

New collections contractor

Somerset Waste Partnership (SWP) has selected SUEZ recycling and recovery UK (SUEZ) to collect kerbside recycling and rubbish across Somerset.

The new contract will see SUEZ deliver SWP's new Recycle More service, operating new vehicles and collecting a far wider range of recycling every week, including far more plastic packaging.

Worth £210m for its initial 10-year duration, with an option to extend for another 10 years, the contract will employ more than 460 people locally.

In addition to the dozen or so materials – including food waste – already collected weekly, Recycle More will pick up a wide range of new items: plastic pots, tubs and trays; Tetra Paks and other beverage cartons; small electrical items; and household batteries.

By taking far more recyclable household material each week, Recycle More will help empty rubbish bins, which will be collected every three weeks. The new service will start rolling out across Somerset in 2020.

Full details will be sent to every home well in advance, and support offered to anyone who has concerns about the new service, including those with children in nappies.

Recycle More is one part of the transformation of all Somerset waste services, including switching almost all rubbish now being landfilled in

Somerset to instead generate electricity at a brand new Resource Recovery Centre in Avonmouth.

These major changes will ensure that the vast majority of material discarded from homes is either recycled or produces power.

SUEZ currently successfully operates contracts elsewhere that have expanded the range of items residents are able to recycle and introduced three-weekly general refuse collections. These services have been well-received by residents, raised local recycling rates and sent far less rubbish to landfill.

The current service is provided by Kier, and all staff will transfer to SUEZ when the new contract begins in March 2020. All current staff were informed of these changes at a special briefing with SWP, Kier and members of SUEZ's senior leadership team this morning, which took place at each of the five depot locations in Somerset.

Recycle More has been fully tested in a long-term, large-scale trial in Somerset that saw recycling levels jump, rubbish tonnages fall, very few problems – all of which were easily resolved, no fly-tipping, and overwhelming support: the post-trial survey showed 84% approval rating for Recycle More's extra recycling and less frequent rubbish collections.

One trial resident - a mother with two children in nappies throughout - said: "All that extra weekly recycling emptied my rubbish bin; it was never a problem."

Compost bins deal for residents

As flowers bloom and vegetable grow, gardeners can buy compost bins, food digesters and water butts via SWP's partnership with getcomposting.com.

Compost converter bins cost £18.50 and with the "buy one, get one half price" offer means you can get a second compost converter for only £9.25 – a great idea if you share the order with a family member or friend.

SWP business help highlighted

Somerset Waste Partnership figures prominently within the Waste and Resources Action Plan's (WRAP) new "Commercial and Industrial Waste and Recycling Drop-Off Centres Guide".

The guide aims to promote the provision of local facilities for Small to Medium Enterprise's to use for the disposal and recycling of the waste from their businesses. It featured SWP as a best practice organisation because of the 10 recycle sites that take paid-for commercial waste and the online Business Recycling Directory.

WRAP hope that the advice given within their guide will help further expand the number of local authorities offering similar opportunities for SME waste acceptance in the future. To view the guidance click [here](#).

Plastic recycling at sites up

Since adding the acceptance of plastic pots, tubes and trays to the 16 recycling sites across Somerset in May 2018, we have seen the amount of plastic handled through the sites increase by 69%. Those already duplicating Recycle More by taking their plastics to recycle

sites report rubbish bins so empty that three-weekly collections will be easy.

Latest media releases

Recent communications included:

- [How is composting like cooking](#)
- [Bank Holiday BBQ?](#)
- [Bank Holiday collections reminder](#)

Upcoming communications will include Recycle More updates, summer waste prevention advice and reminders regarding reducing fire risks in refuse bins and at landfill sites.

Somerset Waste Board

SWP is the executive arm of SWB, with two members nominated by each of the five Somerset partner councils, one of which must be the portfolio holder for waste and/or the environment. The Chair and Vice-Chair are elected at the Board AGM from its membership.

The next SWB meeting is the AGM on Friday 28 June, when the new representatives for the Board will take their places. SWB membership will be updated following the AGM.

SWB meeting agendas, papers and reports are available [online](#). For more on SWP, SWB and waste services: www.somersetwaste.gov.uk.

Information on SWP services

For all advice and information, visit www.somersetwaste.gov.uk. Follow us on [Facebook](#) and [Twitter](#), and sign up to our e-zine on our [website](#).

All partners' customer service helplines can assist with service enquiries.

