

Recycling and Waste Strategy Consultation

FAQ

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How to take part in the consultation

We are directing people to answer using the questionnaire online via www.n-somerset.gov.uk/wastestrategy unless it's an equalities issue, then we can provide a paper questionnaire/braille/translation/large print etc.

To request a paper questionnaire/braille/translation/large print please email waste.strategy@n-somerset.gov.uk or call 01934 888 802.

This online questionnaire has an option for screen readers by clicking 'Plain text version' at top of web page. Anyone with a screen reader can use this function.

Why are we doing this / what do we want to know

This waste strategy will set out the steps we are going to take and measure our progress over the next 10 years. The strategy looks at what we can do to reduce waste and how we can value our natural resources more by encouraging everyone to reuse, repair and recycle more than they already do. We are seeking feedback from residents, organisations, business owners, visitors to the area, volunteer groups and town and parish councils to understand if our targets are correct, if anything is missing and how we aim to achieve our targets.

Why are there two questionnaires?

We have provided a short and longer questionnaire – please only complete one. The short questionnaire takes only 5-10 minutes to complete and asks a couple of key questions whereas the longer questionnaire can take up to 30 minutes and is available if you would like to provide detailed feedback.

If you choose to take part in the long questionnaire, we advise you complete it on a PC, and not a phone or tablet.

If you experience a technical issue with the questionnaire

Please report any technical issues to waste.strategy@n-somerset.gov.uk and a member of the recycling and waste team will resolve the issue

If you find a mistake in the strategy or have a question

Please report any issues or queries/ questions to waste.strategy@n-somerset.gov.uk and a member of the recycling and waste team will resolve the issue or help answer the question

Black bin collection – concerns over moving collection frequency

North Somerset Council is continuously looking at ways we can reduce waste and increase recycling to save money and help to tackle climate change.

Our recent waste audit found 45% of the average household bin is waste that could have been recycled. Dealing with waste put in the black bin is expensive and can cost up to £110 a tonne. This means that if everyone put everything that can be recycled into their recycling box, we could save over £1 million a year in disposal costs and prevent over 2,500 tonnes of CO2 entering the environment every year.

There are a variety of options other local authorities have implemented, these include; smaller bins collected fortnightly, the same sized bin you currently have collected every three weeks or a larger bin collected every four weeks.

No decision about any of the options has been made, we simply want to understand which option residents of North Somerset would support and if they have any concerns. A separate additional consultation will be held if we proceed with any of these options any further.

How was the waste audit conducted?

250 houses across a range of demographics were randomly selected to be part of the waste audit/ analysis. On their normal black bin collection day their waste was emptied into a separate vehicle, taken to the transfer station and each individual item was sorted into categories depending on the type of waste it was. Each category was weighed and used to calculate the percentage of the bin that this type of waste made up.

We found that the average household bin contained 27% food waste, 18% recyclable waste (including recyclable plastic, paper, cardboard tins etc.) and only 55% was non-recyclable waste.

What will happen with the results of the consultation?

The results of this consultation will help inform North Somerset's Recycling and Waste Strategy which will be published in later in 2021.

What are the next steps after the consultation?

After the consultation we will take on board everyone's feedback to provide North Somerset's Recycling and Waste Strategy. The strategy will be available online for anyone to access and will be updated on a regular basis.

Where does all our recycling go at the moment?

You can find more information about where all of your recycling goes on website:

www.n-somerset.gov.uk/where-your-recycling-goes