

RESOURCES & WASTE POLICY UPDATE



MERSEYSIDE RECYCLING & WASTE AUTHORITY

MERSEYSIDE... A PLACE
WHERE NOTHING IS WASTED

AUGUST 2023

Policy Updates:

POLICY DEVELOPMENT	IMPLICATIONS
LIVERPOOL CITY REGION (LCR)	
<p>Zero Waste 2040 Strategic Framework The Framework has been approved by all 7 waste collection and disposal authorities in the Liverpool City Region Strategic Waste Management Partnership. It aims to achieve zero avoidable waste across the LCR by 2040 and 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 through reducing waste. Strategies and actions will be developed to deliver the Framework's goals. Link to LCR Zero Waste 2040 Strategic Framework</p>	<p>Zero waste supports net zero carbon, social value, green skills / jobs and circular economy goals.</p>
<p>CA 5 Year Climate Action Plan The Plan was approved on 14.07.23 and identifies LCR Combined Authority (CA) climate actions across transport, buildings, industry, clean energy and the natural environment. It recognises the circular economy as a theme running through the Plan and the opportunity to work with LCR partners to support</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Businesses become more circular by promoting increased resource efficiency, and • Delivery of a Circular City Region Scan to understand material resource flows and waste generation across LCR. 	<p>Opportunities for CA and Strategic Waste Management Partnership joint working.</p> <p>Work together to grow the circular economy and cut carbon emissions.</p>

The Plan identifies the need to reduce consumption and change behaviours across the city region and aligns with the LCR Zero Waste Strategic Framework goals to reduce all waste. A final version of the Plan will follow shortly.

[Link to Draft CAP at item 7](#)

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](#)

Government delay in implementing key proposals.

Expansion of materials to be collected for recycling.

Mandatory food waste collections.

Adaptation of services and infrastructure towards zero waste.

Residual waste reduction targets.

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. 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](#)

Reduce residual waste.

Waste Prevention Programme for England

The new Programme was published on 28.07.23 following consultation in 2021. The Programme identifies 7 key materials or sectors for action including: construction; textiles; furniture and furnishings; electrical and electronic products; road vehicles; packaging, plastic and single use items; and food and drink. The Programme summarises recent and existing actions and some new proposals including:

- Revision of waste hierarchy guidance
- Develop best practice guidance on reuse for LAs in 2023 including reuse reporting
- The guidance may focus on HWRCs and bulky waste collections
- Case studies of successful reuse hubs
- Development of producer responsibility for textiles
- Develop options for furniture EPR including mattresses
- Consult by 2025 on removing charges for bulky household waste collections
- Consult in 2023 on improve WEEE and batteries EPR, including vapes
- Consult on banning the sale of wet wipes containing plastics.

[Link to Waste Prevention Programme for England](#)

Takes forward useful work in areas, but progress is slow in others including food waste prevention.

Proposals to remove bulky waste charges may be developed alongside measures to introduce furniture / furnishings EPR and ensure free collections for households.

Packaging Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR) implementation

Following consultation, DEFRA announced proposals in March 2022 to incentivise producers to design and manufacture easier to recycle packaging.

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)
- The cost transfer from public to private sector is estimated at over £1 billion p.a
- LAs must operate efficient and effective waste systems to receive full payments
- Necessary costs relate to packaging waste collection, sorting, HWRCs, litter bins 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

Producer EPR payments to LAs from 2025/26.

Easier to recycle packaging, reduced carbon emissions.

Transfer of £1 billion+ annual costs from LAs to businesses.

Incentivises efficient and effective LA waste services.

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Business waste may be brought into the scheme later. <p>On 25.07.23 DEFRA announced the start of EPR payments to LAs would be deferred by 12 months to October 2025. This follows business concerns about increased costs and inflation. A consultation followed on 28.07.23 covering the Draft EPR regulations and closes 09.10.23.</p> <p>Link to 2022 consultation outcome Link to GOV.UK press release on EPR deferral July 2023 Link to Draft EPR regulations consultation July 2023</p>	
<p>Consistent Recycling consultation</p> <p>DEFRA consulted on consistent recycling proposals in 2021 but final proposals are delayed. On 25.07.23 DEFRA announced a deferral of packaging EPR payments by 12 months to October 2025 and that consistent recycling for households will come in after EPR implementation. DEFRA are unable to clarify consistent recycling timescales further at this time, including start dates for collecting consistent materials.</p> <p>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.</p> <p>Link to consultation</p>	<p>Increased recycling rates, reduced carbon emissions.</p> <p>Expansion of materials to be collected for recycling.</p> <p>Review and adaptation of waste services and infrastructure.</p> <p>Funding and implementation timescales to be confirmed.</p>
<p>Deposit Return Scheme (DRS) for Drinks Containers</p> <p>Following consultation, DEFRA published proposals in January 2023 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.</p> <p>Link to consultation outcome</p>	<p>Increased recycling, reduced littering and carbon emissions.</p> <p>The scheme will be funded by producers of drinks containers.</p> <p>Potential diversion of material away from kerbside recycling services.</p> <p>Opportunity to host return points at transport hubs and other locations.</p>

<p>Single Use Plastics (SUPs) ban Following consultation, DEFRA have extended the single use plastics ban to additional items. In January 2023 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. Link to press release. Link to consultation outcome</p>	<p>Supports zero waste and promotes reusable alternatives.</p>
<p>Household Waste Recycling Centre (HWRC) consultations Following consultation, DEFRA have announced that reasonable amounts of DIY waste can be taken to HWRCs free of charge by householders. Legislative changes will follow later in 2023. DEFRA have also reviewed the use of booking systems at HWRCs but are not proposing any change in policy at this time.</p> <p>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. Link to consultation outcome</p>	
<p>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. Link to plan</p>	<p>Concern that the plan may not achieve UK net zero carbon by 2050.</p> <p>Reduce carbon emissions from waste.</p>

<p>UK Carbon Emissions Trading Scheme (ETS) consultation Following consultation, Government have announced that the UK ETS will be extended to cover incineration and energy from waste facilities from 2028. Anaerobic digestion will not be included in the Scheme. The ETS will incentivise reduced carbon emissions from facilities and target emissions from the combustion of plastics and other materials with a high fossil carbon content. Further consultation will follow on implementation of the Scheme. Link to consultation outcome</p>	<p>Reduce plastic content of residual waste.</p> <p>Implement carbon capture at EfW facilities.</p> <p>Decarbonise the waste sector as soon as possible.</p>
<p>Other Government consultation outcomes due:</p> <p>Call for Evidence on Near Elimination of Biodegradable Waste to Landfill DEFRA are developing policies to achieve the near elimination of biodegradable waste to landfill. Biodegradable waste includes food and garden waste, paper, card, wood and some textiles. These materials degrade in landfill producing methane gas which contributes to climate change. The trajectory to UK net zero 2050 requires the near elimination of biowaste to landfill from 2028. Link to consultation</p> <p>Digital Waste Tracking / Waste Crime consultations 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. Link to mandatory digital waste tracking consultation Link to reform of the waste carrier, broker, dealer registration system consultation</p>	<p>Reduce residual waste.</p> <p>Reform of data reporting systems for all wastes.</p> <p>Digital waste tracking response expected 2023.</p>
<p>Consultations on the horizon DEFRA consultations are expected on:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Waste collection statutory guidance. • Stronger producer responsibility systems for electricals, battery, textiles and furnishings waste. • Removing fees for bulky domestic furniture collections. 	<p>Statutory guidance for recycling and residual waste collections.</p> <p>Expansion of producer responsibility.</p>

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Banning the sale of wet wipes containing plastic. 	<p>Removal of bulky waste collection charges.</p> <p>Opportunity to improve reuse of bulky wastes.</p>
<p>Persistent Organic Pollutants (POPs) International agreements require the destruction of waste 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 in bulky waste collections and at waste sites. Additional wastes may be brought into the scope of POPs regulation. Link to Environment Agency guidance</p>	<p>POPs domestic seating wastes must be incinerated.</p> <p>Segregation of POPs waste from other materials.</p> <p>Potential expansion of wastes covered by POPs rules.</p>
<p>Increased Littering and Fly-tipping Fines The upper limits for various fixed penalty notices (FPNs) were increased on 31.07.23 to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • £1,000 for fly-tipping. • £500 for littering. • £600 for household waste duty of care breaches. <p>Government is developing proposals to ensure receipts from FPN fines are ringfenced to fund enforcement and clean-up activities. Link to new regulations Link to GOV.UK press release Link to Anti-Social Behaviour Action Plan</p>	<p>Increased fines are part of wider measures to tackle anti-social behaviour.</p> <p>Proposals include controlling the supply and possession of nitrous oxide under drugs legislation.</p>
<p>Prioritising Waste Collection - Guidance The Guidance covers all scenarios where waste collection resources may become limited, e.g., staff, vehicle or fuel shortages, industrial action, extreme weather and emergency situations. Link to DEFRA Guidance</p>	<p>Follow the guidance if the capacity to deliver waste services is affected.</p>

INTERNATIONAL

EU Waste and Resources Action

Proposals published on 05.07.23 aim to introduce a textiles extended producer responsibility (EPR) scheme across all EU member states and increase textiles reuse and recycling.

[Link to European Commission press release](#)

Supports textiles circular economy growth.

UK may adopt similar measures in future to maintain Brexit alignment of UK – EU environmental standards.

UN Plastics Treaty

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.

[Link to more information](#)

Reduce single use plastics and plastic packaging waste.

UN IPCC Climate Change report

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.

[Link to report](#)

Accelerated climate action required to avoid dangerous global heating.

Zero waste action can reduce carbon emissions.

UN COP 28 Climate Summit

COP 28 takes place from 30.11.23 to 12.12.23 and is hosted by Dubai in the United Arab Emirates. The conference will take stock of global progress since the 2015 Paris Agreement on limiting global temperature rise to 1.5C by 2050.

[Link to COP 28](#)

Accelerated climate action required to avoid dangerous global heating.

UN COP15 Biodiversity Summit

The Covid delayed Summit concluded 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.

[Link to COP 15](#)

Biodiversity at risk from climate change and unsustainable consumption of material resources.

Targets Tracker:

Year	Target	Source
2025	Implement packaging Extended Producer Responsibility	Environmental Improvement Plan 2023 (DEFRA)
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
2025	Introduce a deposit return scheme for plastic & metal drinks containers	Environmental Improvement Plan 2023 (DEFRA)
2028	Near elimination of biodegradable municipal waste to landfill	Environmental Improvement Plan 2023 (DEFRA)
2028	Reduce residual waste (excluding major mineral waste) produced per person by 24% (to 437kg)	Environmental Improvement Plan 2023 (DEFRA)

	<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"> • food waste produced per person by 50% (to 64kg) • plastic waste produced per person by 45% (to 42kg) • paper and card waste produced per person by 26% (to 74kg) • metal waste produced per person by 42% (to 10kg) • glass waste produced per person by 48% (to 7kg) 	
2030	Reduce carbon emissions by 68% of 1990 levels	UK agreed contribution to achieving UN climate goals (Paris Agreement)
2030	<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 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
2040	Zero avoidable waste in LCR	LCR Zero Waste 2040 Strategic Framework
2042	Halve residual waste produced per person from 2019 levels (excluding major mineral waste) to at least 287kg	Environmental Improvement Plan 2023 (DEFRA)
2042	Eliminate avoidable plastic waste	England 25 Year Environment Plan 2018 (DEFRA)
2042	Seek to eliminate waste crime	Environmental Improvement Plan 2023 (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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