

## Somerset Waste Partnership

### Newsletter for Members and Parish Councils

#### August 2011



### Views sought on recycling sites

Somerset residents are being asked for their views on a range of issues about the future of the county's 18 recycling sites.

The short Somerset Waste Partnership (SWP) survey is asking how often people use the sites, on which days of the week they would prefer them to close, whether opening hours should change, and if people are willing to pay – and how much – to ensure recycling sites stay open for longer.

The survey results will be fed into the September meeting of the SWP's governing Somerset Waste Board as it reviews the first few months of the changes in hours, entry fees and charges for certain materials that were introduced in April.

The survey will be available from 22 August. It can be completed online at [www.somersetwaste.gov.uk](http://www.somersetwaste.gov.uk) until 7 September and survey forms will be available at all recycling sites until 5 September. Anyone who needs the survey form in large print or another language or assistance to complete the survey should call us on 01823 625700.

### Award rewards partnership success

Somerset's councils proved a winning team at this year's National Recycling Awards, which recognise the best of the UK's waste management sector.

Somerset Waste Partnership and Marks & Spencer won the category "Best Partnership project for Recycling". Marks & Spencer is supporting the rollout of Sort It Plus collections, which includes plastic bottles recycling, to all districts in Somerset with funding worth up to £250,000 per year for five years.

Marks & Spencer benefits by meeting its producer obligations for packaging, including sourcing new packaging materials manufactured from post-consumer waste. In the first year of the partnership, an extra 5,350 tonnes of packaging have been collected in Somerset and processed for recycling.

### Sort It Plus boosts recycling

Sort It Plus collections, adding plastic bottles and cardboard recycling, have been successfully rolled out in Mendip, Sedgemoor, South Somerset and Taunton Deane.

Sort It collections, with weekly food waste and recycling and fortnightly refuse, were also introduced in Sedgemoor for the first time. Following the same success as earlier introductions in Mendip, South Somerset and Taunton Deane, the effect has been to double recycling rates and halve the amount of refuse going to landfill.

With the boost of Sort It Plus, recycling rates in Somerset rose to 50.9% in 2010/11 and 52.8% in the first quarter of 2011/12.

## Sort It Plus heads West

The roll-out of Sort It Plus into West Somerset is well underway.

Notification packs have been delivered to all suitable households and roadshows across the district in August have proved very popular. In September, all the new recycling boxes, food waste containers and rubbish bins will be delivered ahead of the service starting in late October.

## Next Somerset Waste Board meeting

The next Somerset Waste Board meeting will be held in Taunton on Friday 23 September. Agenda items include a review of changes at Recycling Centres and Community Recycling Sites, possible further budget savings and plans for an anaerobic digestion facility in Somerset for food waste.

Agenda and papers once published are available at:  
<http://www1.somerset.gov.uk/council/meetings/>

For more details on Somerset Waste Board see:  
<http://www1.somerset.gov.uk/council/boards.asp?boardnum=32>

Members of Somerset Waste Board:

Mendip DC: Cllrs Nigel Woolcombe-Adams (Vice-Chairman),  
John Parham

Sedgemoor DC: Cllrs John Swayne, Richard Burden

Somerset CC: Cllrs Derek Yeomans (Chairman), David Hall

South Somerset DC: Cllrs Jo Roundell Greene, Henry Hobhouse

Taunton Deane BC: Cllrs Ken Hayward, Stephen Ross

West Somerset DC: Cllrs Chris Morgan, Kate Kravis

## Bank Holiday collections shift

The 29 August Bank Holiday Monday will, as usual, mean all kerbside collections that week will take place one day later than normal, including Friday's services on Saturday 3 September. Recycling site timetables are unchanged. For full details see:  
<http://www.somersetwaste.gov.uk>

## Keeping in touch

There are many ways to stay informed about waste services in Somerset, including:

Website: [www.somersetwaste.gov.uk](http://www.somersetwaste.gov.uk)

Sorted e-news: [www.somersetwaste.gov.uk/pages/subscribe.asp](http://www.somersetwaste.gov.uk/pages/subscribe.asp)

Facebook: <http://www.facebook.com/SomersetWaste>

Or follow us on Twitter: <http://twitter.com/somersetwaste>

For questions about your recycling or waste collections, please contact customer services at your district or borough council.

For questions about Recycling Centres and Community Recycling Sites, please contact Somerset Direct on 0845 345 9188.

For enquiries about Somerset Waste Partnership, please call us on 01823 625700 or email at: [enquiries@somersetwaste.gov.uk](mailto:enquiries@somersetwaste.gov.uk)



If you need this information in large print, Braille, audio or another language please call us on 01823 635700