

Somerset Waste Partnership Briefing for Members, Partners and Staff August 2022



First Somerset Reuse Week's success

From repair to repurposing, the first Somerset Reuse Week proved reuse is a powerful practical means to save cash, cut waste and give items a new life.

As well as supporting charity shops and the growing repair cafe network, Reuse Week saw the Fixy reuse van visiting events across the county to collect dozens of donated smart tech items to be data-wiped and refurbished to pass on to local families in digital need.

And a fun reuse contest attracted many entries (see picture), such as a plastic box wildlife pond, strawberries grown in milk bottles, a lampshade flower pot, child toys from wood offcuts, an oil drum growing potatoes, and - the randomly-drawn winner - a bookcase turned into a plant stand. More: [somersetwaste.gov.uk/reuse-week](https://www.somersetwaste.gov.uk/reuse-week).

Warning: summer collection delays

Apologies; resurgent Covid, staff shortages and hot weather's impact on machinery and crews make unavoidable collection delays more likely in coming weeks. We will do our best to ensure rubbish and garden waste collections are not affected and that we return for missed recycle pick-ups as soon as possible. Information on delays will be available at [somersetwaste.gov.uk](https://www.somersetwaste.gov.uk) and on our social media channels.

All change: August bank holiday

No collections on Bank Holiday Monday 29 August means all pick-ups - recycle, rubbish, garden waste - that week will be one day later, including Friday pick-ups on Saturday 3 September. Check, print or download to a smart device all your waste days via My Collection Day at [somersetwaste.gov.uk](https://www.somersetwaste.gov.uk) (tip: put the gap in your postcode, e.g. AB12 3CD).



Where's Fixy reuse van? Check here!

This month the Fixy reuse van is busy touring Somerset to promote reuse, support repair cafes, encourage volunteers to get involved, and collect smart tech to pass on. And there are repair cafes and hubs this month at Chard (Sat20Aug), Ilminster (Mon, Thu, Sat), Langport (Sat27Aug), Wincanton (Sat27Aug) and Wiveliscombe (Sat20Aug). For where to find Fixy in the next month - including events in Bridgwater (Sat27Aug), Castle Cary (Sat20Aug), Taunton (Mon8Aug), and Wellington (Sat3Sep) - and links to all of Somerset's repair cafes and hubs, visit: somersetwaste.gov.uk/fixy.

Got your refillable water bottle?

As August gets hot-hot-hot, stay refreshed and hydrated with your refillable water bottle while avoiding the waste and cost of single-use plastic bottles. And to find where to top up your refillable bottle for free, download the Refill app at: refill.org.uk.

Drench those barbecue embers

Summer brings holiday BBQs, but be sure to drench any fires or coals at the end so no hot ash or embers go in your bin to start a rubbish fire that could threaten your family and home.

Swap and save on school uniforms

Check now if your children's schools organise uniform swap shops or look on local Facebook and Freegle groups to avoid any unnecessary cost, pointless waste or last-minute rush in September.

Prepare for autumn in the garden

You can start or restart a new or extra garden waste collection at any point and receive the full 12 months/25 collections service. The cost has been frozen at last year's prices; a single 180-litre bin service is still £57.20, and a 10-pack of 90-litre garden waste sacks still £28.30. Order online 24/7 via the "Garden waste" tab on the My Waste Services menu at somersetwaste.gov.uk.

Once, twice, three times a bargain

We work with getcomposting.com to offer Somerset residents great triple-decker deals on bargain compost bins. Save once with a 220-litre bin for just £16.00. Save twice with buy-one-get-one-half-price. Save thrice with £6.99 delivery per order. Smart gardeners order two and share delivery with a friend, neighbour or family member.

Diary date: Saturday 1 October

Weekly schedules are unchanged but all recycle sites switch to the winter timetable from Saturday 1 October to Friday 31 March. Weekends remain 9am-4pm for all 16 sites but weekdays at open sites will be 9am-5pm. More: somersetwaste.gov.uk/recycling/centres.

Somerset Waste Board

All details, reports: somersetwaste.gov.uk/somerset-waste-board.