

Why are changes needed at Recycling Centres?

To help make savings of £1.9m required by Somerset County Council to reduce their waste disposal budget, Somerset Waste Board, which oversees waste services across the county, has agreed a range of changes affecting all 18 Recycling Centres, that were introduced from Monday 4th April 2011.

The changes involve entry fees at four locations – Coleford, Crewkerne, Dulverton and Middlezoy – that switches their legal status to become Community Recycling Sites. The choice of an entry fee over closure was supported at consultations involving elected representatives from county, district, town and parish councils in each of the communities affected.

There will be new charges for items not legally defined as household waste – gas bottles, hardcore, soil and tyres – at all 18 Recycling Centres and Community Recycling Sites.

The entry fees and charges only apply to the sites and materials listed. Most sites remain free to use for most materials.

All Recycling Centres and Community Recycling Sites are to open 40 hours a week year-round, with each shut two days a week on a staggered rota so there is always an alternative open.

For more information:

- check our website: www.somersetwaste.gov.uk
- email: enquiries@somersetwaste.gov.uk
- call: Somerset Direct 0845 345 9188.

To offer feedback about how Somerset Waste Partnership is making changes to reduce costs, please contact us by:

- email: enquiries@somersetwaste.gov.uk
- call: Somerset Waste Partnership on 01823 625700.

Alternatives to using Recycling Centres

There are many ways to reduce your use of Recycling Centres and Community Recycling Sites.

Hiring skips or services like Hippobag are an alternative for hardcore and soil. Garages and tyre fitters usually take worn tyres for a fee to cover their disposal costs.

Empty gas bottles can usually be returned to the supplier who sold it or another supplier for reuse.

Throughout the county, except for West Somerset, most homes can put out the following items for kerbside recycling collections (and should not place them in their rubbish bin or black sacks): food waste, paper, cardboard, glass bottles and jars, steel and aluminium cans, household plastic bottles, aluminium foil (bagged), clothes (bagged), shoes (tied in pairs and bagged), car batteries.

In West Somerset, until weekly Sort It Plus recycling collections start later this year, all the above except food waste and household plastic bottles can be put out for the current fortnightly recycling collection.

We provide paid-for fortnightly garden waste collections and paid-for bulky waste collections – contact your district council customer services. Garden waste can also be home composted and a garden shredder may allow you to home compost much more.

Somerset's network of reuse groups accept donated furniture, electrical items and other household items, if in working order and good condition, and may be able to collect from your home.

Charity shops take clothes, books, furniture and many other goods, while Freecycle, Freegle, similar online groups and free ads in local papers can be used to dispose of a wide range of items.

Further details and contacts: www.somersetwaste.gov.uk