

Recycling sites go cash-free

Somerset's 16 recycling sites will switch to operate [cash-free and cheque-free](#) from Friday 1 September with almost all payments taken only on credit, debit and charge cards. The only exceptions will be the £2 cash entry fees for Crewkerne and Dulverton community recycling sites, and paying at the Reuse Shop within Taunton (Priorswood) Recycling Centre.

Enhancing efficiency, security and staff safety, payments will be accepted on Visa and MasterCard credit and debit cards, Visa Electron and Diner's Club, including contactless cards. The move follows many months of successful trials at both Chard and Taunton recycling sites since 2016.

Among the card-only payments taken at all recycling sites will be for the materials brought in by residents but classified as non-household: [gas bottles, soil, hardcore and tyres](#). And 10 sites take paid-for residents' [vehicle parts](#) for recycling or disposal, while in a separate scheme, 10 sites accept businesses' paid-for [commercial waste](#), from timber to fridges.

Plastic-only payments will also be taken for "[Revive](#)" soil conditioner composted from Somerset's garden waste and sold by every recycling site at £4 for a bag and £10 for three bags.

Payments for domestic asbestos and plasterboard will continue to be made online in advance at the Somerset Waste Partnership (SWP) [website](#).

August Bank Holiday collections

The Bank Holiday on Monday 28 August means that all collections that week will be one day later than usual, including Friday pick-ups, which will be on Saturday 2 September. Visit our [bank holiday page](#) to keep up to date with all revised collection changes.

SWP is reminding residents to sort and segregate all recycling, and have all waste ready for collection by 7am.

Stop battery blazes

SWP campaign to discourage fires in refuse bins, trucks and within landfill sites continues with the emphasis moving on from careless disposal of hot ashes and barbeque waste, to include the correct disposal of all batteries.

Used household batteries must not be discarded in refuse bins or black sacks. Take them to a [Somerset recycling site](#), or any of the high street shops that have battery collection containers.

All batteries contain hazardous heavy metals, which can leak into the environment if they are damaged or dumped into landfill, and there are particular risks with lithium-ion or li-ion batteries used in mobile phones, laptops and other portable devices.

If damaged or crushed, li-ion batteries can catch fire or explode, starting dangerous blazes in rubbish bins, refuse trucks and landfill sites. A damaged battery may have caused a recent fire at the Walpole landfill site near Bridgwater.

You can recycle all household batteries, including “button” batteries used in watches and battery packs from electronic devices. To make significant savings, consider investing in rechargeable batteries, or solar-powered items.

Celebrations at Carymoor

[Carymoor Environmental Trust](#) will celebrate its 21st anniversary with an open day on Saturday 9 September with free entry but donations very welcome.

It is an ideal chance to discover how 100 acres of capped landfill have been transformed into a wildlife-rich nature reserve in the heart of Somerset. Families can enjoy guided tours, as well as hands-on wildlife activities.

Based at Dimmer landfill site, Carymoor has been a provider of environmental education since 1996 and its experienced team delivers a range of events linked to [cross –curricular topics, including waste and recycling.](#)

To book a site tour call 01963 350143 or email rupert.farthing@carymoor.org.uk.

Latest media releases

Recent media releases and web posts included:

- [‘Cards only’ switch as all recycling sites go cash free](#)
- [‘Don’t bin that battery’ refuse warning on blaze risk](#)

Somerset Waste Board

SWP is the executive arm of SWB, with two members nominated by each of the six 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 meeting of SWB will take place on 29 September, 2017.

For details of SWP, SWB and waste services: www.somersetwaste.gov.uk.

SWB membership by council is:

- **Mendip** – Cllrs Nigel Woollcombe-Adams (Vice Chair), Nigel Taylor
- **Sedgemoor** – Cllrs Dawn Hill, Gill Slocombe
- **Somerset County** – David Hall, Clare Aparicio Paul
- **South Somerset** – Cllrs Jo Roundell Greene, Derek Yeomans (Chairman)
- **Taunton Deane Borough** – Cllrs Patrick Berry, Steve Ross
- **West Somerset** – Cllrs Martin Dewdney, Brenda Maitland-Walker

SWB meeting agendas, papers and reports are available [online](#).

Information on SWP services

For all advice and information, visit www.somersetwaste.gov.uk.

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

SWP publishes the Sorted e-zine (sign-up on the website).

