

Recycle More Messenger

20 April, 2021

Welcome to the first South Somerset Recycle More Messenger. These regular updates will keep you well-informed about your new recycling service being launched at the end of June - the biggest change to recycling for a decade.

Recycle More makes it easier for everyone to recycle even more and help protect our environment and tackle climate change.

Info on your doorstep

We want to make sure people understand what is changing and when. Everyone will be written to twice before anything changes, at six weeks and then three weeks before the Recycle More starts.

The first leaflet should be delivered across the district in mid-May. It gives an introduction to Recycle More, its timescales and how people can prepare.

A second leaflet, delivered in early June, will include a 'what goes where?' guide to recycling with the new service. Importantly it will also include an individual collection day calendar of recycling and rubbish collections for the coming year.



Get ready by boxing clever

Recycle More will work best if everyone makes full use of their weekly recycling collections. Please make sure you have all the containers you need.

Are you recycling food waste? If not, now is the time to start.

Everyone can have green and black recycling boxes and food waste bins. You can order new or replacement boxes or bins FREE using the My Waste Services menu at www.somersetwaste.gov.uk



Facebook Q&A sessions

We are running several out of hours Facebook Q&A sessions about Recycle More where we will field any questions about the new service.

Please join in and promote them in your communities and with colleagues, family and friends. To take part, just visit the [@somersetwaste](https://www.facebook.com/somersetwaste) Facebook page at the right time and post questions to the team.

- Friday 7 May, 12-1pm
- Tuesday 25 May, 7-8pm
- Wednesday 16 June, 7-8am
- Monday 5 July, 7-9pm

What's changing?

A reminder of key Recycle More changes.

- These items will be added to weekly recycling collections:
 - plastic pots, tubs and trays
 - food & drink cartons (Tetra Pak etc)
 - small household batteries
 - small electrical items (kettles etc)
- A new recycling container – a Bright Blue Bag – delivered to all homes.
- With more being recycled, rubbish will be collected every three weeks instead of every two.
- Collection days will change for roughly a third of households.

So, everyone will need to do things a little differently.

When will things change?

These changes will be introduced across South Somerset over the course of around two weeks (depending on where you live), starting on Monday, 28 June.

Look out for the Bright Blue Bags. They will be delivered in the two weeks before launch and are the sign that things are about to change.

Stickers will also be stuck on boxes to show what items need to go where.

What won't change?

- Garden waste and clinical waste collections and their collection days will stay the same.
- Assisted collections (when crews help people with their recycling and rubbish) will continue on the new collection days.

Remember: nothing changes until you get your Bright Blue Bag

What about communal collections?

Blocks of flats, houses of multiple occupancy and retirement developments often have communal rather than individual rubbish and recycling collections.

These should be improved with Recycle More, though what is possible depends on the space and access at each site.

Where we can we will have full Recycle More collections or expand communal collections to include plastic bottles, pots, tubs and trays; and cardboard.

We will write to all communal residents twice before anything changes with details of their new service.



What happened in Mendip?

Recycle More was launched in Mendip at the end of October 2020. It's too early to know the long-term impact, but it's already making a big difference.

The first 15 weeks saw:

- nearly 2,000 extra tonnes of recycling collected (up more than 20%), including
 - over 200 extra tonnes of plastics,
 - 25 tonnes of small electricals, and
 - more than two tonnes of batteries.