

April recycling site upgrade

Recycling sites are to open for longer at weekends, later on weekdays and see other improvements to match future use from Monday 1 April next year.

Reflecting users' demands, and keeping all 16 sites open, changes agreed by Somerset Waste Board include:

- All sites' year-round Saturday and Sunday hours 9am-4pm
- Later weekday opening in summer (to 6pm April-September) and winter (to 5pm October-March)
- Same number or extra days at 10 sites, including Chard and Wells
- Fewer days at six, including Crewkerne and Dulverton, the two sites with lowest use and highest costs, but an end to £2 cash entry fees by April 2020
- With low early user numbers, all sites will start work later, at 9am
- With later weekday closing, an end to underused 7pm Mondays

Full details of all the changes to each site from 1 April 2019 will be available on flyers at each site shortly, and on Somerset Waste Partnership's [website](#).

Site changes are part of Somerset waste services' transformation, from extra weekly recycling and three-weekly rubbish collections to the move away from landfilling refuse in 2020.

Plastic-free Somerset

SWP's Facebook page recently showed the growth of sustainable shopping outlets. Options include dedicated low-waste outlets as well as wholefood and

farm shops refill services or bulk buying that help Somerset to cut packaging.

[Click here](#) to view the post in full. Local retailer offering reduced plastic-waste options? Add your details to the post.

It's Christmas! Site hours and ...

Next month we will promote Christmas kerbside collections. This month, an early reminder: all recycling sites will follow their usual schedule, except **all sites close at 4pm** Monday 24 and 31 December. As usual, all sites close 25-26 December and 1 January. Details: <https://www.somersetwaste.gov.uk/recycling/centres/>

Here are simple steps to take now for a less wasteful Christmas:

- Start the festivities with empty bins and a clutter-free home by visiting a recycling site.
- Save glass jars (with lids); ideal for home-made gifts of foods, bath salts or flavoured drinks.
- Eat into your freezer and fridge now to save money for Christmas meals and the inevitable leftovers.
- Save cardboard boxes and glossy magazines to make gift bags. (Find crafty tutorials on the net).
- Reject unrecyclable shiny, glittery, plastic, holographic, metallic wrapping – only good for the rubbish bin – for paper wrapping that can be recycled with card (the less sticky tape, the better).
- Ask friends and family to write wish lists so all gifts are wanted. If they are happy to receive “pre-loved” items, find the right book,

computer game or clothing online or off, with less packaging free.

- Encourage children to make space for future presents by decluttering their bedrooms. Reusable toys can be either donated or sold on-line.
- Drop off batteries at high street stores for recycling and stock up with rechargeables to avoid gifts but no portable power.

PS: For Christmas parties, save money and food with the handy [Love Food Hate Waste website](#) portion checker.

Councillors visit to Avonmouth

Members of Somerset Waste Board and Waste Scrutiny Committee are attending a site visit to Avonmouth in November, to see the work in progress by Viridor to build the Resource Recovery Centre. The site is due to be completed in 2020 and will take all of Somerset's household rubbish and convert it into energy for thousands of homes through the national grid.

Save those autumn leaves

Home-made leafmould is a great resource for gardeners. Dispose of leaves via garden waste collection, recycling sites or let worms have a leaf feast. Never add leaves to your rubbish.

Latest media releases

Recent communications included:

- [Facebook warning on arson](#)
- [Twitter – SWP at Taunton event](#)

Upcoming communications will focus on autumn and early Christmas waste reduction messages and advance notification of changes to the opening hours at recycling centres from April 1.

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 14 December 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 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.

