

Recycle Week

This month, SWP is supporting national Recycle Week, which runs between 24-30 September, with the theme of “Recycling. We do. Because it matters”.

Using our Facebook and Twitter channels, we will be helping residents to cut down on avoidable plastics and to maximise local recycling opportunities. To join in and share your ideas on recycling and waste prevention, follow us on social media or sign up to see our [Facebook page](#) and [Twitter stream](#) at somersetwaste. Use #RecycleWeek to get nationally involved.

Aerosol recycling

Not everyone in Somerset is aware that spent aerosols can be easily recycled at the kerbside. Please do remind your local community. Simply place empty household aerosols in the black box. For safety, do not pierce or squash.

As aerosols are used all around the house, having a small recycling bin in the bathroom might help people remember to recycle things like deodorants and hair spray, as well as their cleaning products.

Around 60% of aerosols are made from tinplated steel and 40% are made from aluminium; both metals that are easily recyclable and deliver huge carbon savings if they are recycled. Last year all the aerosols we collected were recycled in the UK, either in South Yorkshire or Cheshire.

During the recycling process, the plastics and rubber components are removed. It does cut down on contamination if you can remove caps and nozzles before recycling. For a video on recycling metals, visit Recycle Now -

<https://www.recyclenow.com/what-to-do-with/aerosols-0>

To see a full details of the materials collected in the kerbside service, see <https://www.somersetwaste.gov.uk/recycling-collections/>

Plastic bag charge

Prime Minister Theresa May recently announced proposal to extend the 5p plastic bag charge introduced back in 2015 to all retailers, and there is a possibility that the price will be increased to at least 10p.

The plastic bag charge has seen large supermarket retailers’ bag sales drop by 86%, with the Department of Environment, Food and Rural Affairs suggesting that 13 billion plastic bags have been taken out of circulation since the charge in England was introduced.

Earlier this year, the government has been looking at ways to tackling the problems of single-use plastic waste via a consultation, to which SWP contributed. The Treasury recently released a summary of responses to the call of evidence. [To read this visit https://www.gov.uk/government/consultations/tackling-the-plastic-problem](https://www.gov.uk/government/consultations/tackling-the-plastic-problem) Further consultations are likely in the near future on single-use plastic.

Home composting

Home composting saves money and, for most garden and some food wastes, is the best environmental option. Working with SWP, the getcomposting.com site is able to offer Somerset residents home composting bins and other equipment at reduced prices.

A 220 litre bin is available at £17.98 (plus P&P) or a 330 litre bin from £19.98 (plus P&P) and you can also “buy one bin and get one half price” – a great idea if you have lots of fallen leaves and autumn gardening to do ahead of the winter. Ordering is simple, call 0844 5714444 or online via <https://getcomposting.com>

Calling all website editors

SWP is asking all parish and village website editors to check the validity of any waste-related information online. Where possible, rather than hosting information, please link to SWP’s site – somersetwaste.gov.uk – which has up-to-date service details. This will be particularly important next year as Recycle More is rolled out, with extra recycled materials collected weekly and three-weekly rubbish pick-ups.

Latest media releases

Recent communications included:

- Twitter – [Somerset Waste Partnership Your Somerset insert](#)
- Facebook – [Advice following a badger found in a refuse bin.](#)
- Facebook – [Jobs and burgers](#)

Upcoming communications will focus on Recycle Week, autumn waste reduction ideas for Halloween and bonfire night, and on-going recruitment opportunities for loaders and HGV drivers working with our kerbside contractor Kier.

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 28 September 2018. 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 Woolcombe-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.

