



Slim My Waste, Feed My Face

SWP teams are fanning out across Somerset on a very serious mission: to make food waste recycling fun with the Slim My Waste, Feed My Face drive.

Over the next three months they will visit all 260,000 homes in Somerset to add a “no food waste” reminder to every rubbish bin, put bright yellow tape round its middle, and deliver everyone a helpful leaflet with free stickers to give food waste bins friendly faces whose pictures can be shared on social media to win free “eco-goodies”.

The serious message is that the food waste some residents dump in landfill via their rubbish bins is a bigger cause of climate change than plastic and a costly waste of a valuable resource. All of Somerset’s annual 42,000 tonnes of

food waste could all be transformed by the anaerobic digestion plant near Bridgwater into things of immediate use: electricity for Somerset homes and farm compost, saving up to £1 million and 882 tonnes of CO₂ equivalent.

Find out more about the campaign here: somersetwaste.gov.uk/slimmywaste or see SWP Extra with this Briefing. Need a food bin to Feed My Face? Free online: somersetwaste.gov.uk/order-containers.

Parishes, councillors: Do pass on that this is a proven cost-effective campaign set to yield great results, especially if all food waste not composted goes in a food waste bin.

Next steps for Recycle More

Progress to Recycle More’s phased roll out is gathering pace, with the new collection vehicle fleet on its way, 260,000 new containers on order, and work started on the first depots to receive thousands of tonnes of the new materials to be collected each week.

As with all previous new collection services, Recycle More is rolling out in phases so all elements – staff, depots, containers, vehicles and more – are ready for each stage. Recycle More starts for over 50,000 Mendip homes in June-July and adds 60,000 in South Somerset in September-October, with all other areas across Somerset from 2021.

Once Recycle More collections start in a location and all households have been sent details and pick-up calendars, these items will be added to weekly recycling:

- Plastic pots, tubs and trays
- Tetra Paks, other beverage cartons
- Batteries, small electrical items

The extra weekly recycling means far emptier rubbish bins so these will then be collected every three weeks. Every home will receive details well ahead of time, and anyone with concerns will be offered full support and advice.

Parishes, councillors: Do pass on that new materials will be collected from homes as they are included in each Recycle More phase, and not before. Residents must make no changes until their information pack arrives.

Looking to the end of (most) landfill

Building continues of the new £252 million energy-from-waste (EFW) plant in Avonmouth. The trial twin rubbish skips at recycling sites suggest around 60% of their unrecyclable materials may go Avonmouth along with all rubbish from Somerset's kerbside bins and black sack collections. The EFW plant will power the £65 million co-located plastics reprocessing plant that looks set to take much if not all Somerset plastics.

Renew your garden waste collection

More than 51,000 garden waste renewal letters are soon going out to residents. They come with a bonus that the price did not rise 2.5% with inflation but fell £1.40 to £55.50 for 2020-21. This reflects

reduced costs from the great deal SWP did with new collections contractor SUEZ for better kerbside services and savings of millions of pounds.

Parishes, councillors: Do pass on that swift renewal of garden waste subscriptions is essential as past flexibility to collect from late payers is no longer possible from 1 April.

Date for your diary

All 16 recycling sites will switch back to their longer 9am-6pm weekday summer hours when open from Wednesday 1 April. Saturdays and Sunday remain 9am-4pm year-round. Full details: somersetwaste.gov.uk/recycling/centres

Somerset Waste Board

SWP's governing body has two members from each of five partner councils, including the portfolio holder for environment: **Mendip** Cllrs Tom Ronan, Matthew Martin; **Sedgemoor** Cllrs Janet Keen, Andrew Gilling; **Somerset County** Cllrs David Hall, Clare Paul (Vice Chair); **Somerset West and Taunton** Cllrs Federica Smith-Roberts, David Mansell; **South Somerset** Cllrs Sarah Dyke (Chair), Tim Kerley. SWB's next meeting is 14 February; agendas and papers available via somersetwaste.gov.uk/somerset-waste-board

Information on SWP services

Visit www.somersetwaste.gov.uk for advice and to sign up for our e-zine. Follow @Somersetwaste on Facebook and Twitter. All partner customer services can assist with enquiries.