

Recycle More Messenger

4 September, 2020

Welcome to the latest update about Recycle More. It's the biggest change to our recycling for a decade and coming to Mendip at the end of October. Most people in Somerset are recycling. Recycle More will make it easier for everyone to recycle even more and help protect our environment and tackle climate change.

Online Q&A sessions

We ran the first of our Facebook Q&A sessions last week and fielded dozens of questions from the public. Please join in with the future sessions and promote them in your communities and with colleagues, family and friends. To take part, just visit the @somersetwaste Facebook page at the right time, then post your questions to the team.

- Tues, 22 September, 7am to 8am
- Sat, 10 October, 11am to 12noon
- Thurs 29 October, 7pm to 8pm

Some examples of topics covered:

Q: Won't the blue bag just blow away?

A: No, it's base-weighted and this worked well in trials.

Q: Will garden waste collections go three-weekly too?

A: No. Garden waste will still be collected fortnightly.

Q: Will we be able to recycle plastic bottle tops?

A: Yes. In the Bright Blue Bag, along with plastic bottles, pots, tubs, trays, and tins and cans, empty aerosols and foil.

Q&A at the Talking Cafe

We are also running Q&A sessions during two of the Mendip Talking Café Live events run by the Community Council for Somerset.

Just visit <https://www.facebook.com/talkingcafesomerset> and join the conversation 'live' on the following dates and time, or watch the recorded sessions later.

- Weds, 9 September, 11am to 12noon
- Weds, 14 October, 11am to 12noon

Coming soon! Info on your doorstep

We want to make sure everyone understands what is changing and when. Everyone in Mendip will be written to twice before anything changes.

The first leaflet will be coming soon - delivered across the district from Monday, 14 September. And gives an introduction to Recycle More, the timescales and how people can prepare.



A second leaflet, delivered in early October, will include a 'what goes where?' guide to recycling with the new service, and an individual collection day calendar.

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 Mendip over the course of around two weeks (depending on where you live), starting on Monday, 26 October.

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.

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 but on the new collection days.

What about communal collections?

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

Communal rubbish collection days may change for some, but that won't affect residents directly, they just need to use the communal bins as normal.

Anyone who lives somewhere with a communal rubbish collection, but who also makes use of some kerbside collections (for example of food waste) will see the kerbside collection days change – we'll write to them with details before anything changes.

Communal recycling collections will be expanded, but not until early 2021. Everyone affected will be written to directly before things change.

Concerns or worries? Get in touch

We want to make sure Recycle More works for everyone—many people are excited but know some may have concerns.

Extra guidance and support is available and we want to hear from anyone who has questions or worries, for example about three-weekly collections.

- Contact us through My Account or My Waste Services on the SWP homepage
- Telephone Mendip District Council on 0300 3038588.

Remember:
nothing changes until you receive your Bright Blue Bag

