

### **Credit cooperation to save food**

SWP is working in partnership with two Somerset credit unions to help residents cut food waste and save money.

Somerset Community Credit Union and Wyvern Savings and Loans are distributing flyers with information about their services and food waste advice, while SWP promotes similar messages about better storage, using leftovers, portion sizes and more. The flyers include information about credit union saving and affordable loans. They suggest that any parents expecting a child could save £500 by investing in cloth nappies using a small credit union loan. For more on cutting food waste, see:

<https://www.somersetwaste.gov.uk/tackling-food-waste/>

### **What happens to our recycling?**

SWP's latest [End Use Register](#) – for 2017-18 – shows what happens to everything we collect for recycling. SWP were the first in the country to publish this data, because how we recycle is as important for our environment as how much we recycle. It shows that residents reused and recycled 134,000 tonnes of waste (equivalent to 11,000 London buses), with 91% recycled in the UK. This avoided £15 million in landfill costs, which can instead be used for other front-line council services.

The way people separate their recycling and use our weekly food waste service enables us to produce clean streams of materials. This matters, because it means what we collect can be used in

the most environmentally beneficial way – turning the glass we collect back into glass bottles for example. This contrasts with the higher costs, lower quality and worse environmental impact of all-in-one-bin (comingled) recycling. Our impressive performance is down to the efforts Somerset residents and our crews put in – so thank you.

### **Holiday collections and sites**

All households have bank holiday waste day changes coming:

- Pick-ups due on Good Friday (19 April) will be on Saturday 20 April;
- No collections on Easter Monday so all collections that week are one day later, including Friday pick-ups on Saturday 27 April;
- The bank holidays on 6 and 27 May mean all collections in those weeks are a day later, including Friday pick-ups on Saturday.
- Check your collections here: <https://www.somersetwaste.gov.uk/collection-day-look-up/>.

Over Easter, all recycling sites remain on their new summer schedules:

10 sites are open 9am-6pm on Good Friday: Bridgwater, Chard, Frome, Highbridge, Minehead, Somerton, Taunton, Wellington, Wells and Yeovil.

All 16 sites are open 9am-4pm on both Easter Saturday and Easter Sunday.

12 sites will be open 9am-6pm on Easter Monday: Bridgwater, Castle Cary, Chard, Cheddar, Crewkerne\*, Frome, Minehead, Street, Taunton,

Wells, Williton and Yeovil. (\*Community recycling site with £2 cash entry).

### Crew injured in road accident

SWP was recently shocked and saddened to learn of an accident involving a recycling truck and another vehicle on the A361 near Nunney in which three crew members and the other driver were injured. Our sympathy and best wishes for a speedy recovery go to all those injured and to their families; we would also thank the emergency services, air ambulance crew and medical staff for their swift response.

### Moving away from landfill

Building work continues apace at the [Avonmouth Resource Recovery Centre](#), where nearly all of Somerset's non-recyclable rubbish will be sent from next year to generate electricity instead of being buried in landfill.

Whilst at the kerbside everything that cannot be recycled will go to generate electricity, the range of unrecyclable materials taken to recycling sites mean that we have to separate out what cannot be used to generate electricity. This includes things like PVC window frames (because of the chemicals they contain) and some bulky items like mattresses.

Having started with Highbridge and Yeovil recycling sites, our "diversion trial" has recently been extended to Cheddar, Bridgwater, Street and Taunton and will eventually reach all 16 sites. This enables us to learn how to maximise the amount that is sent to produce electricity, and minimise the amount sent to landfill. In each case,

suitable and unsuitable materials are split between two skips and we continue to work with the recycling site staff to divert as much as possible from landfill.

### Latest media

Recent communications via the media and social media have included:

- [Facebook posts in relation to the new recycling centre schedules](#)
- [A final reminder for garden waste subscribers](#)

### 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 28 June, when the new representatives for the Board will take their places. SWB meeting agendas, papers and reports are available [online](#).

For more on SWP, SWB and waste services: [www.somersetwaste.gov.uk](http://www.somersetwaste.gov.uk).

SWB membership will be updated following District Council elections.

### Information on SWP services

For all advice and information, visit [www.somersetwaste.gov.uk](http://www.somersetwaste.gov.uk).

Follow us on [Facebook](#) and [Twitter](#), and sign up to our e-zine on our [website](#). All partners' customer service helplines can assist with service enquiries.

