

RESOURCES & WASTE POLICY UPDATE 26.02.19

POLICY DEVELOPMENT	IMPLICATIONS
LIVERPOOL CITY REGION (LCR)	
<p>Year of the Environment 2019 On 11.01.19 the LCR Mayor hosted the launch of the LCR Year of the Environment. Events will follow through the year with reducing waste as one of 8 themes concluding with a Green Summit in November 2019. The initiative will contribute to the national Year of Green Action launched on 31.12.18. Link to Combined Authority news article Link to LCR Year of the Environment Link to GOV.UK press release</p>	<p>Opportunity to raise awareness of resources and waste issues and pledge action.</p>
<p>LCR Circular Economy Club The Club is coordinating a screening of 'Closing the Loop', a documentary about the circular economy, at the University of Liverpool on 06.03.19. Club membership has now grown to over 50 members. Link to LCR Circular Economy Club Link to Closing the Loop</p>	<p>Promotes circular economy action in LCR.</p>
<p>LCR CA and LEP meetings The LCR Combined Authority last met on 01.02.19 and the next meeting follows on 08.03.19. Link to LCR Combined Authority meeting papers</p> <p>The LEP Board last met on 24.01.19 and the next meeting follows on 21.03.19. Link to LEP Board meeting papers</p>	
NATIONAL	
<p>Our Waste, Our Resources: A Strategy for England The Strategy, launched on 18.12.18, flows from the 25 Year Environment Plan, Clean Growth and Industrial Strategies published in 2017-18. It aims to minimise waste, conserve natural resources and reduce carbon emissions through a stronger focus on resource efficiency and delivering a circular economy.</p> <p>Key proposals on recycling consistency, mandatory food waste collection, free garden waste collection, Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR) for packaging and a Deposit Return Scheme (DRS) for drinks containers are subject to consultations launched on 18.02.19 (see Consultations Update below).</p>	<p>Generational change in approach to resources and waste management.</p> <p>Strong focus on delivering a circular economy.</p>

<p>Link to Strategy</p> <p>Statutory Guidance on the Food and Drink Waste Hierarchy was published alongside the new Strategy to reduce and improve management of food surplus and waste.</p> <p>Link to Statutory Guidance on Food & Drink Waste Hierarchy</p>	
<p>Draft Environment (Principles and Governance) Bill</p> <p>The Bill was published on 19.12.18 and focuses on establishing an 'Office for Environmental Protection' to hold public authorities to account after Brexit backed by a statement of environment principles. More content will be added to the Bill including measures to deliver the new Resources and Waste Strategy. A complete Bill is expected by Summer 2019 with Royal Assent potentially by end of 2019.</p> <p>Link to Draft Bill and Policy paper</p>	<p>Legislation to deliver the new Resources and Waste Strategy.</p> <p>Establishes environmental watchdog post Brexit.</p>
<p>Brexit Update:</p> <p>Withdrawal Agreement and Political Declaration</p> <p>An Agreement and Declaration on the future relationship between the UK and EU were agreed in principle on 25.11.18 at a special European Council meeting. However, the deal was rejected by UK MPs in a Parliamentary vote on 15.01.19. Government is working to amend the Agreement / Declaration and plans a further vote by 12.03.19. If the deal is defeated again, MPs will vote on whether to accept a 'no deal' Brexit or apply for an extension to the 29.03.19 Brexit date.</p> <p>Link to Agreement and Declaration</p> <p>'No Deal' Guidance</p> <p>Government have issued Guidance on a range of issues to help the public, organisations and local government prepare for the possibility of a 'no deal' Brexit.</p> <p>Link to 'No Deal' Brexit Guidance papers</p> <p>Link to Guidance on Local Government Brexit Preparedness</p> <p>Link to Govt 'No Deal' Impact Assessment 26.02.19</p> <p>Link to DEFRA letter 15.01.19 on 'no deal' preparations</p>	<p>Continued uncertainty on the future UK – EU relationship. Reduced risk of a no deal Brexit.</p> <p>Closer UK – EU waste and resources policy alignment with a 'softer' Brexit. Potential increased divergence with a 'hard' or 'no deal' Brexit.</p> <p>Risk of disruption to Government policy announcements due to Brexit focus.</p>
<p>UK Waste Statistics 2017</p> <p>On 14.02.19 DEFRA released UK waste statistics for 2017. The UK waste from households recycling rate increased by 0.5% to 45.7% with England achieving 45.2%. Actual recycling tonnage decreased slightly, but a 103,000 tonne drop in overall waste arisings resulted in an increased recycling rate.</p> <p>Link to UK Waste Statistics 2017 (pdf 20 pages)</p>	<p>Reduced waste arisings.</p> <p>National reuse and recycling target of 50% by 2020.</p> <p>No statutory targets on LAs, but Merseyside Districts and</p>

	<p>MRWA have a pooled 50% recycling target by 2020 via the JRWMS.</p>
<p>Other National Activity</p> <p>Food Waste Champion On 31.12.18 Ben Elliot has appointed as the Government's first Food Surplus and Waste Champion. The role will promote awareness of the issue of food waste, particularly in businesses. Link to press release</p> <p>Investment in Plastic Waste Reduction On 11.01.19 Government announced £6 million of support available for businesses to develop innovative ideas for reducing plastic waste with an application deadline of 13.03.19. Link to GOV.UK news story</p> <p>Environmental Audit Committee Report – Sustainability of the Fashion Industry Final Report The Parliamentary inquiry published its final report on 19.02.19. Recommendations include adoption of extended producer responsibility for the industry and a 1p charge on garment sales to support better textiles collections and sorting. Link to inquiry</p> <p>WRAP Waste and Recycling Toolkit for LAs WRAP have collated a range of advice and guidance on recycling services in a new toolkit. Link to toolkit</p> <p>Clean Air Strategy 2019 Published on 14.01.19 addressing action across a range of air pollution sources including a focus on reducing fine particulate emissions (up to 2.5 micrometers). Air quality measures are expected in the Draft Environment Bill (see above). Link to Strategy</p>	<p>Actions to reduce the impact of food, plastic and textiles resource consumption.</p> <p>WRAP support for LA recycling services.</p>
<p>EU & INTERNATIONAL</p>	
<p>Interreg North West Europe – 9th Call The call, published on 12.12.18, includes a focus on resource and materials efficiency and closes 14.06.19. UK organisations are eligible to apply. Link to 9th call</p>	<p>Funding for resource efficiency projects.</p>

<p>China Waste Import Restrictions The Environment Agency and WRAP continue to monitor the UK situation.</p>	<p>Recycling income losses for LAs. Raise any operational concerns ASAP with the EA.</p>
<p>Other EU & International activity</p> <p>LCR Brussels Office The Brussels Office is part of the LCR Combined Authority and advises stakeholders on EU policy and funding issues and opportunities. All Districts and MRWA have access to its support services.</p>	

CONSULTATION RESPONSES UPDATE 26.02.18

CONSULTATION	DATES	RESPONSE	SUMMARY AND IMPLICATIONS
FUTURE CONSULTATIONS			
WEEE Regulations review	Spring 2019	To confirm	Consultation expected on introduction of a mandatory Producer Balancing System to ensure free clearance of WEEE from LA sites.
EU Circular Economy Package (CEP) Transposition	2019	To confirm	Consultation expected on transposition of revised EU Waste Directives from the CEP into UK law pending Brexit arrangements.
Environmental Principles Policy Statement	2019	To confirm	Consultation expected on the Statement which will be implemented through the Environmental Principles and Governance Bill.
Recycling Consistency	Early 2020	To confirm	To follow the current recycling consistency consultation and consider statutory guidance and minimum service standards for collection.
Packaging Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR)	Early 2020	To confirm	To follow the current packaging producer responsibility consultation and consider the preferred approach in more detail.
New EPR Materials	By 2022 / 2025	To confirm	Consultations expected on introducing new EPR schemes. 2 materials consulted on by 2022, 5 by 2025. May include mattresses, carpets, furniture, textiles, car tyres, fishing nets.

Other consultations expected flowing from the Resources and Waste Strategy 2018 include:

- Mandatory food waste reporting / prevention targets for businesses
- Standards for bio-based and biodegradable plastics
- Waste Duty of Care, Permitting and mandatory digital recording of waste movements.

CURRENT CONSULTATIONS

Consultation on Consistency in Household and Business Recycling Collections in England (DEFRA)	Opened 18.02.19 Closes 13.05.19	To confirm	Proposes a consistent set of recyclables to be collected from households and businesses, including food waste. Minimum service standards, statutory guidance and non-binding performance indicators are proposed for LAs and free garden waste collections. Link to consultation
Consultation on Reforming the UK Packaging Producer Responsibility System (DEFRA)	Opened 18.02.19 Closes 13.05.19	To confirm	Proposes the introduction an Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR) system for packaging by 2023 to ensure that producers cover the full net cost of packaging waste management, including household waste packaging collection, recycling and residual treatment. Link to consultation
Consultation on Introducing a Deposit Return Scheme (DRS) in England, Wales and Northern Ireland (DEFRA)	Opened 18.02.19 Closes 13.05.19	To confirm	Proposes the introduction of a DRS for drinks containers by 2023 including plastic bottles, metal cans and glass bottles. Options include an 'all in' model encompassing containers of all sizes and an 'on the go' model focused on smaller, single container purchases. Link to consultation
Plastic Packaging Tax (HM Treasury)	Opened 18.02.19 Closes 12.05.19	To confirm	Proposes the introduction of a plastic packaging recycled content tax by 2022, to incentivise manufacturers to use recycled material in packaging production. The tax would apply to plastic packaging with less than 30% recycled content. Link to consultation

RESPONSES MADE IN THE LAST 12 MONTHS

Consultation on Proposal to Extend the Single Use Plastic Bag Charge to all Retailers and Increase Minimum Charge to 10p	Submitted 30.01.19	MHWP	The response supported extension of the charge and an increase to 10p. Potential increased use of alternatives, e.g. paper bags, should be monitored. Income from the 10p charge should be invested in waste prevention and reuse initiatives to reduce bag consumption at source.
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Link to consultation			
<p>Consultation on Proposals to Ban the Distribution / Sale of Plastic Straws, Plastic-Stemmed Cotton Buds and Plastic Drink Stirrers in England (DEFRA)</p> <p>Link to consultation</p>	Submitted 03.12.18	MHWP	<p>The response supported introduction of a comprehensive ban at the earliest practical date. The ban can signal Government's intention to tackle single use plastic and set a direction of travel towards delivering more efficient use of resources through the circular economy.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Government Response expected by end March 2019
<p>Consultation on WEEE Compliance Fee Methodology 2018 (DEFRA)</p> <p>Link to consultation</p>	Submitted 16.11.18	MRWA	<p>The response encouraged a compliance fee to be set at a level which incentivises Producer Compliance Schemes to clear WEEE from sites rather than achieving compliance by paying the fee alone.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Government have approved a compliance fee approach for 2018 which supports site clearance
<p>Call for Evidence on Tackling the Plastic Problem - Using the tax system or charges to address single-use plastic waste (HMT)</p> <p>Link to consultation</p>	Submitted 18.05.18	MHWP	<p>The response called for stronger incentives on producers to improve product design for reuse and recycling, and for the availability of affordable reusable alternatives to single use items to increase significantly alongside the introduction of any taxes / charges on items.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • HM Treasury published a summary of responses on 18.08.18 • Consultation on banning plastic straws, cotton buds and stirrers in Oct 2019 (see above). • Budget 2018 announced plans for EPR and increasing plastic packaging recycled content.

MHWP consultation responses can be found at the partnership website [here](#).

TARGETS TRACKER

Year	Action	Requirement
2020	50% of waste from households prepared for re-use or recycled	EU Waste Framework Directive 2008 / The Waste (England & Wales) Regulations 2011 / Joint Recycling & Waste Management Strategy (JRWMS) for Merseyside 2011 - 2041: EU – Statutory National - Statutory Merseyside – JRWMS target (pooled target for MRWA & 5 Districts) Individual LAs – No target
2020	Reduce the amount of local authority collected municipal waste (LACMW) landfilled to 10%	JRWMS: Merseyside – JRWMS target
2025	55% of municipal waste reused or recycled	Revised EU Waste Framework Directive 2018: EU – Statutory National – adoption to be confirmed
2025	20% reduction in UK food and drink waste and carbon emissions compared with 2015	Courtauld Commitment: National - Aspirational
2025	All plastic packaging placed on the market being recyclable, reusable or compostable	Our Waste, Our Resources: A Strategy for England 2018: National - Aspirational
2025	70% of all plastics packaging waste effectively recycled or composted	UK Plastics Pact 2018: National - Aspirational
2030	Eliminate landfilling of food waste	Clean Growth Strategy 2017: National - Aspirational
2030	Reduce the amount of LACMW landfilled to 2%	JRWMS: Merseyside – JRWMS target
2030	Reduce total waste arisings from households by 8% based on 2011 levels	JRWMS: Merseyside – JRWMS target (for WDA & WCAs collectively)

2030	60% of municipal waste reused or recycled	Revised EU Waste Framework Directive 2018: EU – Statutory National – adoption to be confirmed
2035	65% of municipal waste reused or recycled	Revised EU Waste Framework Directive 2018: EU – Statutory National – adoption to be confirmed
2035	Landfill of municipal waste limited to 10%	Revised EU Waste Framework Directive 2018: EU – Statutory National – adoption to be confirmed
2042	Eliminate avoidable plastic waste	25 Year Environment Plan 2018: National - Aspirational
2050	Zero avoidable waste and a doubling of resource productivity	Clean Growth Strategy 2017: National - Aspirational
2050	Reduce carbon emissions by at least 80% of 1990 levels	Climate Change Act 2008: National - Statutory

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