

# RESOURCES & WASTE POLICY UPDATE



MERSEYSIDE RECYCLING & WASTE AUTHORITY

MERSEYSIDE... A PLACE  
WHERE NOTHING IS WASTED

JANUARY 2022

## Policy Updates:

POLICY DEVELOPMENT	IMPLICATIONS
<b>LIVERPOOL CITY REGION (LCR)</b>	
<b>Pathway to Net Zero</b> A high level 'Pathway to Net Zero' strategy has been developed by the LCR Combined Authority. The Pathway aims to set a clear direction of travel for rapid, collective action on delivering a net zero carbon city region by 2040. The Pathway is based around the themes of homes, neighbourhoods, travel and workplace. A detailed action plan is expected to follow. <a href="#">Link to Pathway to Net Zero (Item 7)</a>	<b>The Pathway recognises the role of waste reduction in limiting carbon emissions.</b>  <b>Action to reduce waste is key to delivering net zero carbon.</b>
<b>Plan for Prosperity</b> A 'Plan for Prosperity' has been developed by the LCR Combined Authority. The Plan replaces the LCR Local Industrial Strategy and aims to deliver long term, inclusive economic development and decarbonisation of the economy. The Plan supports net zero carbon action and recognises the role of a growing circular economy in delivering a fairer, stronger, cleaner city region. <a href="#">Link to Plan for Prosperity (Item 8)</a>	<b>Expected outcomes include 'A growing circular economy'.</b>  <b>A stronger circular economy is key to delivering net zero carbon.</b>
<b>Community Environment Fund</b> A second round of the £500k Fund has been approved for delivery during 2022. The Fund aims to encourage community participation in improving the environment and support long term	<b>Grant support for waste reduction projects.</b>

<p>behavioural change. In its first year the fund supported 58 schemes including waste reduction projects. A business case for a self-sustaining Fund will also be developed in the coming year.  <a href="#">Link to Community Environment Fund article</a></p>	
<p><b>NATIONAL</b></p>	
<p><b>Environment Act 2021</b>  The Act received Royal Assent on 09.11.21 and is the most wide-ranging UK environmental legislation since 1990. It aims to drive an expansion in recycling services alongside a stronger focus on resource efficiency with new powers to introduce:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• consistent household and business waste recycling collections across England</li> <li>• extended producer responsibility schemes to make producers pay for the cost of managing waste, e.g. packaging</li> <li>• deposit schemes, e.g. drinks containers</li> <li>• product resource efficiency standards</li> <li>• charges on purchases of single use items.</li> </ul> <p>Regulations and statutory guidance are expected in late 2022 to implement new powers including consistent recycling collections.  <a href="#">Link to Environment Act 2021</a>  <a href="#">Link to GOV.UK press release</a></p>	<p><b>Expansion of materials to be collected for recycling.</b></p> <p><b>Mandatory food waste collections.</b></p> <p><b>Adaptation of waste services and infrastructure.</b></p> <p><b>Funding support and implementation timescales to be confirmed.</b></p> <p><b>Regulations and statutory guidance by late 2022.</b></p>
<p><b>Waste Prevention Programme consultation</b>  DEFRA consulted on a new Waste Prevention Programme for England between March and June 2021 with a final version expected Autumn 2021. The Programme will set out waste prevention and reuse initiatives across a wide range of materials and aims to improve local reuse and repair services and facilities, including at HWRCs and through circular economy hubs.  <a href="#">Link to consultation</a></p>	<p><b>Publication delayed.</b></p> <p><b>Improved reuse and repair services, including HWRCs.</b></p>
<p><b>Packaging Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR) consultation</b></p>	<p><b>DEFRA response now expected Jan – Mar 2022.</b></p>

<p>Between March and June 2021 DEFRA consulted on proposals to introduce packaging EPR with final proposals expected by winter 2021/22. The proposals will incentivise producers to design easy to reuse / recycle packaging and invest in recycling infrastructure by making them liable for the costs of managing packaging waste. Phased implementation of packaging EPR is scheduled from 2023.</p> <p><a href="#">Link to consultation</a></p>	<p><b>Shift of packaging waste management costs from LAs to producers.</b></p>
<p><b>Deposit Return Scheme (DRS) for Drinks Containers consultation</b></p> <p>DEFRA consulted on proposals to implement a DRS from March to June 2021 with final proposals expected by winter 2021/22. The DRS aims to reduce littering and incentivise increased recycling of drinks containers by placing a deposit value on these items. The scheme is not expected to become operational until late 2024 at the earliest.</p> <p><a href="#">Link to consultation</a></p>	<p>DEFRA response now expected Jan – Mar 2022.</p> <p><b>Risk of unintended consequences if DRS introduced at same time as consistent recycling and packaging EPR.</b></p>
<p><b>Consistent Recycling consultation</b></p> <p>DEFRA consulted on consistent recycling proposals between May and July 2021 with final proposals expected by winter 2021/22. Consistent recycling measures include an expanded national core set of materials to be included in recycling collections phased in from 2023 and funded via EPR and Government New Burdens funding. Core materials include food waste and most packaging waste.</p> <p><a href="#">Link to consultation</a></p>	<p>DEFRA response now expected Jan – Mar 2022.</p> <p><b>Expansion of materials to be collected for recycling. Mandatory food waste collections. Adaptation of waste services and infrastructure.</b></p> <p><b>Funding support and implementation timescales to be confirmed.</b></p>
<p><b>Single Use Plastics consultations</b></p> <p>On 20.11.21 DEFRA launched 2 consultations on single use plastics including proposals to ban the supply of single use plastic plates, cutlery and expanded polystyrene drinks and food packaging. DEFRA are also calling for evidence on commonly littered and problematic plastic items, e.g. wet wipes, tobacco filters, sachets and single use cups, and how reuse and refill can be incentivised.</p>	<p><b>Opportunity to promote waste prevention and reuse behaviours.</b></p>

<p><a href="#">Link to single use plastic bans consultation</a>  <a href="#">Link to call for evidence on problematic plastics</a></p>	
<p><b>Digital Waste Tracking / Waste Crime consultations</b>  On 21.01.22 DEFRA released consultations on the introduction of mandatory digital waste tracking and on reform of the waste carrier, broker, dealer registration system. The consultations aims to improve the accuracy, coverage and timeliness of waste data reporting and to reduce waste crime. The consultations close on 15.04.22.  <a href="#">Link to mandatory digital waste tracking consultation</a>  <a href="#">Link to reform of the waste carrier, broker, dealer registration system consultation</a></p>	<p><b>Potential changes ahead for waste data reporting.</b></p>
<p><b>Persistent Organic Pollutants (POPs)</b>  International agreements require the destruction of products containing POPs above defined levels. The Environment Agency (EA) is concerned over the POPs content of some domestic upholstered seating appearing in the waste stream. Guidance from the EA and DEFRA on managing this waste to ensure reduction of POPs in the environment is expected soon.</p>	<p><b>Changes may include a landfill ban and advice on reuse and treatment of items.</b></p>
<p><b>Covid Waste Services Guidance</b>  Guidance on managing HWRCs during the pandemic was withdrawn 23.07.21, whilst Guidance on prioritising waste collections was reissued on 23.07.21 to cover all scenarios where waste service resources may be reduced.  <a href="#">Link to DEFRA Guidance</a>  <a href="#">Link to WISH Guidance (scroll to 'INFO 13')</a></p>	<p><b>Maintain Covid risk assessments.</b></p> <p><b>Follow the guidance if waste services require prioritisation e.g. due to staff shortages.</b></p>
<p><b>INTERNATIONAL</b></p>	
<p><b>UN COP 26 Climate Change Summit</b>  COP 26 was hosted by the UK in Glasgow during November 2021 and aimed to reach global agreement on action to tackle climate change. Important agreements were reached, including to cut methane emissions by 30% by 2030, but there was concern that actions are not being taken quickly enough to avoid dangerous climate heating. COP 27 follows in Egypt in November 2022.  <a href="#">Link to COP 26</a></p>	<p><b>Accelerated action required to avoid dangerous climate heating.</b></p> <p><b>Reduce waste to limit carbon emissions.</b></p>

<p><b>UN COP15 Biodiversity Summit</b>  The Covid delayed Summit is hosted by China and split into two halves with a virtual session from 11-15 October 2021 followed by a face-to-face meeting from 25 April to 8 May 2022. The Summit aims to agree a post 2020 Global Biodiversity Framework to conserve natural capital and reduce pollution including eliminating 'discharge of plastic waste'.  <a href="#">Link to Biodiversity COP 15</a></p>	<p><b>Biodiversity at risk from climate change and unsustainable consumption of materials resources.</b></p>

## Targets Tracker:

Year	Target	Source
2025	55% reuse and recycling of LCR waste	LCR Year One Climate Action Plan 2021-22 EU target for municipal waste (not adopted in England)
2025	20% reduction in UK food and drink waste and carbon emissions compared with 2015	UK Courtauld Commitment 2025
2025	All plastic packaging placed on the market being recyclable, reusable or compostable	Our Waste, Our Resources: A Strategy for England 2018 (DEFRA)
2025	70% of all plastics packaging waste effectively recycled or composted	UK Plastics Pact 2018

<b>2030</b>	<p>50% reduction in food waste in the UK compared with 2007 (UN SDG 12.3)</p> <p>50% reduction in greenhouse gas emissions associated with food and drink consumed in the UK compared with 2015</p> <p>50% of fresh food sourced from areas with sustainable water management</p>	UK Courtald Commitment 2030
<b>2030</b>	Eliminate landfilling of food waste	UK Clean Growth Strategy 2017 (BEIS)
<b>2030</b>	Reduce the amount of local authority collected municipal waste landfilled to 2%	Resources Merseyside 2011 - 2041
<b>2030</b>	Reduce total waste arisings from households by 8% based on 2011 levels	Resources Merseyside 2011 -2041
<b>2030</b>	60% of municipal waste reused or recycled	EU target (not adopted in England)
<b>2035</b>	Reduce carbon emissions by 78% of 1990 levels	UK Climate Change Act (amended)
<b>2035</b>	65% of municipal waste reused or recycled	EU target adopted in English law
<b>2035</b>	Landfill of municipal waste limited to 10%	EU target adopted in English law

<b>2040</b>	Net zero carbon Liverpool City Region	LCR Metro Mayor
<b>2042</b>	Eliminate avoidable plastic waste	England 25 Year Environment Plan 2018 (DEFRA)
<b>2050</b>	Zero avoidable waste and a doubling of resource productivity	UK Clean Growth Strategy 2017 (BEIS)
<b>2050</b>	Reduce carbon emissions by 100% of 1990 levels	UK Climate Change Act 2008 (amended)

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