

Proposed recycling services

Residents could see changes to their recycling and refuse collection services in the next few years if plans by Somerset's six councils go ahead.

Proposals for extra recycling materials – plastic pots, tubs and trays; beverage cartons; small electrical items; household batteries – to be collected weekly with the existing range of items would see far less in rubbish bins.

With the potential for so much material to be recycled, Somerset Waste Partnership (SWP) and its local authority partners have been exploring whether the refuse collection frequency could be reduced to three weekly.

This would save millions over coming years, holding down council tax rises and funding other vital services.

With food waste continuing to be collected weekly and steps to help families with children in nappies, SWP says extensive trials have demonstrated that those who recycle well would manage without problems.

The trials of three-weekly collections with extra recycling materials saw much more recycled, far less rubbish and an overwhelming majority – 86% – of those taking part and responding to a survey backing the new system.

Nothing firm has yet been agreed; any changes would be introduced in stages over at least two years.

Help your community waste less

Are you part of a community group making a difference in your neighbourhood? If you want to do even more – from helping people save cash to getting everyone a bit greener – SWP wants to help and is hosting a free waste action conference on Saturday 19 March at [North Petherton Community Centre](#).

The day features short showcase presentations of local waste reduction, reuse and repair initiatives, a networking lunch supplied by Surplus Supper Club, and themed workshops to share practical tips for you to get your community involved.

To find out more and how to book a place, please email recycle@somersetwaste.gov.uk with “Conference” in the subject line.

Chard no-cash card-only trial

During February 2016, Chard Recycling Centre will not be accepting cash payments for any paid-for transaction. This includes the purchase of Revive compost, payment to deposit commercial waste, and for any charges relating to hardcore, soil, tyres, gas bottles and vehicle parts.

Payment will only be accepted on Visa and MasterCard credit and debit cards, Visa Electron and Diners Club, including contactless cards.

This is a trial to test recycling sites' ability to manage without cash transactions and thereby improve site

security and the safety of site staff. No new charges are being introduced as part of this trial. The results will inform a review of payment policy.

Compost Champion training

Working with SWP, [Carymoor Environmental Trust](#) is looking for new recruits to the Compost Champions scheme and will be running two separate, one-day training courses, on Saturday 23 April at Hestercombe House near Taunton and on Saturday 30 April at Carymoor Environmental Centre near Castle Cary. Both training days run from 10am to 4pm.

Training is free but volunteers must undertake to champion the cause in their community to help residents waste less, recycle more and save money.

For more information please e-mail rupert.farthing@carymoor.org.uk, call 01963 350143 or visit <http://www.somersetwaste.gov.uk/more/composting/champions/>

Latest media releases

Media releases from SWP in the past month included:

- [Cash-free plastic payment trial for Chard recycling site](#)
- [New recycle items planned to slim your rubbish bin](#)

Somerset Waste Board

SWP is the executive arm of SWB, which consists of two members nominated by each of the six partner councils in Somerset, one of which must

be the portfolio holder for waste and/or the environment.

The Chair and Vice-Chair are elected at the AGM from the Board's membership.

The next Board meeting will be held on 26 February 2016.

For details of SWP, SWB and our 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, Angie Singleton
- **Taunton Deane Borough** – Cllr Patrick Berry, Steve Ross
- **West Somerset** – Cllrs Martin Dewdney, Brenda Maitland-Walker

Agenda, papers and reports for SWB meetings are available [online](#).

Information on SWP services

The main source of advice and information on SWP services is www.somersetwaste.gov.uk.

Customer service helplines for all partner authorities can assist with service enquiries.

SWP publishes a monthly e-zine (sign-up on our website) and posts on [Facebook](#) and [Twitter](#).