about a third of South Somerset households will have new collection days. **Every household will be sent an individual calendar confirming all their collection days well in advance.**

Introducing the Bright Blue Bag

A new recycling container will be delivered to all households before the first Recycle More collection.

It takes:

- Plastics bottles, pots, tubs and trays
- Food and drink tins and cans
- Foil and empty aerosols.

It is tough and hard-wearing, base-weighted, Velcro-fastened and folds flat.

NOT taken: hard to recycle flexible, stretchy or crinkly plastics like carrier bags, cling film, film covers from food trays.

Remember, nothing changes until you get your Bright Blue Bag



What will go where?

With new items collected in the **Bright Blue Bag**, what goes into which recycling container is changing.

Once Recycle More starts, this is how recycling should be sorted.



Black box



Green box



Blue bag



Food waste bin



Carrier bag

Doing more online

We are encouraging people to make use of what SWP offers online, including ways of preparing for the new service - such as ordering extra or replacement recycling containers free of charge.



- Report missed collections
- Request recycling containers, clinical and assisted collections
- Request and pay for garden waste sack collections
- Compliments and complaints (From mid May) Ask questions/request support regarding Recycle More
- Check collection days
- New 'Recycle More days' available from early June
- Download a collection day calendar
- Set up an account with SWP

Communication and engagement

SWP will communicate and engage widely, raising awareness, providing information and giving support. We will:

- Write to all households twice before the new service starts, at six weeks and three weeks before launch. Information will include a guide to what goes into which recycling container and an individual collection day calendar.
- Send info and updates to stakeholders such as county, district, parish and town councils, and community groups.

We hope you can play an active role in raising awareness of Recycle More and preparing people for it.



Here to help

Somerset trials and the experience in Mendip and elsewhere show that, with guidance and support, three-weekly rubbish collections work well.

People can recycle more, so there is much more room in their rubbish bin.



We want to address questions and worries before Recycle More arrives.

What support is available

- Website information somersetwaste.gov.uk/recycle-more
- Customer services briefed in advance, contacts prioritised
- Extra staff dedicated to Recycle More
- Online engagement through social media, including Facebook Q&As

Requests for more space

We expect some requests for extra space for rubbish, for example from larger families, families with children in nappies and people with certain medical needs. These should be raised through the usual routes:

- Online (using the My Waste Services menu)
- Telephone calls to district council Customer Services

Contacts will be prioritised and handled by dedicated staff as required.

Everyone will be encouraged to check they have the right containers, manage their waste and make full use of weekly recycling collections.

Requests can be followed up with telephone calls and visits. Extra space (a larger bin or stickers for rubbish sacks) arranged if essential.

We are also helping to fund support groups that help people switch to re-usable nappies.

Find out more

somersetwaste.gov.uk/recycle-more

Sign up for our regular e-newsletter

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