

## RESOURCES & WASTE POLICY UPDATE 20.12.19

| POLICY DEVELOPMENT  | IMPLICATIONS  |
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| <b>LIVERPOOL CITY REGION (LCR)</b>  |   |
| <p><b>LCR Environment Summit</b><br/>           At the 08.11.19 inaugural summit the Metro Mayor announced creation of an LCR Climate Partnership to coordinate the LCR's climate emergency response and a £500k fund to support community environment projects. Afternoon workshops raised awareness of issues including the opportunities and challenges of transitioning to a circular economy as part of the net zero carbon ambition.<br/> <a href="#">Link to LCRCA press release</a></p> | <p><b>Stronger circular economy required to achieve zero carbon and tackle climate emergency.</b></p> |
| <p><b>Local Industrial Strategy (LIS) progress</b><br/>           The evolving LIS strategic framework identifies Clean Growth, a carbon neutral sustainable City Region by 2040, as one of 3 cross-cutting 'Grand Challenges'. The Draft LIS will be shared with BEIS in early January 2020 for sign-off and a detailed implementation phase will follow publication of the LIS expected in late March 2020.</p>   | <p><b>Stronger circular economy supports Clean Growth and LIS.</b></p>                                |
| <p><b>Good Business Festival 2020</b><br/>           On 29.10.19 the Metro Mayor announced the festival will focus on the power of business to effect positive social and environmental change and deliver an inclusive, low carbon economy. The Festival will take place from 6-8<sup>th</sup> October 2020. More details are expected in late January 2020.<br/> <a href="#">Link to LCRCA press release</a><br/> <a href="#">Link to The Good Business Festival</a></p>                      | <p><b>Opportunity to showcase local resource efficient businesses and projects.</b></p>               |
| <p><b>£5m Social Innovation Fund proposal</b><br/>           On 24.10.19 the Metro Mayor announced proposals for a fund to support LCR social economy organisations grow and increase their positive social impact and role in the inclusive economy. It is hoped to launch the fund in 2020.<br/> <a href="#">Link to LCRCA press release</a></p>  | <p><b>Opportunity to support community repair and reuse organisations.</b></p>                        |
| <p><b>LCR CA and LEP meetings</b><br/>           The LCR Combined Authority last met on 06.12.19 and the next meeting follows on 24.01.20.<br/> <a href="#">Link to LCR Combined Authority meeting papers</a></p>   |   |

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| <p>The LEP Board last met on 21.11.19 and the next meeting follows on 23.01.20.<br/> <a href="#">Link to LEP Board meeting papers</a></p>   |   |
| <p><b>NATIONAL</b></p>  |   |
| <p><b>General Election 2019:</b></p> <p><b>Brexit</b><br/> The <b>Conservatives won the 12.12.19 election</b> with a significant majority. This will allow the new Government to proceed with <b>legislation to implement the EU Withdrawal agreement</b> reached on 17.10.19 and meet the extended <b>Brexit deadline of 31.01.20</b>. The agreement includes a <b>transition period to 31.12.20</b> where the UK would continue to follow EU single market and customs rules.</p> <p><b>DEFRA Ministers</b><br/> No changes to the DEFRA ministerial team have been announced following the general election and <b>Theresa Villiers MP continues as Secretary of State</b>. A major <b>Cabinet re-shuffle has been indicated for February</b> assuming Brexit by 31.01.20.</p> <p><b>Conservative Manifesto &amp; Environment</b><br/> Environment and waste issues received light coverage in the election manifesto. A Conservative Government would <b>proceed with the Environment Bill proposals</b>, including measures to improve <b>recycling consistency and extend producer responsibility</b>. The Conservatives would aim to achieve <b>net zero carbon by 2050</b> and create <b>2 million high quality jobs in clean growth</b> in the next decade.<br/> <a href="#">Link to manifesto</a></p> | <p><b>Brexit likely by 31.01.20 with transition period to 31.12.20.</b></p> <p><b>Negotiations on future EU – UK relationship during 2020, including level of environmental standards alignment.</b></p> <p><b>Pressure to weaken alignment to facilitate UK trade deals with non - EU countries.</b></p> <p><b>‘No Deal’ Brexit possible after 31.12.20 if EU – UK negotiations fail to reach agreement.</b></p> <p><b>Uncertainty on longer term UK resources policy with divergence from EU alignment.</b></p> |
| <p><b>Queens Speech 2:</b><br/> The previous session of Parliament (Oct – Nov 2019) lasted less than a month due to the early General Election and the original Environment Bill failed to pass into law. A <b>2<sup>nd</sup> Queens Speech of 2019</b> and State Opening of Parliament <b>followed on 19.12.19</b>.</p> <p><b>Environment Bill</b><br/> The 2<sup>nd</sup> Queens Speech confirmed the Bill will be re-introduced to Parliament. The new Bill is again expected to include <b>measures on recycling consistency, extended producer responsibility, deposit return schemes and charges for some single use plastic (SUP) items to make progress towards a circular economy</b>. It will also ban plastic waste exports to non – OECD countries. More details to follow with publication of the Bill.<br/> <a href="#">Link to Queens Speech &amp; Policy Briefing December 2019</a></p>   | <p><b>Re-introduction of Environment Bill proposals (awaiting publication):</b></p> <p><b>Recycling consistency</b></p> <p><b>Extended Producer Responsibility</b></p> <p><b>Deposit Return Schemes</b></p> <p><b>SUP charges</b></p>   |

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|   | <p><b>Plastic waste export restrictions.</b></p> <p><b>Next steps to be confirmed and consultations to follow.</b></p> |
| <p><b>Net Zero Carbon 2050 - Funding Review</b><br/> On 02.11.19 HM Treasury launched a review on how the transition to net zero should be funded and where the costs would fall across households and businesses. A Treasury report identifying principles to guide future decision-making is expected in Autumn 2020.<br/> <a href="#">Link to HM Treasury review</a><br/> <a href="#">Link to media release</a></p>                              | <p><b>Opportunity to incentivise resource efficiency and waste reduction.</b></p>                                      |
| <p><b>Single Use Plastic (SUP) bans</b><br/> On 05.11.19 Government published draft regulations to ban the sale and distribution of plastic straws, cotton buds, and drink stirrers, with exemptions, from April 2020. In 2018, MHWP submitted a consultation response supporting the bans.<br/> <a href="#">Link to consultation outcome</a></p>   | <p><b>More SUP bans and restrictions expected to follow.</b></p>   |
| <p><b>English LA Waste Statistics 2018-19</b><br/> England's 'waste from households' recycling rate dropped 0.5% to 44.7% in the 2018 calendar year. Some of the decrease may be attributed to the impact of the hot, dry 2018 summer on plant growth and garden waste arisings. The latest statistics also include data on the 'household waste' and 'local authority collected waste' measures.<br/> <a href="#">Link to waste statistics</a></p> | <p><b>England unlikely to meet 50% recycling target in 2020.</b></p>   |
| <p><b>Other National Activity</b></p> <p><b>WRAP reports</b><br/> <a href="#">Link to UK Plastics Pact Annual report 17.12.19</a><br/> <a href="#">Link to Plastic Market Situation report 2019</a><br/> <a href="#">Link to Sustainable Clothing Action Plan reports</a><br/> <a href="#">Link to WRAP Gate Fees report 2019</a></p>   |  |

| <b>EU &amp; INTERNATIONAL</b>  |   |
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| <p><b>UN Climate Change Conference (COP 25)</b><br/> The Madrid 2-15 December 2019 conference put off key decisions on global carbon markets and increasing ambition for emissions reduction for another year. Concerns were raised that limiting global temperature rise to 1.5C is becoming difficult to achieve and global action is too slow.<br/> COP 26 will be hosted by the UK Government in Glasgow during November 2020.<br/> <a href="#">Link to COP 25</a><br/> <a href="#">LINK to UN Statement after COP 25</a></p> <p>Awards were presented to showcase some of the most practical, scalable and replicable examples of climate change action across the globe.<br/> <a href="#">Link to UN Global Climate Action Awards</a></p> <p>Latest UN research on resource efficiency and climate change was launched on 11.12.19, highlighting the potential of materials efficiency strategies to reduce carbon emissions, including from construction.<br/> <a href="#">Link to Resource Efficiency &amp; Climate Change report</a></p> <p>The UN Global Resources Update 2019 identifies that resource extraction and processing accounts for ~half of carbon emissions and ~90% of biodiversity loss / water stress is related to resource use.<br/> <a href="#">Link to Global Resource Update 2019 pdf (162 pages)</a></p> | <p><b>Increased risk of climate heating exceeding a safe level (1.5C).</b></p> <p><b>Opportunity for UK climate action leadership at COP 26.</b></p> <p><b>Global examples of practical climate change and resource efficiency action.</b></p> <p><b>Role of materials resource efficiency in tackling climate heating.</b></p> |
| <p><b>European Green Deal</b><br/> On 11.12.19 the European Commission announced plans for a European Green Deal to make Europe the first climate-neutral continent by 2050. Proposals include an Industrial Strategy and a Circular Economy Action Plan by March 2020 focusing on improved product sustainability for textiles, construction, electronics and plastics. A sustainable food system will be another key action area.<br/> <a href="#">Link to European Green Deal communication</a><br/> <a href="#">Link to press release</a></p>  | <p><b>Prominent role for circular economy in delivering EU net zero carbon.</b></p> <p><b>Green Deal may influence future UK resources policy.</b></p>  |
| <p><b>International Waste Export Restrictions</b><br/> The Environment Agency and WRAP continue to monitor the UK export situation and restrictions across Asia and the Far East continue. The EA and DEFRA are reviewing the regulatory framework to improve the quality of recycle exports.</p>  | <p><b>LAs to raise any operational concerns with EA ASAP.</b></p>   |
| <p><b>Other EU &amp; International activity</b></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.

**CONSULTATION RESPONSES UPDATE 20.12.19**

| CONSULTATION   | DATES                                  | RESPONSE   | SUMMARY AND IMPLICATIONS   |
|--|--|------------|--|
| <b>FUTURE CONSULTATIONS</b>  |  |            |  |
| National Waste Prevention Programme  | TO CONFIRM<br>Was expected Autumn 2019 | To confirm | Consultation expected on a new programme due in Spring 2020 following review of the 2013 programme. Likely to encourage more reuse at HWRCs and more support for community sector waste prevention activity. |
| EU Circular Economy Package (CEP) Transposition  | TO CONFIRM<br>Was expected 2019        | To confirm | Possible consultation on transposition of revised EU Waste Directives from the CEP into UK law pending Brexit arrangements.  |
| Recycling Consistency / Minimum Service Standards Guidance (possibly separate consultations) | Spring 2020 (delay possible)           | To confirm | To follow the 2019 recycling consistency consultation and consider proposals in more detail, including statutory guidance and minimum service standards for waste collection. Implementation from 2023.      |
| Packaging Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR)   | Spring 2020 (delay possible)           | To confirm | To follow the 2019 packaging EPR consultation and consider the preferred approach in more detail. Implementation from 2023.  |
| Deposit Return Scheme (DRS)  | Spring 2020 (delay possible)           | To confirm | To follow the 2019 DRS consultation and consider the preferred approach in more detail. Implementation from 2023.  |

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|  | possible)  |                              |   |
| Plastic Packaging Tax  | Spring 2020<br>(delay possible)                            | To confirm                   | To follow the 2019 tax consultation and consider the preferred approach in more detail. Implementation from 2022.   |
| HWRC Service Standardisation / National Consistency  | 2020   | To confirm                   | Possible consultation. May cover opening hours, accepted wastes, restrictions, charging.  |
| Review of WEEE System  | 2020   | To confirm                   | To improve the current system in line with EPR principles and improve cost recovery by Producers.   |
| 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 textiles, furniture, mattresses, carpets, car tyres, commercial fishing gear.   |
| <b>CURRENT CONSULTATIONS</b>   |  |                              |   |
| Revision of Standard Rules Sets for Biowaste Treatment (EA)<br><a href="#">Link to consultation</a>  | Opened<br>21.10.19<br><br>Closes<br>28.02.20<br>(extended) | Support<br>NAWDO<br>response | The consultation includes proposals to tighten contamination thresholds on biowaste (food / garden waste) inputs to treatment facilities to reduce the content of plastics in composts and the impact on soils. Potential implications for food / garden waste collections.                               |
| <b>RESPONSES MADE IN THE LAST 12 MONTHS</b>  |  |                              |   |
| Consultation on WEEE Compliance Fee Methodology 2019 (DEFRA)<br><a href="#">Link to consultation</a> | Submitted<br>11.11.19                                      | MRWA                         | The response supported setting of a compliance fee for 2019 which incentivises Producer Compliance Schemes to clear WEEE from all LA Designated Collection Facilities.  |
| National Food Strategy Call for Evidence (DEFRA)<br><a href="#">Link to consultation</a>             | Submitted<br>25.10.19                                      | MRWA                         | The response called for the adoption of a more sustainable food system in England based on circular economy principles to tackle the climate emergency and deliver zero carbon targets. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Awaiting Government response. Current timescale is to produce</li> </ul> |

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|   |                       |  | a National Food Strategy by winter 2020 / 21.   |
| <p>Consultation on Consistency in Household and Business Recycling Collections in England (DEFRA)</p> <p><a href="#">Link to consultation</a></p>           | Submitted<br>13.05.19 | Merseyside & Halton Waste Partnership (MHWP) | <p>The response called for local flexibility in the list of materials to be collected for recycling to reflect materials with sustainable markets. MHWP would like to work with Government to understand the true costs and benefits of introducing food waste collections locally and also maintain the ability to charge for garden waste collections if Councils wish. MHWP does not support the requirement for residual waste collections at least every 2 weeks and called for any new collection or recycling requirements expected from 2023 to be fully funded by Government.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Government Response 23.07.19. Further consultation expected Spring 2020. <a href="#">Link to Government Response</a></li> </ul> |
| <p>Consultation on Reforming the UK Packaging Producer Responsibility System (DEFRA)</p> <p><a href="#">Link to consultation</a></p>                        | Submitted<br>13.05.19 | MHWP   | <p>The response supported EPR measures for packaging from 2023, including full net cost recovery by producers for costs incurred by LAs in the management of packaging waste. The new packaging system should be overseen by a single, publically accountable body.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Government Response 23.07.19. Further consultation expected Spring 2020. <a href="#">Link to Government Response</a></li> </ul>  |
| <p>Consultation on Introducing a Deposit Return Scheme (DRS) in England, Wales and Northern Ireland (DEFRA)</p> <p><a href="#">Link to consultation</a></p> | Submitted<br>13.05.19 | MHWP   | <p>The response recognised the benefits of an ‘all in’ DRS in diverting material to recycling, but that there were concerns on the impact of loss of materials from kerbside collections. Any DRS introduced from 2023 should follow reform of the packaging producer responsibility system and ensure LAs are not financially disadvantaged.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Government Response 23.07.19. Further consultation expected Spring 2020. <a href="#">Link to Government Response</a></li> </ul>  |
| <p>Plastic Packaging Tax (HM Treasury)</p> <p><a href="#">Link to consultation</a></p>  | Submitted<br>12.05.19 | MHWP   | <p>The response supported proposals to introduce a tax on plastic packaging with less than 30% recycled plastic content by 2022.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Government Response 23.07.19. Further consultation expected by 2020. <a href="#">Link to Government Response</a></li> </ul>   |
| <p>Consultation on Proposal to Extend the Single Use Plastic Bag</p>  | Submitted<br>30.01.19 | MHWP   | <p>The response supported extension of the charge and an increase to 10p from January 2020. Potential increased use of alternatives, e.g.</p>   |

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| Charge to all Retailers and Increase Minimum Charge to 10p (DEFRA)<br><a href="#">Link to consultation</a> |  |  | paper bags, should be monitored. Income from the 10p charge should be invested in initiatives to reduce bag consumption at source. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Awaiting Government Response.</li> </ul> |
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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                             | <b>EU Waste Framework Directive 2008 / The Waste (England &amp; Wales) Regulations 2011 / Joint Recycling &amp; Waste Management Strategy (JRWMS) for Merseyside 2011 - 2041:</b><br>EU – Statutory<br>National - Statutory<br>Merseyside – JRWMS non-statutory target (pooled target for MRWA & 5 Merseyside Districts)<br>Individual LAs – No target |
| 2020 | Reduce the amount of local authority collected municipal waste (LACMW) landfilled to 10% | <b>JRWMS:</b><br>Merseyside – JRWMS non-statutory target   |
| 2025 | 55% of municipal waste reused or recycled  | <b>Revised EU Waste Framework Directive 2018:</b><br>EU – Statutory<br>National – adoption to be confirmed   |
| 2025 | 20% reduction in UK food and drink waste and carbon emissions compared with 2015         | <b>Courtauld Commitment:</b><br>National – Non-statutory   |
| 2025 | All plastic packaging placed on the market being recyclable, reusable or compostable     | <b>Our Waste, Our Resources: A Strategy for England 2018:</b><br>National – Non-statutory  |
| 2025 | 70% of all plastics packaging waste effectively  | <b>UK Plastics Pact 2018:</b>  |



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|             | <b>recycled or composted</b>  | National – Non-statutory   |
| <b>2030</b> | <b>Eliminate landfilling of food waste</b>                                    | <b>Clean Growth Strategy 2017:</b><br>National – Non-statutory   |
| <b>2030</b> | <b>Reduce the amount of LACMW landfilled to 2%</b>                            | <b>JRWMS:</b><br>Merseyside – JRWMS non-statutory target   |
| <b>2030</b> | <b>Reduce total waste arisings from households by 8% based on 2011 levels</b> | <b>JRWMS:</b><br>Merseyside – JRWMS non-statutory pooled target  |
| <b>2030</b> | <b>60% of municipal waste reused or recycled</b>                              | <b>Revised EU Waste Framework Directive 2018:</b><br>EU – Statutory<br>National – adoption to be confirmed |
| <b>2035</b> | <b>65% of municipal waste reused or recycled</b>                              | <b>Revised EU Waste Framework Directive 2018:</b><br>EU – Statutory<br>National – adoption to be confirmed |
| <b>2035</b> | <b>Landfill of municipal waste limited to 10%</b>                             | <b>Revised EU Waste Framework Directive 2018:</b><br>EU – Statutory<br>National – adoption to be confirmed |
| <b>2040</b> | <b>Zero carbon Liverpool City Region</b>                                      | <b>LCR Metro Mayor</b><br>LCR – Non-statutory  |
| <b>2042</b> | <b>Eliminate avoidable plastic waste</b>                                      | <b>25 Year Environment Plan 2018:</b><br>National – Non-statutory  |
| <b>2050</b> | <b>Zero avoidable waste and a doubling of resource productivity</b>           | <b>Clean Growth Strategy 2017:</b><br>National – Non-statutory   |
| <b>2050</b> | <b>Reduce carbon emissions by 100% of 1990 levels</b>                         | <b>Climate Change Act 2008 (amended 2019):</b><br>National - Statutory                                     |

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