

Recycle More Messenger

4 December, 2020

Welcome to the last of the Recycle More Messenger updates. Recycle More has had a positive start thanks to the efforts of people across Mendip, with hundreds of tonnes of extra recycling collected. SWP will carry on monitoring and managing the new service as it beds in to become part of the Mendip recycling routine.

Five week figures

We are now at the end of week six of the new service and have some headline figures for the first five weeks of Recycle More.

In total, an extra 302 tonnes of recycling was collected in those five weeks, compared to the preceding five weeks.

This included:

- 41 extra tonnes of plastic bottles, pots, tubs and trays – up 23%
- 105 extra tonnes of cardboard - up 19%
- 141 extra tonnes of food waste – up 15%
- 6.4 tonnes of small electrical items
- 1.7 tonnes of batteries

We don't yet have figures for the volumes of cartons and Tetra Paks collected, but expect it to be significant.

Although it is far too early to see long-term trends or draw conclusions, the amount of rubbish collected in Mendip over that five week period fell by roughly 20%.

Together these figures indicate a really positive start to the service that SWP will be looking to build on in the coming weeks and months.

Our thanks go to everyone who has contributed to this, either by recycling more themselves or by helping encourage others to embrace the new service.



Festive collection changes

Every festive season collection days and dates have to change to accommodate the public holidays. With rubbish collections every three weeks, it's important that people are aware and can prepare.

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

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

Usual collections resume

To confirm your collection days:

- Check the 'Recycle More is coming soon' leaflet
- Check online at somersetwaste.gov.uk using the My Collection Day feature
- Download a calendar to your computer or mobile device using My Collection Day
- Telephone Mendip District Council on 0300 303 8588.

More plastic staying in UK

In the first six months of the financial year – April to Sept – 2,000 tonnes of plastics were collected. Of this, only 1% of this went outside of the UK for re-processing into new products and packaging, compared to 25% over the same period the previous year.

Plastics - what goes in the bag

In the vast majority of cases, most people are putting the right things in the Bright Blue Bag. In the first few weeks, only 1% of bags were 'tagged' by crews as having the wrong materials in them.

Any 'contamination' has mostly been from the wrong kind of plastics.

Recycle More only collects plastic bottles, pots, tubs and trays. Other flexible and hard plastics are hard to get reprocessed.

None of the below should go into any of your recycling containers:

- Plastic bags, wrappers or plastic film coverings from trays or punnets
- Crisp packets or pet food pouches
- Plastic toys or plastic plant pots
- Expanded polystyrene

Communal collections

As part of Recycle More, collections will also be expanded for properties which have some element of communal collection, such as blocks of flats and

retirement villages. What we are able to do will depend on the space available at each location.

We will contact residents and management companies as part of this and expect to be introducing changes by early March, 2021.

Why Recycle More?

We have a good recycling record, but we can do better. Last year Somerset recycled 135,000 tonnes, preventing 65,000 tonnes of carbon being released into the atmosphere.

Yet still around half the contents of the average rubbish bin could have been recycled.

We want to help people recycle more, protecting our environment and helping tackle climate change.

Around half of Somerset's recycling stays in the county and 90% stays in the UK.

Your food waste is turned into power and farm compost at an AD plant near Bridgwater.

Your non-recyclable waste is used to generate electricity and heat at an Energy from Waste plant near Bristol.

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 signpost others this way.

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

