

Somerset Waste Partnership

Briefing for Members, Partners and Staff

March 2020



Fantastic food recycling success

Thanks to Somerset's fantastic recyclers, the Slim My Waste, Feed My Face campaign has become an instant hit. It is still being rolled out, but the early weeks have seen **30% more food waste** recycled and families requesting 8,500 food waste containers to start recycling.

The campaign has been delivering fact packs to homes across the county, with free fun stickers for people to create an "ace face" on their food waste bin and share pictures on social media with the hashtag #FeedMyFaceSWP for their chance to win free "eco-goodies".

Bright yellow tape has been wrapped around rubbish bins and a cheerful "no food waste" sign added. All materials are recycled or recyclable. The tape raised some eyebrows and, crucially, **helped thousands recycle food waste.**

Most people in Somerset do recycle, especially food, with 18,000 tonnes a year going to the anaerobic digestion plant near Bridgwater to become power for homes and farm compost to grow more food. Yet around 25% of the average bin's weight is still food waste, with 24,000 tonnes sent for landfill. Food waste is the worst material to be dumped in costly and wasteful landfill, generating climate change gases at a rate of 993kg of carbon equivalent per tonne. By comparison, plastics landfilled

are just 5kg a tonne. And all food waste can be recycled in Somerset for about half the cost of landfill. **Action is vital.** Find out more about the campaign here: somersetwaste.gov.uk/slimmywaste. Need a food bin? Order free with My Waste Services at somersetwaste.gov.uk.

Parishes, councillors: Do spread the word to encourage all local people to maintain and boost the great success of Slim My Waste, Feed My Face.

Coronavirus (COVID-19) planning

Somerset Waste Partnership has business continuity plans to make sure we can maintain services when there is a risk of disruption, whatever the cause.

We are looking at those plans in light of the potential implications of Covid-19, listening to all the advice and guidance from government and Public Health England, and working closely with our partner authorities and contractors.

The current advice for disposing of waste for anyone with symptoms, including those diagnosed with the infection, is on our website:

<https://www.somersetwaste.gov.uk/coronavirus-covid-19-disposing-of-waste/> It states that personal waste (e.g. used tissues) and disposable cleaning cloths can be stored securely within disposable rubbish bags. These bags should be placed into another bag, tied securely

and kept separate from other waste within your own room. This should be put aside for at least 72 hours before being put in your usual external household waste bin. Other household waste can be disposed of as usual. This advice will be updated as required.

Parishes, councillors: Do encourage all residents to check the latest Public Health England advice on waste.

Got your garden waste subscription?

It is **not too late** to order the garden waste collection service, although you may miss the first collection date. Instead of rising with inflation, the annual collection cost has fallen to £55.50, as has the price of garden waste sacks, at £27.50 for 10. If you have subscribed, check your bin sticker letter carefully as the collection day may have changed. Garden waste collections remain every two weeks except for the usual Christmas break. To find out more or order a collection, visit: somersetwaste.gov.uk/garden-waste-collections/

Parishes, councillors: Please remind residents to check collection dates.

Make it easy with My Waste Services

Simple, free and online 24 hours a day, My Waste Services is the new no-fuss way to sort out all your recycling and rubbish needs. From ordering a new bin to reporting a missed collection, My Waste Services makes it **quick and easy to get things done**. Get your account now at www.somersetwaste.gov.uk

Full speed ahead for Recycle More

The phased roll-out of the new Recycle More expanded weekly collections remains **exactly on course**. Full details: somersetwaste.gov.uk/recycle-more/

Summer hours for lighter nights

From Wednesday 1 April, all recycling sites will move to summer timetables, **operating 9am-6pm on open weekdays, and 9am-4pm Saturdays and Sundays** year-round. Details: somersetwaste.gov.uk/recycling/centres

Two recycling sites go free

The recycling sites at Crewkerne and Dulverton will drop their £2 cash entry fees on 1 April.

Somerset Waste Board

SWP's governing body has two members from each of five partner councils, including the portfolio holder for environment: **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 Federica Smith-Roberts, David Mansell; **South Somerset** Cllrs Sarah Dyke (Chair), Tim Kerley. SWB's next meeting is Friday 26 June; agendas and papers available via somersetwaste.gov.uk/somerset-waste-board

Information on SWP services

Visit www.somersetwaste.gov.uk for advice and to sign up for our e-zine. Follow @Somersetwaste on Facebook and Twitter. All partner customer services can assist with enquiries.