



### **Love Valentine's. Hate Waste**

There are lots of ways to show your love for that special person and your passion for the environment this Valentine's Day.

Shopping for gifts?

- Think about things that don't arrive in boxes - vouchers (experiences, meals out, cinema, theatre) can be shared together without adding to the cardboard mountain.
- Buy local – independents deliver too, usually with less packaging. Or, visit in person to avoid packaging completely [www.shopsomerset.co.uk](http://www.shopsomerset.co.uk)

After the big day? Recycle everything!

- Boxes of chocolates – put cardboard in your recycling box, plastic tray in Blue Bag.
- Cards – in your recycling box.
- Flowers – in your refuse bin (not your food waste bin).

### **Waste services and Somerset Council**

As you may know, a new Somerset Council comes into being at the start of April, bringing together all the services of the four districts and county council.

SWP is a partnership made up of all these authorities. So, from April the new council will be responsible for all your waste services. Watch this space for more info next month.

### **Food Waste Week served soon**

Reducing food waste is one of the best ways to reduce your carbon footprint and we'll be running Somerset's first Food Waste Week, starting 6 March.

We'll be raising awareness and sharing lots of tips and guidance on how to eat into your food waste and recycle what's left. Watch this space for more detail.

## Business of Recycling website

Guidance to help Somerset businesses recycle more and prepare for changing regulations is now available online.

Created by [WRAP](#), the Business of Recycling [website](#) also covers how to reduce waste and disposal costs, save energy, and protect the environment.

Content includes:

- A waste calculator to help businesses see how much waste they generate and how recycling can save money.
- Guidance on business 'Duty of care', waste audits, procurement, managing and storing waste.
- Free downloadable resources to engage staff and encourage recycling.

If you run a business or know someone who does, take a look.

Businesses have a 'Duty of Care' to store and dispose of waste without harming the environment. New legislation is coming and means businesses will need to separate more recycling. Anywhere preparing or selling food - such as cafes, restaurants, pubs - will have to separate and recycle food waste too.

## Business recycling support

As well as the website, Somerset is trialling Business Support Advisors in Langport, Ilminster and Chard.

The advisors will be able to provide businesses with face-to-face support to

help understand how regulations affect them and what help is available.

This will be available from 13 Feb to the last week in April. For more info contact [greenbusinesssupport@somerset.gov.uk](mailto:greenbusinesssupport@somerset.gov.uk)

## Where's Fixy in Feb?

Check [online](#) to find out where Fixy is this month, along with info about Somerset's brilliant network of repair groups and when they meet.

Fixy promotes the repair and reuse of electricals, as well as taking donations of unwanted or broken smart tech, such as laptops, tablets, smartphones. Donations are data-wiped and repaired by Somerset specialists DonateIT, and passed onto groups who need them.

*Find Fixy here:*

- Sat 11 Feb, 10am-12noon – Café Burtle, Village Hall, **Burtle** TA7 8NB. Pop-up repair event fixing electricals and making general repairs.
- Sat 18 Feb, 9am-1pm – Farmers' Market, Town Hall, **Crewkerne** TA18 7LN. (no repairs on the day).
- Sat 25 Feb, 10am-2pm – Fixy stall at Environmental Fair, Village Hall, Martock Rd, **Long Sutton** TA10 9NT. (no repairs).

## Do more online

With My Waste Services 24/7 at [somersetwaste.gov.uk](http://somersetwaste.gov.uk), you can:

- Log missed collections after 7pm
- Order any recycle container free
- Order paid bulky waste pick-up
- Sort clinical/assisted collections
- Pay for asbestos/plasterboard
- Get recycle site van/trailer permit
- Send comments about services