

RESOURCES & WASTE POLICY UPDATE



MERSEYSIDE RECYCLING & WASTE AUTHORITY

MERSEYSIDE... A PLACE
WHERE NOTHING IS WASTED

JULY 2024

Policy Updates:

POLICY DEVELOPMENT

LIVERPOOL CITY REGION (LCR)

Zero Waste Strategic Framework

The Framework was approved in June 2023 by all 7 waste collection and disposal authorities in the LCR Strategic Waste Management Partnership. It aims to achieve zero avoidable waste by 2040 and outlines how this will cut carbon emissions across the city region. The Framework has themes of people, planet and economy and promotes a system change towards a circular economy through reducing waste. Strategies and actions are in development to deliver the Framework goals.

[Link to LCR Zero Waste 2040 Strategic Framework](#)

LCRCA 5 Year Climate Action Plan

The Plan, approved in July 2023, identifies LCR Combined Authority (LCRCA) 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 aims to support

- 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.

The Plan identifies the need to reduce consumption and change behaviours across the city region. It aligns with the LCR Zero Waste Strategic Framework goals to reduce all waste.

[Link to CA 5 Year Climate Action Plan 2023-28 pdf 64 pages](#)

NATIONAL

DEFRA Environmental Improvement Plan Review

On 30.07.24 DEFRA announced a rapid review of the Environmental Improvement Plan 2023 to be completed by the end of 2024. A new plan will follow, including delivery plans to meet the statutory Environment Act 2021 targets, e.g. reducing residual waste by 50% by 2042 from a 2019 baseline (plus the suite of 2028 interim targets for reducing waste). The latest EIP progress report identifies the need for accelerated action to achieve these targets. The new DEFRA Secretary of State, Steve Reed MP, has identified 5 priorities for DEFRA including “create a roadmap to move Britain to a zero waste economy”. Mary Creagh MP joins the DEFRA ministerial team with responsibilities for circular economy and nature.

[Link to DEFRA EIP Review press release](#)

[Link to Environmental Improvement Plan 2023](#)

[Link to EIP 2023-24 progress report pdf 74 pages](#)

Environment Act 2021

The Act aims to drive an expansion in recycling services alongside a stronger focus on resource efficiency. Key initiatives include:

- A Maximising Resources, Minimising Waste Programme
- Simpler recycling - comprehensive household and business waste recycling collections across England
- Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR) schemes which require producers (e.g. manufacturers, brands and retailers) to pay for the costs of managing household waste
- Deposit return schemes, e.g. for used drinks containers.

Policies and regulations to implement the new powers are in development and we are expecting further announcements from Government.

[Link to Environment Act 2021](#)

[Resources and Waste Strategy for England 2018](#)

Maximising Resources, Minimising Waste Programme

The revised Programme published in July 2023 identifies 7 key areas 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 will support the national target of reducing all residual waste by 50% by 2042 (2019 baseline) and interim targets by 2028.

Proposals include:

- Revise waste hierarchy guidance to promote prevention and reuse

- Develop best practice guidance on reuse for Local Authorities (LAs), including Household Waste Recycling Centres (HWRCs) and bulky waste collections
- Develop case studies of successful reuse hubs
- Develop EPR for textiles, furniture and mattresses
- Improve EPR for electricals and batteries, including vapes
- Consult by 2025 on removing charges for bulky household waste collections.

[Link to Maximising Resources, Minimising Waste 2023](#)

Simpler Recycling

DEFRA announced new Simpler Recycling proposals in October 2023 to:

- Increase recycling rates
- Expand the range of materials in recycling collections from households and business premises
- Require Councils to collect the same recyclables from every home in England
- Give Councils flexibility about how they collect recycling
- Reduce confusion about what can and cannot be recycled.

[Link to Simpler Recycling proposals Oct 2023](#)

Following consultation on the proposals, DEFRA confirmed, on 09.05.24, their intention to introduce regulations to implement the policy and set statutory guidance on waste collection standards. Draft guidance recommends at least fortnightly residual waste collection.

[Link to Govt response to Simpler Recycling consultation 09.05.24](#)

Shortly before Parliament dissolved in May 2024 for the General Election, Government released 3 pieces of regulation to implement the Simpler Recycling policy. The Commencement Regulations confirmed the start dates for Simpler Recycling collections which must take place from 31.03.26 for households and from 31.03.25 for businesses and relevant non-domestic premises.

[Link to Commencement Regulations](#)

Two sets of Separation of Waste Regulations address other details of the policy. The Separation of Waste Regulations identify the detailed materials to be included in Simpler Recycling collections and some additional premises in scope of the policy. Food waste, plastic pots, tubs and trays, plastic film, cartons, aerosols, aluminium foil and food trays would be additional materials for household recycling collections in most areas of LCR. The regulations confirm that plastic film collections must be in place from 31.03.27 and remove requirements around the need for waste collectors to make justifications for not collecting recyclable waste separately (TEEP).

[Link to The Separation of Waste \(England\) Regulations 2024](#)

The second set of Separation of Waste Regulations remain in draft form and are yet to be approved by Parliament. These would provide a wider exemption from the existing separate collection duty to reflect the new Simpler Recycling policy and provide flexibility on recycling collection methods. They would also provide an exemption for micro-firms (businesses and other establishments with less than 10 full time workers) from the 2025 start date and require them to begin Simpler Recycling collections from 31.03.27. Statutory guidance on Simpler Recycling and waste collection is expected once the regulations are completed.

[Link to Draft Separation of Waste \(No. 2\) Regulations 2024](#)

Packaging Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR) implementation

In 2022 DEFRA announced plans to incentivise the design and manufacture of easier to recycle packaging, including:

- Producers (packaging brand owners) to fund the necessary costs of managing household packaging waste
- A Scheme Administrator will receive Producer fees, make payments to LAs and operate the scheme
- LAs must operate efficient and effective waste services to receive full payments
- Necessary costs relate to packaging waste collection, sorting, HWRCs, residual waste treatment, communications, and data collation
- Producers will pay higher fees for difficult to recycle packaging
- Business waste may be brought into the scheme later.

In July 2023 DEFRA deferred the start of EPR payments to LAs to 2025/26 with initial payments expected in late 2025 but backdated to April 2025. LAs will be invited to sign up to the EPR payments system in 2024 and are expected to receive initial estimates of 2025/26 payments by late 2024. Regulations to implement packaging EPR have been drafted and we are expecting further announcements from Government.

[Link to consultation outcome 2022](#)

[Link to GOV.UK press release on EPR deferral July 2023](#)

Deposit Return Scheme (DRS) for Drinks Containers

DEFRA published proposals in January 2023 to implement a DRS from 2025, but on 25.04.24 announced the scheme start is delayed to October 2027. The DRS aims to reduce littering and increase 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. 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 must

provide return points, whilst transport hubs and other locations may also be encouraged to enable drinks container return. Regulations to implement the DRS have been drafted and we are expecting further announcements from Government.

[Link to consultation outcome 2023](#)

[Link to DEFRA DRS statement 25.04.24](#)

UK Carbon Emissions Trading Scheme (ETS)

In July 2023 Government announced proposals to extend the UK ETS to cover Energy from Waste (EfW) facilities from 2028. A phasing in period from 2026 may precede this. The ETS aims to encourage reduced fossil carbon emissions from facilities and the decarbonisation of residual waste, including plastics and other materials with a high fossil carbon content. A further detailed consultation was launched in May, closing on 02.08.24. Key issues in the consultation include; who will be responsible for meeting the cost of acquiring carbon allowances in the scheme; the ability to forecast costs in a fluctuating market-based system, and support for decarbonising waste. Anaerobic digestion facilities will not be included in the ETS.

[Link to consultation outcome 2023](#)

[Link to 2024 consultation](#)

Waste Electricals Reform

In December 2023 DEFRA consulted on reforming the WEEE producer responsibility system to make it easier for residents and businesses to reuse and recycle unwanted electricals. Proposals include the introduction of small WEEE kerbside collections, free large WEEE collections and more options for free takeback of items to retailers. Producers of electrical products would fund the management of these services and may play a role in service delivery. We are waiting for Government's response to this consultation.

[Link to consultation 2023](#)

Single Use Plastics (SUPs) ban

The ban was extended in October 2023 to include most plastic plates, bowls, trays, cutlery and polystyrene drinks and food packaging. DEFRA are considering action on other single use plastics and on 22.04.24 announced plans to ban wet wipes containing plastic. Legislation is expected in 2024 with a ban coming into force 18 months later. We are expecting further announcements from Government.

[Link to GOV.UK press release 14.01.23](#)

[Link to SUP consultation outcome 2023](#)

[Link to plastic wet wipes consultation outcome 2024](#)

Persistent Organic Pollutants (POPs)

International agreements require the destruction of waste products containing POPs above defined levels. The Environment Agency (EA) is taking action to reduce risks to the environment from waste items potentially containing high levels of POPs. Measures include a landfill ban on domestic upholstered seating from January 2023 and requirements to segregate POP's waste from other materials in bulky waste collections and at waste sites by 01.12.24. Restrictions may be extended to other wastes to remove organic pollutants from the environment.
[Link to Environment Agency guidance 2022](#)

Disposable Vapes / Nitrous Oxide Canisters

Following consultation in 2023, Government have drafted legislation with the aim of banning disposable vapes from April 2025. We are waiting for next steps from Government.

[Link to GOV.UK press release 28.01.24](#)

[Link to vapes consultation outcome 2024](#)

Legislation has been introduced to control the misuse of nitrous oxide. Nitrous oxide is now a Class C drug under the Misuse of Drugs Act, but legitimate uses remain.

[Link to GOV.UK press release 08.11.23](#)

Mandatory Digital Waste Tracking

In October 2023 DEFRA confirmed that tracking will be introduced from April 2025. The aim is to replace separate waste data reporting systems with a single way of recording waste and resource movements. Government hopes this will reduce waste crime and support the transition to a circular economy.

[Link to updated proposals Oct 2023](#)

[Link to consultation outcome 2023](#)

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 2021](#)

INTERNATIONAL

UN Plastics Treaty

The UN has committed to develop a legally binding treaty by the end of 2024 with an aim to end plastic pollution by 2040. The 4th round of negotiations completed in Canada during Spring 2024 and a final round of talks will take place in South Korea in November.

[Link to UNEP plastic pollution](#)

UN Climate Summits

COP 28 took place during 2023 and concluded that progress is off track for limiting global temperature rise to 1.5C by 2050. Nations must now develop actions by 2025 to show how they will meet the 2050 target. COP 29 follows in Azerbaijan during November 2024.

[Link to COP 28 conclusion press release 13.12.23](#)

[Link to COP 29](#)

UN IPCC Climate Change 6th Assessment reports

The Inter-Governmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) published a series of reports on the impacts of climate change and opportunities to mitigate and adapt to climate change. The final report from March 2023 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](#)

Steps Towards Zero Waste:

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	Expanded kerbside recycling collections from non-domestic premises	Simpler Recycling 2023
2026	Expanded kerbside recycling collections from households	Simpler Recycling 2023
2027	Introduce a deposit return scheme for plastic / metal drinks containers	DRS Policy Statement 2024 (DEFRA)
2028	Extend the UK Emissions Trading Scheme to Energy from Waste	Developing the UK ETS 2023 (DESNZ)
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) Reduce residual waste (excluding major mineral waste) tonnage by 21% (to 25.5 million tonnes) Reduce municipal residual waste produced per person by 29% (to 333kg) Reduce residual municipal	Environmental Improvement Plan 2023 (DEFRA)

	<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
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)
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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