

Waste services over Easter

Kerbside collections usually on Good Friday will be on Saturday 31 March. All collections in the week starting Easter Monday (2 April) will be one day later, with Friday pick-ups on Saturday (7 April). Recycling Centres open normal hours throughout. For updates and information see our [website](#).

Severe Weather Disruption

Harsh and unsafe conditions in early March disrupted up to 80,000 kerbside collections across Somerset and closed Recycling Centres. Operatives pulled out all the stops to clear sites, catch up and return services to normal as rapidly as possible in the following week and SWP thanks all our crews for their efforts.

Recycling Centres plastic trial

The trial testing feasibility and cost of collecting low grade plastic pots, tubs and trays at Recycling Centres has been extended from Taunton (Priorswood) and Wellington (Poole) to include Bridgwater (Saltlands), Chard and Highbridge centres until the end of March. If successful it could be extended to all recycling centres.

Seeking local Food Champion

SWP is running a further **free** Food Champion training event on 22 March at Oaklands Primary School in Yeovil (booking essential). Trained volunteers take waste prevention and reduction messages into their community. For more information and how to book, see: <https://www.somersetwaste.gov.uk/tackling-food-waste/>.

Schools Against Waste

The Schools Against Waste team offers Somerset primary schools free “talking rubbish” assemblies and class-room based workshops. Encourage your local primary school to sign up for a free visit. For more information see <https://www.somersetwaste.gov.uk/education-activities-and-resources/>

Kerbside Service Analysis

99.91% of the 20 million plus kerbside collections are successful but Somerset Waste Partnership (SWP) and contractor Kier are focusing on critical areas where quality is paramount. This includes assisted collections, speedy rectification of reported issues, and making sure garden waste collections are as efficient as possible.

Recycle More

In the run up to Recycle More, SWP will be monitoring participation in kerbside recycling, the quality of box presentation and updating our waste composition analysis, so we have a much clearer idea of what people are throwing away.

Pledge Against Plastic and More

SWP will soon be launching a ‘Pledge Against Preventable Plastic’. The campaign will encourage local people to take simple steps to help reduce single use plastic in their everyday lives. To show the way SWP is going single-use plastic free at our Monmouth House office.

Through social media we have been promoting timely tips and hints for Shrove Tuesday, Lent and Valentine’s

Day challenging people to think waste prevention and slim their bins.

A particularly popular post about hidden plastic used to fuse teabags generated a lot of debate, raising awareness of the little known uses of plastics all around us. Do join us on [Facebook](#) and [Twitter](#).

Garden Waste renewals

As previously publicised, to encourage early renewal, gardeners subscribing to the [garden waste collection service](#) by Friday 16 March (2018) will be entered into a draw, with one lucky winner per district receiving the service **FREE** for the whole year (the paid fee will be refunded). Contact your [local council customer services](#) for more information on subscribing to the garden waste service.

Latest media releases

Recent media releases and web posts included:

- [New milestone reached in Somerset Waste transformation](#)
- [Sign up now and you could be a garden waste winner](#)

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 the AGM on Friday 29 June 2018. SWB meeting agendas, papers and reports are available [online](#)

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

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, Gwilym Wren
- **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.

