

## **Commercial Waste Recycling Centres - FAQ's (March 2019)**

### **Don't my Business Rates cover my waste collection and treatment costs?**

The National Non-Domestic Rates (NNDR or "business rates") is collected by your local District/Borough Council on behalf of central government. The amount of NNDR levied is based on the rateable value of the premises occupied. As different types of business could occupy the same amount of space (rateable value) but produce very different amounts or types of waste it would be unreasonable to include charges for its collection, treatment or disposal within the NNDR calculation.

As the NNDR does not contain any element of waste collection, treatment or disposal, Somerset Waste Partnership, which provides services to households does not receive any funding to provide services to businesses.

Therefore, each business must either engage a licensed waste carrier to transport their waste, either through a contract or on an ad hoc basis, e.g. skip hire or they must take it to a site licensed (holds a relevant waste permit) for commercial waste. Commercial business waste facilities are provided at **Bridgwater (Saltlands), Chard, Frome, Highbridge, Minehead, Street, Taunton (Priorswood), Wellington (Poole), Williton and Yeovil Recycling Centres.**

Please note, commercial users, although not required to apply for a van or trailer permit, will still need to comply with the Somerset permit scheme regulations regarding vehicle size and use of trailers. For more information, see the Apply for a permit section of our website -

<https://www.somersetwaste.gov.uk/apply-for-a-permit/>

### **Why is there a charge for businesses using the centre?**

As businesses do not pay for this service in any other way there has to be a charge for using this centre to cover the operational costs – the value of the recyclable materials you wish to deposit at the recycling centre rarely covers the cost of its bulking, baling and transport to reprocessing plants.

### **What happens to the materials deposited?**

The containers that you place your materials in are weighed and then combined with the household materials destined for either recycling or disposal. This weighing exercise allows adjustments to be made to the household waste recycling rates as the material you deposit cannot count towards our national targets and it also ensures that the council tax payer is not footing the bill for the treatment of your commercially produced waste.

Materials for recycling are bulked up into large containers or baled prior to their transport to reprocessing facilities. In the case of some materials, there are few reprocessors in the South West, so our contractors have to transport these to other parts of the country before they can be recycled.

### **Wouldn't it be cheaper for my business to organise a waste collection service?**

If you have regular or larger volumes of non-recyclable waste, it may be more cost effective to seek out a contractor who can provide you with a regular collection service. The recycling centres are intended to fill a gap in the market and provide a service to those small businesses where volumes of waste are small or irregular and for those recyclable materials where commercial collection services are not currently available, unless you are producing very large quantities.

## **I've been told I'm responsible for "Duty of Care" of my business waste – what does that mean?**

Your business, no matter what size, is responsible for the safe handling and treatment of the waste you produce – this can be achieved by either holding a commercial waste agreement with a '**registered waste carrier**' or by ensuring that you deliver it to an appropriately permitted waste centre – either way you are responsible for correctly identifying what the waste consists of. It is your duty to ensure that any waste you produce is handled safely and within the law. This is known as '**Duty of Care**' and it applies to anyone who produces, imports, transports, stores, treats or disposes of waste from business or industry.

Businesses must ensure that:

- All waste is stored and disposed of responsibly
- Any waste you dispose of is correctly described to the receiver of that waste
- Waste is only handled or dealt with by people or businesses that are authorised to do so
- Records are kept of all waste that is transferred or received for at least two years (three years in the case of hazardous waste) – there are on the spot fines for not producing this paperwork when requested by enforcement officers from the Environment Agency.

## **I want to transport my own business waste to your centre - do I need to be a registered waste carrier?**

Currently if you are carrying waste generated through your own business or trade e.g. shop, office or café then you do not need to be a registered waste carrier.

The exceptions to this are if you are carrying waste arising from either construction or demolition (builders waste) or are carrying waste for a third party i.e. for a customer who has requested and paid you to handle the waste on their behalf e.g. garden waste, house clearance or kitchen fitting. Failure to comply with these regulations can result in a prosecution by the Environment Agency and either a large fine or a prison sentence.

Please note, commercial users will need to comply with the Somerset permit scheme regulations regarding vehicle size and use of trailers. For more information, see the Apply for a permit section of our website - <https://www.somersetwaste.gov.uk/apply-for-a-permit/>

## **If I do need to become a registered waste carrier – how do I do that?**

Becoming a registered waste carrier can be arranged by contacting the Environment Agency (EA) on 03708 506 506 or done on-line at <https://www.gov.uk/waste-carrier-or-broker-registration>

If you have registered as a carrier you will receive a certificate of registration. The Environment Agency will also provide a credit card sized copy of your carrier's certificate at a small additional charge. The EA will confirm what wastes you can carry and how to complete the relevant paperwork that you will need to produce for your customers. You will be required to retain these records for possible inspection by the EA – this for a set period of time (exact requirements will be confirmed by the EA depending on the type of waste that you carry).