

With landfill tax up almost 17% to reach £56 a tonne ...

... it's time to slim that bin and cut Somerset's £8m landfill bill



Got an old sofa that is no longer needed in your home? Clean carpets or curtains in good condition? Or a working fridge or heater?

You could arrange a paid-for bulky waste collection through your district council or, if your car is big enough, take them to a Recycling Centre – the wood, metal and electricals can all be recycled – or find a local charity shop that wants to take them.

Alternatively, a great option is to call a Somerset-wide charity network that can save you money, help local people on low incomes and keep working household goods in use.

The reuse network can collect good quality household items - wardrobes, tables, chairs and more - and then sell them at low prices to local people who

are living on benefits, pensions or just limited incomes.

In many cases, your nearby reuse group will collect the items for free, and ensure a second life for working goods while saving council tax payers the recycling or disposal costs.

A SWP spokesman said: "The reuse network is a fantastic Somerset asset. Not only does it assist those on limited incomes during today's tough times, but it has kept hundreds of tonnes of furniture from ending in wasteful and costly landfill. It may even avoid a few people being tempted to fly-tip an unwanted but working telly, heater or fridge."

As well as the reuse network, there are lots of other ways to

sell or give away unwanted but still working items, from web services

eBay and Preloved, Freecycle and Freegle, to cheap or free adverts in local newspapers.

For your local group, contact:
Mendip 01373 467320 Mon-Fri 9.30-3.30; 01458 831188 Mon-Fri 9.30-12.30, 1.30-3.30.

Sedgemoor 01278 425055 Mon-Thu 10-5, Fri 10-4, Sat 10-1.

South Somerset 01935 433416 Tue-Fri 10-4; 01460 68221 Mon-Thu 10-4; 01963 34565 Mon-Tue, Fri 10-3.30.

Taunton Deane 01823 253053 Mon-Fri 9.30-3.15.

West Somerset 01643 707484 Tue-Sat 10-2.

For more on reuse groups and recycling household items, see "Bulky Waste Collections" at: www.somersetwaste.gov.uk.

For information, latest news and the chance to become a recycling champion, see our website.

We welcome your suggestions and ideas, so join the chat today on Facebook or Twitter, or email us:



Somerset Waste Partnership manages waste and recycling services on behalf of all local authorities in Somerset.