

# RESOURCES & WASTE POLICY UPDATE



MERSEYSIDE RECYCLING & WASTE AUTHORITY

MERSEYSIDE... A PLACE  
WHERE NOTHING IS WASTED

APRIL 2023

## Policy Updates:

| POLICY DEVELOPMENT   | IMPLICATIONS   |
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| <b>LIVERPOOL CITY REGION (LCR)</b>   |  |
| <p><b>Zero Waste 2040 Strategic Framework</b><br/>The Framework aims to achieve zero avoidable waste across the Liverpool City Region by 2040 and has been approved by the waste collection and disposal authorities of Halton, Liverpool, Knowsley, MRWA, St Helens and Wirral. It outlines how the impact of material resource use can be reduced to cut carbon emissions across the city region. The Framework is set around themes of people, planet and economy and promotes a system change towards a circular economy and increased social value through reducing waste. Strategies and action plans will be developed to deliver the goals of the Framework.<br/><a href="#">Link to LCR Zero Waste 2040 Strategic Framework</a></p> | <p><b>Reducing waste supports LCR's net zero carbon, social value, green jobs and skills and circular economy goals.</b></p> |
| <p><b>Pathway to Net Zero</b><br/>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 and a net zero action plan will follow.<br/><a href="#">Link to Pathway to Net Zero (Item 104)</a></p>   | <p><b>Action to reduce waste is key to delivering net zero carbon.</b></p>   |

## NATIONAL

### Environment Act 2021

The Act 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:

- consistent household and business waste recycling collections across England
- extended producer responsibility schemes to make producers pay for the cost of managing waste, e.g., packaging
- deposit schemes, e.g., drinks containers
- product resource efficiency standards
- charges on purchases of single use items.

Regulations and systems to implement the new powers are in the development.

[Link to Environment Act 2021](#)

[Link to GOV.UK press release](#)

**Expansion of materials to be collected for recycling.**

**Mandatory food waste collections.**

**Adaptation of services and infrastructure towards zero waste.**

### Environmental Improvement Plan (EIP) 2023

DEFRA published the EIP on 31.01.23 and confirmed a long-term target of reducing all residual waste by 50% by 2042 from a 2019 baseline. The EIP contains 10 goals, including Goal 5 – Maximise our resources, minimise our waste. A programme will follow to prioritise waste reduction across sectors including construction, textiles, furniture, electronics, vehicles, food and plastics. The Plan also announced detailed interim residual waste reduction targets to be achieved by 2028 to support the long term 2042 target, including specific targets for food and plastic wastes.

[Link to EIP 2023](#)

**Actions to promote waste prevention, reuse and recycling support residual waste reduction and zero waste.**

### Net Zero Plan – Powering Up Britain

The reviewed plan was published on 30.03.23 with a focus on energy security and net zero growth. The plan promotes carbon capture and seeks to promote expansion of technologies to remove carbon from industrial and combustion processes. The plan reiterated a range of waste policy proposals aimed at reducing waste and a Green Jobs Delivery Group will identify skills gaps preventing expansion of a circular economy.

**Concern that the plan lacks ambition and may not achieve UK net zero carbon by 2050.**

**Further policies to follow to reduce carbon emissions from waste.**

[Link to plan](#)

### **Packaging Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR) implementation**

On 26.03.22 DEFRA announced the outcome of this 2021 consultation. Proposals aim to improve recycling rates by incentivising the design and manufacture of easier to recycle packaging. DEFRA are now developing detailed plans and regulations for an April 2024 start.

Key decisions included:

- Producers, e.g., packaging brand owners, will fund local authorities (LAs) the necessary costs of managing household packaging waste (excluding ground litter) from April 2024
- This cost transfer from public to private sector is estimated as £1.7 billion p.a
- LAs must operate efficient and effective waste systems to receive full payments
- Necessary costs relate to packaging waste collection, sorting, HWRCs, street litter and 'on the go' recycling bins, residual waste treatment, communications, and data collation
- A Scheme Administrator will receive Producer fees and make payments to LAs
- Producers will pay fees based on the amount of packaging placed on the market. Fees will be higher for difficult to recycle packaging
- Business waste may be brought into the scheme later following scheme review in 2026/27.

[Link to consultation outcome](#)

**Easier to recycle packaging, reduced carbon emissions.**

**Transfer of household packaging waste management costs from LAs to businesses.**

**Incentivises efficient and effective LA waste management systems.**

**EPR initiatives expected for other products and wastes.**

### **Consistent Recycling consultation**

DEFRA consulted on consistent recycling proposals in 2021 but final proposals are delayed. Measures are expected to increase the range of materials to be collected for recycling and to reduce confusion by specifying a consistent set of materials for recycling collections across England, including plastic pots, tubs and trays, cartons, and food waste.

[Link to consultation](#)

**Increased recycling rates, reduced carbon emissions.**

**Expansion of materials to be collected for recycling.**

**Review and adaptation of waste services and infrastructure.**

**Funding and implementation timescales to be confirmed.**

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| <p><b>Deposit Return Scheme (DRS) for Drinks Containers consultation</b><br/> Following a 2021 consultation, DEFRA published proposals on 20.01.23 to implement a DRS from October 2025. The DRS aims to reduce littering and incentivise increased recycling of drinks containers by adding a deposit to the cost of purchases. The deposit is redeemed when a container is returned to a designated return point, e.g., a shop or a return vending machine. In England, the scheme will include plastic PET drinks bottles and metal drinks cans up to 3 litres in volume. An industry led Deposit Management Organisation (DMO) will manage DRS operations, set the deposit value and be responsible for meeting collection targets rising to 90% of in-scope containers by year 3 of operations. Retailers of in-scope containers must provide return points, whilst strategic locations, including transport hubs, may also be encouraged to host return points.<br/> <a href="#">Link to consultation outcome</a></p> | <p><b>Increased recycling, reduced littering and carbon emissions.</b></p> <p><b>The scheme will be funded by producers of drinks containers.</b></p> <p><b>Potential diversion of material away from kerbside recycling services.</b></p> <p><b>Opportunity to host return points at transport hubs and other locations.</b></p> |
| <p><b>Single Use Plastics (SUPs) ban</b><br/> In 2021 DEFRA consulted on extending the single use plastics ban to additional items. On 14.01.23 it was confirmed that SUPs including plastic plates, bowls, trays, cutlery and polystyrene drinks and food packaging will be banned for sale from October 2023. DEFRA are also considering action on plastic items including wet wipes, tobacco filters, sachets and single use cups, and how reuse and refill can be incentivised.<br/> <a href="#">Link to press release.</a><br/> <a href="#">Link to consultation outcome</a></p>   | <p><b>Supports zero waste and promotes reusable alternatives.</b></p>   |
| <p><b>Other Government consultation outcomes due:</b></p> <p><b>Waste Prevention Programme consultation</b><br/> DEFRA consulted on a new Waste Prevention Programme for England in 2021. The new programme is expected to set out waste prevention and reuse initiatives across a wide range of materials and to improve local reuse and repair services and facilities, including at HWRCs.<br/> <a href="#">Link to consultation</a></p>   | <p><b>Most Government responses to consultations are delayed.</b></p> <p><b>Achieve zero avoidable waste and reduce carbon emissions through more prevention, reuse, recycling.</b></p>   |

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| <p><b>Household Waste Recycling Centre (HWRC) consultations</b><br/> In Spring 2022 DEFRA consulted on measures to prevent charging for DIY waste at HWRCs and launched a call for evidence on the use of booking systems to visit HWRCs. Government is concerned that charging and booking systems cause fly tipping, although evidence to support this is limited. Merseyside residents are currently not charged for bringing household waste to HWRCs and booking systems are limited to van and trailers users to prevent trade waste from entering sites.<br/> <a href="#">Link to consultation and call for evidence</a></p> <p><b>UK Carbon Emissions Trading Scheme (ETS) consultation</b><br/> In Spring 2022 BEIS consulted on developing the ETS, including proposals to extend the scheme to energy from waste facilities by the mid – late 2020's. The ETS would target fossil carbon emissions, e.g., from combustion of plastics.<br/> <a href="#">Link to consultation</a></p> <p><b>Digital Waste Tracking / Waste Crime consultations</b><br/> In 2021 DEFRA released consultations on the introduction of mandatory digital waste tracking and on reform of the waste carrier, broker, dealer registration system. The consultations aim to improve the accuracy, coverage and timeliness of waste data reporting and to reduce waste crime.<br/> <a href="#">Link to mandatory digital waste tracking consultation</a><br/> <a href="#">Link to reform of the waste carrier, broker, dealer registration system consultation</a></p> | <p><b>Digitalisation of data reporting systems for all wastes.</b></p> <p><b>Implementation timescales to be confirmed.</b></p>                                       |
| <p><b>Consultations on the horizon</b><br/> DEFRA consultations on waste collection statutory guidance and strengthening producer responsibility systems for electrical and battery wastes are expected but delayed. Separate consultations on extending producer responsibility to additional wastes, e.g., textiles, bulky / furniture wastes, may follow before 2025.</p>  | <p><b>Statutory guidance on waste collection.</b></p> <p><b>Increased responsibility for businesses to reduce waste and support reuse and recycling services.</b></p> |

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| <p><b>Persistent Organic Pollutants (POPs)</b><br/> International agreements require the destruction of products containing POPs above defined levels. The Environment Agency (EA) is concerned about the POPs content of domestic upholstered seating appearing in the waste stream and risks to the environment. EA guidance includes a landfill ban for waste upholstered domestic seating from January 2023 and requirements to segregate POPs waste from other materials. Further EA guidance to follow.<br/> <a href="#">Link to Environment Agency guidance</a></p> | <p><b>POPs domestic seating wastes must be removed from the environment by incineration only.</b></p> <p><b>More waste materials may require segregation to ensure POPs destruction.</b></p> <p><b>Implications for waste collection, storage and treatment.</b></p> |
| <p><b>Prioritising Waste Collection Guidance</b><br/> 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, vehicle or fuel shortages and industrial action.<br/> <a href="#">Link to DEFRA Guidance</a></p>   | <p><b>Follow the guidance if waste services require prioritisation.</b></p>  |
| <p><b>INTERNATIONAL</b></p>  |  |
| <p><b>EU Waste and Resources Action</b><br/> EU proposals published on 30.12.22 aim to promote reusable and refillable packaging and ensure all packaging is easily recyclable by 2030.<br/> <a href="#">Link to press release</a><br/> <a href="#">Link to EU packaging waste proposals</a></p>   | <p><b>UK may adopt similar measures in future to maintain Brexit alignment of UK – EU environmental standards.</b></p>   |
| <p><b>UN IPCC Climate Change report</b><br/> Following years of detailed work, the Inter-Governmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) published its latest report on 20.03.23. The report emphasises that limiting global temperature rise to 1.5C is still possible but only if we act immediately to reach peak carbon emissions before 2025.<br/> <a href="#">Link to report</a></p>   | <p><b>Accelerated climate action required to avoid dangerous global heating.</b></p> <p><b>Zero waste action can reduce carbon emissions.</b></p>  |



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| <p><b>UN COP15 Biodiversity Summit</b><br/> The Covid delayed Summit was split into two halves with a virtual session in October 2021 followed by a face-to-face meeting in Montreal December 2022. The Summit agreed a post 2020 Global Biodiversity Framework to conserve natural capital and reduce pollution including eliminating the 'discharge of plastic waste' and promoting sustainable consumption.<br/> <a href="#">Link to COP 2015</a></p> | <p><b>Biodiversity at risk from climate change and unsustainable consumption of material resources.</b></p> |
| <p><b>UN Plastics Treaty</b><br/> Negotiations have commenced on an international treaty to reduce plastic waste. The UN has committed to develop a legal binding treaty by 2024 with an aim to end plastic pollution by 2040.</p>   | <p><b>Supports action to reduce single use plastics and plastic packaging waste.</b></p>                    |

## Targets Tracker:

| Year | Target   | Source   |
|------|--|--|
| 2024 | Implement packaging Extended Producer Responsibility                             | Environmental Improvement Plan 2023 (DEFRA)  |
| 2025 | 55% reuse and recycling of LCR waste   | LCR Year One Climate Action Plan 2021-22<br>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   |

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| <b>2025</b> | All plastic packaging placed on the market being recyclable, reusable or compostable  | Our Waste, Our Resources: A Strategy for England 2018 (DEFRA)          |
| <b>2025</b> | 70% of all plastics packaging waste effectively recycled or composted   | UK Plastics Pact 2018  |
| <b>2025</b> | Introduce a deposit return scheme for plastic & metal drinks containers   | Environmental Improvement Plan 2023 (DEFRA)                            |
| <b>2028</b> | Near elimination of biodegradable municipal waste to landfill   | Environmental Improvement Plan 2023 (DEFRA)                            |
| <b>2028</b> | <p>Reduce residual waste (excluding major mineral waste) produced per person by 24% (to 437kg)</p> <p>Reduce residual waste (excluding major mineral waste) tonnage by 21% (to 25.5 million tonnes)</p> <p>Reduce municipal residual waste produced per person by 29% (to 333kg)</p> <p>Reduce residual municipal</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• food waste produced per person by 50% (to 64kg)</li> <li>• plastic waste produced per person by 45% (to 42kg)</li> <li>• paper and card waste produced per person by 26% (to 74kg)</li> <li>• metal waste produced per person by 42% (to 10kg)</li> <li>• glass waste produced per person by 48% (to 7kg)</li> </ul> | Environmental Improvement Plan 2023 (DEFRA)                            |
| <b>2030</b> | Reduce carbon emissions by 68% of 1990 levels   | UK agreed contribution to achieving UN climate goals (Paris Agreement) |



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| <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     |

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| <b>2040</b> | Net zero carbon Liverpool City Region   | LCR Metro Mayor                               |
| <b>2040</b> | Zero avoidable waste in LCR   | LCR Zero Waste 2040 Strategic Framework       |
| <b>2042</b> | Halve residual waste produced per person from 2019 levels (excluding major mineral waste) to at least 287kg | Environmental Improvement Plan 2023 (DEFRA)   |
| <b>2042</b> | Eliminate avoidable plastic waste   | England 25 Year Environment Plan 2018 (DEFRA) |
| <b>2042</b> | Seek to eliminate waste crime   | Environmental Improvement Plan 2023 (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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