

National Strategy for England

The Department for Environment, Food & Rural Affairs (DEFRA) released its eagerly-anticipated Resources and Waste Strategy for England in late December. To view the report in [full click here](#).

SWP is recognised in the Strategy for its commitment to collecting quality materials for recycling through its kerbside collection service, how much it recycles in the UK (over 90%), and its innovation in bringing in separate food waste collections. Indeed, indicative of SWP's standing, it is the only local authority case study in the document.

Points of note from the Strategy, which is now subject to consultation (and it may be many years before any proposals are made law) include:

- Businesses and manufacturers will pay the full cost of recycling and disposing of their packaging, and a Deposit Return Scheme on drinks containers may be introduced.
- Weekly collections of food waste for all households – of which SWP was a pioneer.
- An emphasis on collecting quality materials and recycling them in the UK – which has always been part of SWP's DNA.
- Moves towards greater consistency in kerbside collections, as SWP introduced across Somerset.
- Consistent labelling on packaging to assist consumers.

- Increased repair and reuse (including recycling centre reuse shops, as SWP has at Taunton).
- A tax on packaging containing less than 30% recycled plastic.
- A continued focus on reducing our reliance on single-use plastics, something SWP supports through its coordination of the [Refill movement in Somerset](#), our [Pledge against Preventable Plastic](#), our [Schools Against Waste programme](#), facilities at recycling sites and our work to improve kerbside recycling services even further.

Textile and shoe recycling

Disposing of unwanted clothing, textiles and shoes is easy in Somerset. Wearable items can be sold on-line, swapped at swishing events or donated to charity either direct or via charity banks and street collections.

Both wearable and unwearable items can be collected via recycling centres or kerbside collections. For kerbside, we ask that clothing, textiles (excluding stuffed items i.e. duvets quilts and pillows) are put in plastic or compostable bags – not black sacks – and marked textiles. The materials need to be kept dry to maintain their value and to stop mildew spreading when in the vehicles or bulk stored. Shoes should be tied in pairs.

Clothing, textiles (i.e. old towels, sheets and curtains) and shoes are primarily sent to JMP Wilcox & Co, which is based in the West Midlands. During

2017-18, the company received just over 1,903 tonnes of clothing, textiles and shoes from our kerbside collections, recycling centres and locally-run charity banks.

At their plant, materials from SWP, other UK local authorities and national charities are sorted and graded using both machinery and skilled staff. Items suitable for reuse – i.e. those that are wearable – are either processed in the UK or exported overseas to their markets in Africa, Asia and eastern Europe. Items not suitable for reuse are either recycled into cleaning cloths as well as fillings for mattress and seats etc., or where possible, processed into clean fibres known as “shoddy” to be rewoven into new materials.

As JMP Wilcox can deal with both wearable and non-reusable items textiles should **never** be put in a refuse bin to be sent to landfill. Natural fibres will rot potentially releasing gases and man-made fibres such as acrylics will simply remain intact. So, please use the kerbside collection services for damaged, stained or odd items as well as for unwanted wearable clothing. If you want tips and advice on how to keep your clothing looking good for longer, visit [Love Your Clothes.org.uk](http://LoveYourClothes.org.uk)

Latest media releases

Recent communications included:

- [Your free green gift for keeping in touch](#)
- [Trim the tree and get creative with anything but plastic](#)
- [Pick-ups back on usual schedule](#)

Upcoming communications will focus on

garden waste renewal reminders and the upgrades to recycling centres, with later opening hour at recycling centres.

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. The next SWB meeting is on Friday 15 February 2019. SWB meeting agendas, papers and reports are available [online](#).

For more on SWP, SWB and waste services: www.somersetwaste.gov.uk.

SWB membership:

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

Information on SWP services

For all advice and information, visit www.somersetwaste.gov.uk. Follow us on [Facebook](#) and [Twitter](#). Sign up to our e-zine on our [website](#). All partners' customer service helplines can assist with service enquiries.

