

Recycle More Messenger

20 November, 2020

Welcome to the latest update on Recycle More. We are now into the fourth week of the expanded service and tonnes of extra recycling has been collected thanks to the support of residents across the district.

Progress update



After more than three weeks, it's clear the new service is having a big impact. Exact figures take time and the picture is complicated by COVID-19 - more people home means more recycling at the kerb.

However, in its first two weeks the new service collected an extra 106 tonnes of recycling compared to the average of the previous month. Around 20% of this will have been extra plastic – bottles, pots tubs and trays. Plastic is light, so that will have freed up lots of space in rubbish bins and bags. There has also been a big increase in tins, cans, and food waste. Over the months we expect to see large quantities of batteries and small electricals collected.

Crews have worked long hours as the new routes bed-in, and worked Saturday to pick up missed collections.

Thanks to everyone who has backed the new service. By doing so you are immediately helping protect our

environment and contributing to tackling climate change.

Check your collection days

With three-weekly rubbish collections, it is more important than ever to know your collection days and dates.

The vast majority of people have been putting their bins and boxes out on the right days, but it's always worth double checking until you're settled in to the new routine. You can:

- Check the calendar in your 'Recycle More is coming soon' leaflet.
- Check online at somersetwaste.gov.uk and use the My Collection Day button.
- Download a calendar into your computer or mobile device using My Collection Day.
- Call Mendip District Council (MDC) Customer Services 0300 303 8588.

Crews taking photographs

You may see crews taking photographs of rubbish bins and recycling containers (or lack of them). Crews take them on their work (not personal) devices to record any issues with collections. It's common practice in modern waste collections and conforms to all the relevant legislation.

It may be because the wrong materials have been put out, a sharp object has been left out, or there's too much rubbish in a rubbish bin.

Crews should also 'tag' or sticker the container, explaining why it has been left. The photos are only for this purpose and are securely stored on the IT system.

Last year 90% of SWP recycling was recycled in the UK, thanks to people properly sorting at the kerbside.

Christmas and New Year collections

Some collection days have to change over the Christmas and New Year period. Please make sure you know where yours are affected.

No **garden waste** collections Fri 25 Dec - Fri 8 Jan (inclusive). Fri 8 Jan collections on Sat 9 Jan; usual garden waste collections resume from Mon 11 Jan.

Usual collection day

Thu 24 Dec

Fri 25 Dec

Mon 28 Dec

Tue 29 Dec

Wed 30 Dec

Thu 31 Dec

Fri 1 Jan

Mon 4 Jan

Tue 5 Jan

Wed 6 Jan

Thu 7 Jan

Fri 8 Jan

Mon 11 Jan Usual collections resume

Revised |

No change

Mon 28 Dec

Tue 29 Dec

Wed 30 Dec

Thu 31 Dec

Sat 2 Jan

Mon 4 Jan

Tue 5 Jan

Wed 6 Jan

Thu 7 Jan

Fri 8 Jan

Sat 9 Jan

Not just plastics

Collecting more plastics was a big reason for Recycle More, but don't forget that the new service is also adding the following to weekly recycling collections:

Food and drinks cartons

Including from fruit juice, milk, non-dairy milk and soup.

These go in the green box. Rinse, flatten and leave the lids on.

Small household batteries

From appliances, torches and toys, including AAA, AA, C and D sizes etc, camera batteries, watch batteries and lithium batteries from computers and phones.

No batteries from cars, motorbikes or scooters or any other vehicle.

These should be put in a small bag on top of the recycling (so they don't get mixed up with the rest of the recycling)

Small electrical items

Any item that had a plug or batteries and is small enough to fit inside a carrier bag.

So, kettles, toasters, hair dryers, laptops and phones.

These should be put in an untied bag (not a black sack) beside your recycling container.

Missed collections and new containers—do it online

Reporting missed collections and requesting new or replacement Bright Blue Bags is best done online at www.mendip.gov.uk/waste

It's quicker and easier, so please use this yourself and sign-post others this way.

Anyone who doesn't wish to do this online can call MDC Customer Services on 0300 303 8588.

