

Happy anniversary SWP

Somerset residents are marking a significant double anniversary. It is two decades since all six Somerset councils - five districts and the county – agreed to jointly help households waste less, recycle more and save money. And it is 10 years since that agreement created Somerset Waste Partnership (SWP) to unify services, improve efficiency and secure savings.

There will be much more in the next briefing on what SWP has achieved, and more, too, on the progress planned for the coming decades.

Drivers and loaders wanted

A nationwide shortage of heavy goods vehicle drivers with certificate of professional competence training has been having an impact on some refuse and recycling collections.

Contractor Kier is recruiting reliable women and men keen on a job with a future. For the right people, there is plenty of scope for career progression, including paid training to become a qualified truck driver. If you know anyone who could be interested, urge them to call Kier on **0117 916 0760** (8am-5pm, Monday-Friday).

Refresh for SWP website

SWP will be relaunching its website this autumn. The home page remains <http://www.somersetwaste.gov.uk> but if your organisation's website has links to any other SWP page, you should check that they still work. Find waste-related news, advice on prevention and top recycling tips by visiting frequently.

Assisted collection review

During September, SWP carried out a review of its assisted collection service. Letters were sent to over 5,500 households registered for this enhanced service, asking residents to confirm their continued need. Positive requests for assistance have reduced to just over 3,500.

The review is carried out every few years to ensure that the correct resources for this vital service are maintained, while still providing value for money.

Do not be an autumn waster

Autumn is a great time to avoid household waste by not buying one-use costumes or decorations for Halloween or bonfire night.

For Halloween, SWP is challenging residents to transform what they already own, rather than buying new. Visit charity shops for pre-loved clothing to spookily customise. For tips and ideas, check out <http://www.loveyourclothes.org.uk> and <http://www.lovefoodhatewaste.com>.

On-line community waste forum

SWP developed [Waste Not Somerset](#) on Facebook as a useful forum to promote waste minimisation. It gives local individuals and community organisations a bigger platform for beyond their local boundary. SWP continues to promote this facility via its own [SWP Facebook page](#). Do take a look and do post your waste reduction schemes, activities and events.

End Use Register

SWP has launched the latest End Use Register. This guide gives an easy-to-read picture of the next destination of materials collected both at the kerbside and through recycling sites. In 2016/17 Somerset residents reused and recycled 128,154 tonnes of waste, saving an estimated 122,638 tonnes of carbon emission, with 96% recycled in the UK. Search “End Use Register” at www.somersetwaste.gov.uk

Recycle Foil in your black box

Somerset residents are being urged to renew efforts to recycle aluminium foil. To make that easier, all foil can now be recycled in the same box – usually the black one – as food and drink cans.

Somerset Waste Partnership (SWP) wants to collect all aluminium foil, such as from take-away containers, trays from festive mince pies, lids from some food packaging, and clean aluminium wrapping from Christmas cooking.

Metallised plastic foil, such as pet food pouches, cannot be taken. To check, squash the foil - if it springs back, it is plastic based and not recyclable.

At the end of your washing-up, rinse foil used for food to remove the worse of any contamination, scrunch it all together so it will not blow away, and add it to your black box so it can be easily spotted by the collection crew.

Latest media releases

Latest releases and web posts include:

- [Look good, feel good – add recycling to your routine](#)
- [Fly-tipping lands Somerset main in jail with a £280 bill](#)

Somerset Waste Board

SWP is the executive arm of SWB, with two members nominated by each of the six Somerset partner councils, one of which must be the portfolio holder for waste and/or the environment. The Chair and Vice-Chair are elected at the Board AGM from its membership.

For details of SWP, SWB and waste services: www.somersetwaste.gov.uk. SWB’s next meeting is on Friday 3 November 2017.

SWB membership by council is:

- **Mendip** – Cllrs Nigel Woollcombe-Adams (Vice Chair), Nigel Taylor
- **Sedgemoor** – Cllrs Dawn Hill, Gill Slocombe
- **Somerset County** – David Hall, Clare Aparicio Paul
- **South Somerset** – Cllrs Jo Roundell Greene, Derek Yeomans (Chairman)
- **Taunton Deane Borough** – Cllrs Patrick Berry, Steve Ross
- **West Somerset** – Cllrs Martin Dewdney, Brenda Maitland-Walker

SWB meeting agendas, papers and reports are available [online](#).

Information on SWP services

For all advice and information, visit www.somersetwaste.gov.uk. All partners’ customer service helplines can assist with service enquiries.

SWP publishes the Sorted e-zine (sign-up on the website) and posts on [Facebook](#) and [Twitter](#).

