

Garden waste renewals due

Residents who subscribe to the kerbside [garden waste collection service](#) are reminded that they need to re-subscribe to ensure collection. Renewal reminders are being sent to subscribers from their local council with details of prices and how to subscribe.

The garden waste bin or sack can be used to recycle flowers, plants and weeds with grass cuttings, leaves and hedge trimmings, as well as branches up to 10cm wide. The service also accepts straw or sawdust if used as bedding from vegetarian pets, such as rabbits, but not soil or food waste. After being shredded and rotting down in massive windrows, Somerset's composted garden waste is sold as the [Revive soil improver](#), available from every recycling site.

Fortnightly garden waste kerbside pickups are good value when compared to the cost and time of taking garden waste to a recycling site. If you are not a subscriber but want to know more, visit our garden waste page on <http://www.somersetwaste.gov.uk/collections/garden-waste/>

Weekly refuse collection review

SWP is continuing to review the last remaining kerbside weekly refuse collections in the town centres of Minehead, Porlock, Taunton, Watchet and Wellington. This follows the successful switch of weekly refuse collections from hundreds of households to fortnightly in central Bridgwater and Burnham-on-Sea during autumn 2015.

This will bring their collections in line with the service supplied to the vast majority of the county's 250,000 homes. The residents affected will be written to, and local councillors and customer services briefed. Provision of refuse collections for communal properties in the affected areas will not change.

Getting ready for spring

[SWP with getcomposting.com](#) is offering Somerset residents the chance to try their hand at home composting. A full range of composting equipment, and bins, including the 220 litre and 330 litre black compost converter bins, are available.

Composting at home cuts CO₂ emissions and turns most kitchen and garden waste into a free supply of compost that will keep your garden blooming year after year.

The current offer, available until the end of March, has compost bins starting from only £17.98 (plus delivery at £5.99) and you can also buy one and get one half-price.

Either visit our [website](#) or telephone 0844 571 4444 for details.

Christmas waste collections

A third more waste than usual was presented for collection over the festive fortnight, compared with two weeks at another time of year. Once again, cardboard topped the list in terms of volumes set out. The growth in cardboard is more acute during the festive season but this reflects a continuing year-on-year trend due to the expansion of internet shopping.

With more of all types of materials presented, contractor Kier reported a particularly noticeable hike in the amount of food and glass being presented over the period.

The vast majority of collections were completed as scheduled with no major mishaps. A small number of rounds could not be completed on the scheduled day but were caught up within a day or two.

Recycling and rubbish collection crews and management did sterling work, involving long hours in sometimes very poor weather. SWP has both appreciated and acknowledged this performance, expressing thanks on behalf of all residents.

Latest media releases

Recent media releases and web posts included:

- [Winter weather and waste – your wet and windy guide](#)
- [Sorting paper inequality in recycling quality quest](#)
- [Fall in love with Food – Yes, every mouthful counts](#)

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.

SWB's next meeting is on Friday 24 February 2017.

For details of SWP, SWB and waste services: www.somersetwaste.gov.uk.

SWB membership by council is:

- **Mendip** – Cllrs Nigel Woollcombe-Adams (Vice Chair), Terry Napper
- **Sedgemoor** – Cllrs Dawn Hill, Gill Slocombe
- **Somerset County** – Cllrs Derek Yeomans (Chair), David Hall
- **South Somerset** – Cllrs Jo Roundell Greene, Clare Aparicio Paul
- **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).

