

Recycle More Messenger

Edition No 5. 21 July, 2021

Welcome to the latest update on Recycle More, which launched at the end of June. Despite collection issues, the signs are that the new service is delivering hundreds of tonnes more recycling.

Disruption to collections

Unfortunately, the launch of the new service has coincided with unprecedented pressures on our crews. The nationwide LGV driver shortage (worsened by Covid delays to training and testing and the loss of EU drivers) is hitting the whole country.

Plus, we are now seeing rising numbers of crew self-isolating as Covid infections rise. We apologise for the unavoidable delays. Recycling collections are worst hit, including Recycle More in South Somerset.

If possible, we will return for missed recycling within two working days. If we cannot get back in that time, unfortunately we will not return until the next scheduled collection day. We are currently finding it increasingly difficult to return in two days.

We know this is frustrating. Please bear with us at this incredibly difficult time for crews who have been working very hard collecting more waste than ever.

Visit
somersetwaste.gov.uk
homepage for the
latest updates.



Report online/container deliveries

Please report missed collections online if possible. It's the quickest and easiest way and with customer services very busy, response waiting times can be lengthy.

You can use the My Waste Services menu on the SWP homepage to complete most tasks, including reporting missed collections and requesting containers.

Container deliveries are behind schedule. Please be patient and we'll get to you as soon as we can.

Progress update

Everyone should have had their first three-weekly rubbish collection as well as three new recycling collections.

Apologies for any collections missed. Please report them (see above) and we will return as soon as we can.

We won't have firm figures for a little while, but South Somerset looks set to collect more extra waste than the 100+ tonnes extra per week seen in Mendip.

The vast majority of people have been putting the right things in the right containers and putting them out on the right day.

Thanks for all your help in sharing the information that has helped achieve this.

Recycling collection delayed?

Some ideas to help you manage until crews return.

Food waste - Home compost if possible. Keep containers in the shade, lid closed. If it has to go, put in rubbish bin (double-bagging stops smells) or take to recycling site (must be double-bagged) and put in Energy from Waste skip.

Some keep fresh food waste in a container in the fridge or freezer until collection day.

Squash, crush or flatten - plastic bottles, tins and cans, and cardboard to make more space in boxes and bags.

Use makeshift containers - cardboard box or similar for extra items (not glass).

Take to a recycling site - if you can. 12 of our 16 take all materials (Castle Cary doesn't take cartons/Tetra Pak).

What happens to your recycling?

The Somerset Recycling Tracker has just been published and shows that 97.8% of Somerset's recycling stayed in the UK in 2020-21. Over 50% stayed in Somerset.

Last year 4,359 tonnes of plastic were collected, of which a remarkable 99.4% stayed in the UK. The materials that Somerset recycled or reused saved 123,000+ tonnes of carbon - like taking 47,000 cars off the road for a year.

This great achievement was helped by your kerbside sorting. It means we have good quality materials that are easier to find reprocessors for closer to home.

Showing where recycling has gone is one of the best ways to motivate people to recycling more.

somersetwaste.gov.uk/recycling-tracker

