

Recycle More Messenger

Edition 6, 29 September 2021

Welcome to the sixth and final update on Recycle More, the expanded collections that launched in South Somerset at the end of June. Our collections have been getting back on track in recent weeks which has helped the new service bed-in. And the initial figures show that it is having a big impact on the way people in the district recycle. SWP thanks you for your support.

Recycling soars in South Somerset

We now have estimates for the impact of the first three months of the new service in South Somerset.

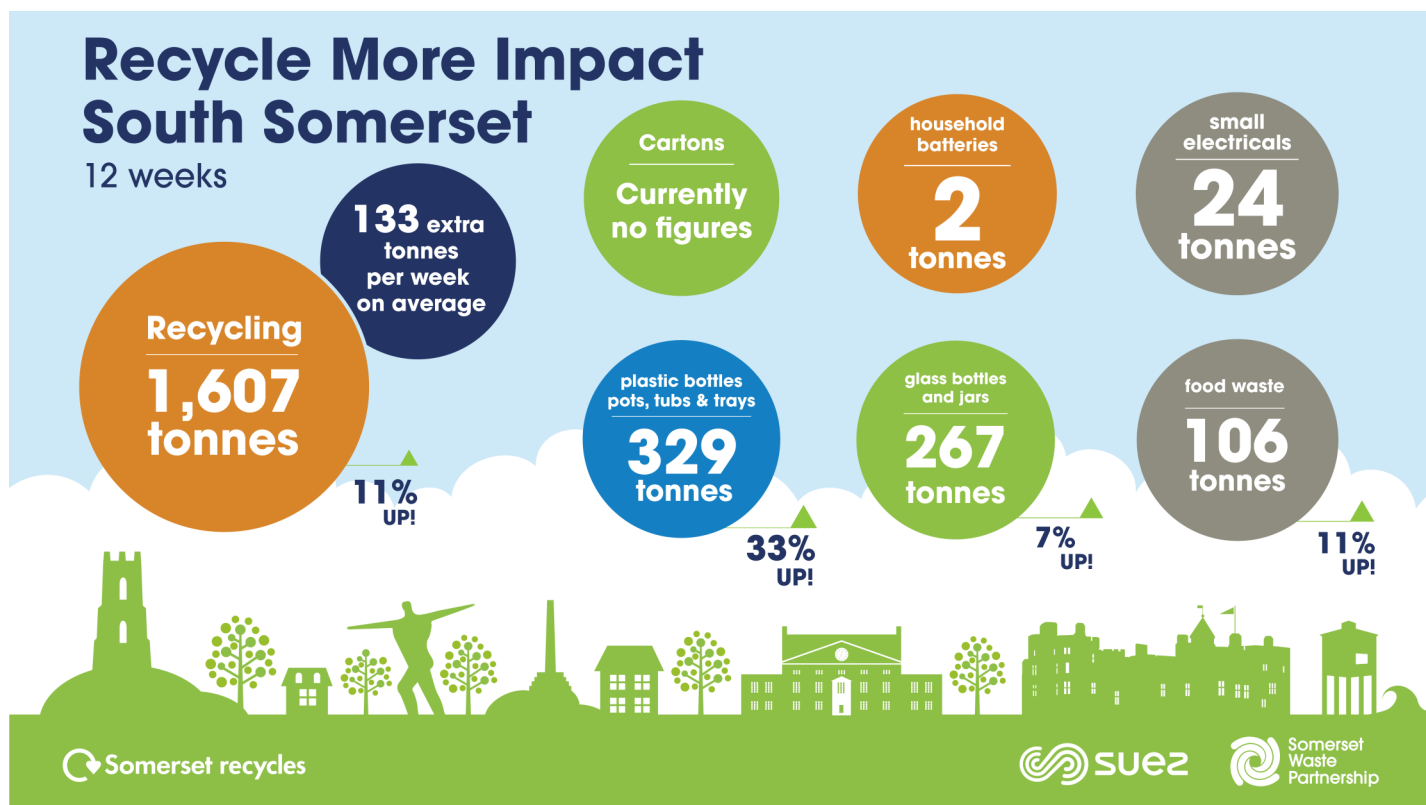
In the first 12 weeks we estimate that more than 130 extra tonnes of recycling were collected every week.

That's 1,600+ tonnes in total, an increase of around 11%.

Plastics have jumped 33% and we have already seen significant weights of batteries and electricals collected. We are waiting for the first figures on cartons and expect to this to be just as impressive

Covid and the varying lockdowns have had a massive impact on domestic waste over the last year or so. That's made plotting long-term trends and pulling out the precise effect of Recycle More very difficult.

But it's clear that recycling is up in a big way in South Somerset, thanks to the way residents in South Somerset have embraced Recycle More.



Plastics beyond the kitchen

When recycling plastics, people usually think about the kitchen first.

But the bathroom is also a great hunting ground for the plastics bottles, pots, tubs and trays that can go in your Bright Blue Bag for weekly collection.

Empty bottles of shampoo, conditioner or shower gel can all go in. So can pots from cosmetic creams or hair gel, and empty tubs from conditioner or bath salts.

You can find a more detailed list of what we can and cannot currently collect online: **somersetwaste.gov.uk/recycling-collections**

We are always looking to expand what we collect—so long as we know it can be recycled properly in the UK.



Supermarkets sweep into plastics

We only collect plastics that we know we can recycle here in the UK. More and more supermarkets are starting to offer ways to recycle that tricky soft-stretchy-crinkly plastics and plastic-foil packaging.

Many Co-ops and larger branches of Tesco and Sainsbury's are among those involved. From bread bags to cling film, crisps packets to pet food pouches, check where you shop.

Report missed collections

Service reliability has been better in recent weeks, but please ensure any missed collections are reported. We should return within two working days.

Reporting online is the quickest and easiest way, using the My Waste Services menu on the SWP homepage. You can use it to complete most tasks, including reporting missed collections and requesting containers.

Remembering collection days

Three-weekly refuse collections can make it harder to remember collection days.

Don't forget, you can check quickly and easily online at anytime using the My Collection Day feature on the SWP homepage **somersetwaste.gov.uk**

What happens to your recycling?

Knowing that your recycling is being dealt with properly is important when encouraging people to recycle more.

In 2020-21, 97.8% of Somerset's recycling stayed in the UK. Your efforts saved more than 123,000 tonnes of carbon—like taking 47,000 cars off the road for a year.

somersetwaste.gov.uk/recycling-tracker

Thank you for recycling.

