

RESOURCES & WASTE POLICY UPDATE



MERSEYSIDE RECYCLING & WASTE AUTHORITY

MERSEYSIDE... A PLACE
WHERE NOTHING IS WASTED

MAY 2022

Policy Updates:

POLICY DEVELOPMENT	IMPLICATIONS
LIVERPOOL CITY REGION (LCR)	
Pathway to Net Zero A high level 'Pathway to Net Zero' strategy has been published 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. Development of a detailed action plan will follow. Link to Pathway to Net Zero	Reduce waste to deliver net zero carbon.
Plan for Prosperity 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. Link to Plan for Prosperity (pdf 84 pages)	Embed circular economy principles to maximise value from material resources.
Community Environment Fund The Fund aims to encourage community participation in improving the environment and supports long term behavioural change. In its first year the fund supported 58 schemes including waste reduction projects. Funding decisions on a second round of the £500k Fund are expected in July. Link Community Environment Fund 2022	Waste reduction projects build community wealth.

NATIONAL

Packaging Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR) consultation outcome

On 26.03.22, DEFRA announced the outcome of this consultation. Key decisions include:

- Packaging waste EPR will be implemented from April 2024
- Producers to pay local authorities (LAs) the “necessary” costs for managing household packaging waste
- Payments to cover costs from packaging waste collection, sorting, HWRCs, residual waste treatment and communications activities
- Costs of clearing litter (on the ground) excluded, but street ‘on the go’ bins included
- Payment of necessary costs is linked to LAs taking all reasonable steps to establish efficient and effective waste management systems
- Mandatory labelling of packaging (recycle, do not recycle) from March 2026
- Plastic film and flexibles recycling collections required by March 2027
- Deposit return scheme for drinks containers to include PET plastic bottles / metal cans only
- A review in 2026 / 2027 may extend EPR to trade waste collections.

[Link to consultation outcome](#)

Producers to fund household packaging waste management costs from April 2024.

Payments dependent on efficient and effective LA waste services.

LCR waste partnership working can reduce transition costs and support cost recovery for LAs.

Promotes easier to reuse and recycle packaging.

EPR reforms will be applied to more materials.

Resources and Waste Strategy (RAWS) implementation

Several Government RAWS consultations were reported on in our January 2022 update and Government decisions are anticipated over the coming weeks. Consultations include:

- Waste Prevention Programme
- Consistent Recycling
- Deposit Return Scheme (DRS) for Drinks Containers
- Single Use Plastics
- Digital Waste Tracking / Waste Crime

[Link to waste prevention consultation](#)

[Link to consistent recycling consultation](#)

[Link to DRS consultation](#)

[Link to single use plastics consultation](#)

[Link to mandatory digital waste tracking consultation](#)

Expansion of waste prevention, reuse and recycling activity to achieve zero avoidable waste.

Link to waste crime consultation	
<p>Plastic Packaging Tax The tax came into force on 01.04.22. Producers of plastic packaging with less than 30% recycled content are liable to pay a tax of £200 per tonne of packaging. Link to plastic packaging tax</p>	<p>Supports expansion of plastics recycling.</p>
<p>Environmental Targets consultation On 16.03.22 DEFRA launched a consultation on setting long-term targets required by the Environment Act 2021. Proposals include reducing residual waste by 50% by 2042 from 2019 levels and developing a target to support a doubling of resource productivity by 2050. Targets will also be set across the biodiversity, water and air quality agendas. Link to consultation</p>	<p>Supports action across prevention, reuse, recycling and circular economy to reduce residual waste.</p>
<p>Household Waste Recycling Centre (HWRC) consultations On 11.04.22 DEFRA launched a consultation on preventing charges for ‘DIY waste’ at HWRCs. Government aims to clarify legislation on construction waste and when it should be treated as household DIY waste requiring free disposal.</p> <p>Alongside the consultation, DEFRA are gathering evidence on the continued use of HWRC booking systems following the pandemic and any links with recycling performance and fly tipping. Link to consultation and call for evidence</p>	<p>There are no household ‘DIY waste’ charges at Merseyside HWRCs.</p> <p>Booking systems have been removed at Merseyside HWRCs except for users with vans and trailers.</p>
<p>Developing the UK Emissions Trading Scheme (ETS) consultation On 25.03.22 BEIS launched a consultation on developing the UK ETS. Proposals include extending the ETS to energy from waste (EfW) by the mid-late 2020s to encourage reduced fossil carbon emissions from incinerators, e.g. from the combustion of plastics. Link to consultation</p>	<p>Promotes action to reduce residual waste and capture carbon at EfW facilities.</p>

<p>Waste Collection Services Guidance DEFRA 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, e.g. staff availability, fuel shortages, etc. Link to DEFRA Guidance</p>	<p>Follow guidance if service delivery resources become limited.</p>
<p>INTERNATIONAL</p>	
<p>UN Climate and Biodiversity Summits The COP 26 Climate summit in November 2021 was considered a partial success, but there is concern that actions are not being taken quickly enough to avoid dangerous climate heating. COP 27 in Egypt in November 2022 will aim to deliver further progress on cutting carbon emissions.</p> <p>The second part of the COP 15 Biodiversity summit is now expected to take part in late 2022 in China. The Summit aims to agree a post 2020 Global Biodiversity Framework to conserve natural capital and reduce pollution including eliminating “discharge of plastic waste”.</p> <p>On 02.03.22 the UN Environment Assembly committed to develop a legally binding treaty on plastic waste by 2024. The treaty is expected to reduce plastic waste by addressing the full life cycle of plastic including design, production and disposal.</p>	<p>Accelerated action required to avoid dangerous climate heating.</p> <p>Biodiversity risks from over-consumption of material resources.</p> <p>International action to reduce plastic waste.</p>
<p>EU Green Deal proposals On 22.03.22 new proposals were announced to support the transition to an EU circular economy. Measures aim to make sustainable products the norm, empower consumers and take targeted action on textiles and construction products. Link to EU press release</p>	<p>UK may adopt similar measures to maintain equivalent environmental / trade standards with EU.</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
2030	50% reduction in food waste in the UK compared with 2007 (UN SDG 12.3) 50% reduction in greenhouse gas emissions associated with food and drink consumed in the UK compared with 2015 50% of fresh food sourced from areas with sustainable water management	UK Courtauld Commitment 2030
2030	Eliminate landfilling of food waste	UK Clean Growth Strategy 2017 (BEIS)

2030	Reduce the amount of local authority collected municipal waste landfilled to 2%	Resources Merseyside 2011 - 2041
2030	Reduce total waste arisings from households by 8% based on 2011 levels	Resources Merseyside 2011 -2041
2030	60% of municipal waste reused or recycled	EU target (not adopted in England)
2035	Reduce carbon emissions by 78% of 1990 levels	UK Climate Change Act (amended)
2035	65% of municipal waste reused or recycled	EU target adopted in English law
2035	Landfill of municipal waste limited to 10%	EU target adopted in English law
2040	Net zero carbon Liverpool City Region	LCR Metro Mayor
2042	Eliminate avoidable plastic waste	England 25 Year Environment Plan 2018 (DEFRA)
2050	Zero avoidable waste and a doubling of resource productivity	UK Clean Growth Strategy 2017 (BEIS)
2050	Reduce carbon emissions by 100% of 1990 levels	UK Climate Change Act 2008 (amended)



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