



### **Think outside the box this Christmas**

"Cut the card" is the Christmas advice after new figures revealed that kerbside cardboard has shot up by 35%.

Due to lockdown and internet shopping, crews collected an average of 65kg of cardboard from each home in the year to October - 16,782 tonnes in total - up from 47kg in the 12 months before.

Extra bulky cardboard slows collections and overloads crews who have tackled record levels of waste while working through the pandemic. It fills trucks, forcing unscheduled depot returns to unload, causing missed collections.

Luckily, there is plenty that residents can do to help themselves and their crew, from putting card out over time or taking it all to recycle sites through to

buying local with less delivery packaging or - for Christmas gifts - choosing digital services and subscriptions or charity memberships and experience vouchers

### **Support a good cause with your tree**

You can compost your Christmas tree, recycle it at any recycle site, put it out with your garden waste collection or - don't miss out, book it now! - register for a charity collection in early January: [just-helping.org.uk/register-tree](https://www.just-helping.org.uk/register-tree)

### **When are your festive collections?**

All pick-ups change after 24 December and return to usual from 10 January: [somersetwaste.gov.uk/festive](https://www.somersetwaste.gov.uk/festive) Want your Christmas and New Year recycling and rubbish taken? Please "park smart" so collection trucks can get through. Christmas collection problems? Latest updates here: [somersetwaste.gov.uk](https://www.somersetwaste.gov.uk)



### Your rubbish may be shocking

A green rubbish collection revolution is quietly underway for Somerset as it takes on its first electric collection truck.

After a successful three-month trial around Bridgwater, an electric refuse vehicle has been bought and will be used across the county to both collect rubbish and establish which routes suit further electric vehicle investments.

It is remanufactured from a diesel vehicle with a 300 KW battery. It looks much the same as a diesel but is far quieter and has had great feedback from refuse drivers and loaders.

Running the electric truck will save around 38 tonnes of carbon annually compared to diesel, while being a refurbished truck also saved tonnes of carbon in manufacture. While costlier to buy than a diesel truck, running costs will be around £8,000 less each year.

Reducing carbon is a Somerset Waste Partnership priority, such as plans in 2022 to install solar panels at its Taunton and Evercreech depots to save

52 tonnes of carbon per year, with up-front costs recouped in less than seven years of their 25-year lifespan.

### Hands up for school eco-grants

Somerset primary and secondary schools are being offered 50 grants of £500 to help them start or make progress on the seven steps of the international Eco-Schools programme. The new grants from Somerset Waste Partnership can be used for environmental initiatives, including those that reduce waste and encourage recycling. For how to apply, visit [somersetwaste.gov.uk/education](https://somersetwaste.gov.uk/education)

### Successful Recycle More powers on

As Sedgemoor and West Somerset get ready for Recycle More in 2022, latest figures show residents with the new service recycle hundreds of tonnes a week of extra materials. Latest updates: [somersetwaste.gov.uk/recycle-more](https://somersetwaste.gov.uk/recycle-more)

### Somerset Waste Board

SWP's governing body has two members from each partner council: **Mendip** Cllrs Peter Goater, Tom Ronan; **Sedgemoor** Cllrs Andrew Gilling, Janet Keen; **Somerset County** Cllrs David Hall, Clare Paul (Vice Chair); **Somerset West and Taunton** Cllrs David Mansell, Andrew Sully; **South Somerset** Cllrs Sarah Dyke (Chair), Tim Kerley. SWB agendas: [somersetwaste.gov.uk/somerset-waste-board](https://somersetwaste.gov.uk/somerset-waste-board)

### Information on SWP services

[somersetwaste.gov.uk](https://somersetwaste.gov.uk) for advice and e-zine sign-up. Follow **@Somerssetwaste** on social media. SWP manages waste services for all Somerset councils.