

News Snippets from Somerset Council - JULY 2025

Thermly launches more help to support communities in Somerset

Thermly is helping residents across the county take practical, supported steps towards cleaner, more efficient energy.

They're proud to also introduce Thermly Commercial, a free service for local businesses, designed to help them secure tailored energy contracts while giving back to the community through the Thermly Community Impact Fund.

To find out more, please visit [Thermly launches more help to support communities in Somerset](#)

Trees to replace the ash

James Chapman, Somerset Tree Strategist has been working on a forest research project looking at possible replacement species for ash (*Fraxinus excelsior*).



Ash dieback was first reported in the UK just over 12 years ago. Its spread has been disastrous with very few woodlands unaffected and in Somerset it accounts for nearly 20% of all our trees.

For more information, please go to [Trees to replace the ash](#)

Free business support available through the Growth Hub

The Heart of the South West (HotSW) Growth Hub offers fully funded, impartial support to help Somerset businesses start, grow, or adapt. Whether you're looking for advice on funding, digital tools, training, or navigating challenges, their team of advisers can connect you with the right resources, programmes, and events.

Support includes 1-to-1 guidance, access to grant searches, digital business reviews, and signposting to local and national initiatives. It's free, flexible, and tailored to your business needs.

[Find out more](#)

HSE Health and Safety Guide

Keeping on top of health and safety doesn't need to be complicated or time-consuming. The Health and Safety Executive (HSE) has a free online guide designed specifically for small businesses, offering straightforward advice on how to manage risks and meet your legal duties.



Whether you have one employee or a growing team, this practical resource can help you put the right measures in place without the jargon. It also includes useful templates to help you get organised and stay compliant.

[Find out more](#)

Farming Equipment and Technology Fund

Applications for the Farming Equipment and Technology Fund (FETF) is open to applications until 10 July and offers a great opportunity for farmers, growers, foresters and their contractors to invest in new kit that boosts productivity, improves slurry management, or supports animal health and welfare.

A total of £46.7 million is available, with grants ranging from £1,000 to £25,000 per theme. You'll be able to apply under 3 themes – Productivity, Slurry Management and Animal Health and Welfare. Equipment examples include robotic weeders, low-emission slurry spreaders and cooling systems

for poultry. For more information, visit [Farming Equipment and Technology Fund 2025: guidance now available – Farming](#)

Look out for your new guide

Your updated collections calendar will soon be landing on your doorstep. If you have a kerbside collection, we'll be providing a new calendar alongside a new look guide to food waste recycling.

Did you know, around 7 in 10 households recycle their food waste? But we know lots is still missed and ends up in our rubbish bins.

We want to encourage everyone to recycle their food waste, whether it's adding the small bits that sometimes get missed to your recycling - like the odd tea bag, or to start recycling if you don't already.



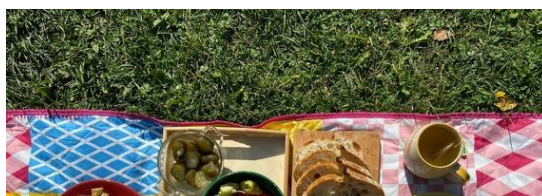
What do we mean by food waste?

When we talk about food waste we don't just mean plate scrapings, out of date food or the stuff that's thrown out before its packaging has been opened (yes, this happens more often than you think)!

Food waste includes both the avoidable and unavoidable – unavoidable waste includes the bits you wouldn't normally eat. Onion peelings, egg shells, bones from meat and avocado stones are all examples of unavoidable food waste.

We're asking everyone to think before they throw. You may think you're a food waste recycler, but the average Somerset household throws the equivalent to 58 loaves of bread (or 46kg) in the rubbish bin every year!

If you need a replacement kitchen caddy or food recycling bin you can [order a new one](#) online.



Sustainable summer picnics

Picnic season is here! The summer sun is the perfect opportunity to get outside and enjoy the many beauty spots of our county, but there are many ways that you can make the most of your trip and keep it sustainable. Remember to always clean up afterwards, leave nothing behind and take home your packaging to recycle.

[Sustainable summer picnics](#)

Learn about carton recycling



The cartons we collect for recycling from the kerbside are all reprocessed here in the UK.

Baled cartons are dropped into a pulper, which resembles a giant food mixer. They are pulped with water for around 20 minutes, which delaminates the packaging, breaking it down into a slurry.

The different layers of material are then separated, and the fibre is recycled at a paper mill to manufacture coreboard, which is used to make cores and tubes for a variety of industrial applications.

What are cartons made of?

On average, drinks cartons are made of 75% wood fibre – which is easily recycled, 4% aluminium – which helps to keep drinks fresh, and 21% polymers – thin layers of polythene to prevent leaks.

Please recycle your cartons

49 tonnes of cartons were collected from our kerbsides last year.

Please remember to rinse, flatten, put the lid back on (if it has one), and add to your green recycling box.