

RESOURCES & WASTE POLICY UPDATE 26.02.20

POLICY DEVELOPMENT	IMPLICATIONS
LIVERPOOL CITY REGION (LCR)	
<p>LCR Climate Partnership Development of an LCR Climate Partnership continues following the LCR Environment Summit in November 2019 and will be chaired by Gideon Ben-Tovim. The Partnership is expected to play a key role in delivering the LCR's Climate Emergency response.</p>	<p>Stronger circular economy required to achieve zero carbon and tackle climate emergency.</p>
<p>Hydrogen Energy BEIS have awarded funding to assess the feasibility of switching from fossil fuels to low carbon hydrogen energy use at manufacturing sites in the LCR, including Unilever (Port Sunlight) and NSG Pilkington (St Helens). Link to BEIS press release</p>	<p>Potential for hydrogen energy use in manufacture to reduce climate impact of products.</p>
<p>LCR CA and LEP meetings The LCR Combined Authority last met on 24.01.20 and the next meeting follows on 28.02.20. Link to LCR Combined Authority meeting papers</p> <p>The LEP Board last met on 23.01.20 and the next meeting follows on 26.03.20. Link to LEP Board meeting papers</p>	
NATIONAL	
<p>Brexit The UK left the EU on 31.01.20 following final agreements at UK and EU levels. The Withdrawal Agreement includes a transition period to 31.12.20 where the UK will remain in the EU single market and customs arrangements. Negotiations on the future UK – EU relationship are expected to start in March 2020. Link to European Union (Withdrawal Agreement) Act 2020 Link to EU approval process for Brexit Link to UK Transition Period briefing Link to EU UK negotiations</p>	<p>Uncertainty on future UK – EU relationship.</p> <p>Possible divergence of UK and EU environmental standards and waste policy alignment.</p>

<p>Government Reshuffle The 13.02.20 reshuffle saw Theresa Villiers MP replaced by George Eustice MP as DEFRA Secretary of State, whilst Alok Sharma MP took over at BEIS and was also appointed as Minister for the UN Climate Conference (COP 26), being hosted by the UK in Glasgow during November 2020. Elsewhere, Rishi Sunak MP became the new Chancellor of the Exchequer with a Budget scheduled for 11.03.20. Link to Ministerial changes Link to George Eustice MP Link to Alok Sharma MP</p>	<p>Opportunity for Government to now deliver on environment and climate pledges.</p>
<p>Environment Bill Following the December 2019 General Election and Queen’s Speech, the Bill was re-introduced to Parliament on 30.01.20 with a first opportunity for debate on 26.02.20. Proposals on waste resources mirror the original Bill published in October 2019, with the addition of powers to ban waste plastic exports to non-OECD (developing) countries. Key areas include powers for new: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • resource efficiency requirements on some products, e.g. ability to repair • extended producer responsibility (EPR) systems, e.g. packaging waste • household and business waste recycling requirements, e.g. separate food waste collections • deposit return schemes (DRS), e.g. drinks containers • charges on single use plastic items (extended from carrier bags) Link to Environment Bill Link to Environment Bill Policy Paper Link to press release</p>	<p>Legal powers for DEFRA to implement 2018 National Resources and Waste Strategy proposals.</p>
<p>National Resources and Waste Strategy (RAWS) progress DEFRA are preparing for the delayed second round of consultations on RAWS proposals for recycling consistency, packaging EPR and DRS which are currently scheduled for summer 2020 with implementation from 2023. Consultation on a new National Waste Prevention Programme and reviews of HWRCs and the Controlled Waste Regs 2012 are also expected in 2020.</p>	<p>Consultations to follow on detailed measures / regulations to deliver national waste strategy proposals.</p>
<p>UN Climate Change Conference (COP 26) On 04.02.20, the Prime Minister launched preparations for the November 2020 conference, which will be the largest global summit ever hosted by the UK. The conference will aim to agree stronger national and international action to tackle the climate emergency and the UK will look to demonstrate global leadership on the issue. Alok Sharma MP will lead conference preparations (see Reshuffle above). Link to COP 26 launch press release Link to COP 26 President appointment press release</p>	<p>Opportunity for UK climate action and circular economy global leadership.</p>

<p>Food Waste Funding and Action Week On 30.01.20 Government announced support, via the WRAP Resource Action Fund, to tackle household food waste, including a £650,000 Citizen Food Waste Behaviour Change Grant for SME's and not for profit organisations to trial new citizen focused food waste behavioural change initiatives. The Stage 1 proposals close on 25.03.20. A national 'Food Waste Action Week' starts on 11.05.20. Link to press release Link to Resource Action Fund</p> <p>On 23.01.20, the Committee on Climate Change published its latest report 'Land Use: Policies for a Net Zero UK' which supports mandatory separate food waste collection by 2023 and consideration of charging by amount of food waste collected. Link to report</p>	<p>Support for household food waste prevention.</p>
<p>WEEE & Batteries Producer Responsibility DEFRA are reviewing the WEEE and batteries producer responsibility systems to incentivise more sustainable product design, increased reuse, recycling and alignment with EPR principles. Consultation is expected by the end of 2020. Link to WEEE Regs 2013 post implementation review (pdf 28 pages)</p> <p>The WEEE Distributor Take-back Scheme (which funds WEEE recycling at HWRCs) will continue until 2022, but large retailers of WEEE will be taken out of the scheme from January 2021 and required to provide in-store take-back (i.e. take more direct responsibility for their end of life products). Link to WEEE Distributor Take-back Scheme (DTS)</p>	<p>Stronger EPR for WEEE and batteries expected.</p> <p>Instore take-back for large retailers of WEEE from 2021.</p> <p>Possibility of reduced WEEE arisings in household waste.</p> <p>Risk of reduced funding for LA WEEE recycling.</p>
<p>Other National Activity</p> <p>On Pack Recycling Labels (OPRL) A new binary 'Recycle' or 'Don't Recycle' national packaging label system was introduced In January 2020. Link to OPRL labelling rules</p> <p>Local Government Funding Settlement 2020-21 The settlement was announced on 24.02.20.</p>	<p>Risk of contamination of LCR recycling collections from OPRL changes.</p>

<p>Link to press release Link to Settlement consultation summary of responses Link to GOV.UK local government spending pages</p> <p>Plastics Packaging Innovation Funding Up to £1 million funding is available to business and research organisations for innovation in sustainable plastic packaging. Applications close 01.04.20. Link to funding</p> <p>House of Commons Plastics report The briefing paper published 07.01.20 summarises issues, Government proposals and voluntary initiatives around plastic waste. Link to report</p> <p>Guidance for Businesses Using Landfill Published 30.01.20. Link to Guidance</p> <p>Joint Unit for Waste Crime Launched The unit was launched 16.01.20 to tackle serious and organised waste crime. Link to press release</p> <p>'Natural Capital' Online Tool Launched Launched on 22.01.20 to help ensure better environmental decision-making. Link to press release</p> <p>WRAP reports Link to Food Waste Collection Impact on Food Waste Arisings report 24.01.20 Link to Compostable Plastic Packaging Guidance 06.02.20 Link to Courtauld Commitment 2025 Milestone Progress report 24.01.20</p>	
<p>EU & INTERNATIONAL</p>	
<p>EU Environmental Standards for Waste Incineration On 03.12.19, new Best Available Techniques (BAT) specifications for waste incineration were published by the EU and aim to reduce the overall environmental impact of incineration. The Environment Agency</p>	<p>Stronger controls on waste incineration emissions.</p>

are assessing how the specifications, published before Brexit, may be applicable in the UK. Link to EU press release	
International Waste Export Restrictions The Environment Agency and WRAP continue to monitor the UK export situation and restrictions across Asia and the Far East continue.	LAs to raise any operational concerns with EA ASAP.

CONSULTATION RESPONSES UPDATE 26.02.20

CONSULTATION	DATES	RESPONSE	SUMMARY AND IMPLICATIONS
FUTURE CONSULTATIONS			
National Waste Prevention Programme	2020	To confirm	Consultation expected on a new programme following review of the 2013 programme. May encourage more reuse at HWRCs and more support for community sector waste prevention activity.
EU Circular Economy Package (CEP) Transposition	2020	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)	Summer 2020	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)	Summer 2020	To confirm	To follow the 2019 packaging EPR consultation and consider the preferred approach in more detail. Implementation from 2023.
Deposit Return Scheme (DRS)	Summer 2020	To confirm	To follow the 2019 DRS consultation and consider the preferred approach in more detail. Implementation from 2023.
Plastic Packaging Tax	2020	To confirm	To follow the 2019 tax consultation and consider the preferred approach in more detail. Implementation from 2022.
HWRC Service Standardisation /	2020	To confirm	Possible consultation. May cover opening hours, accepted wastes,

National Consistency / Controlled Waste Regs 2012			restrictions, charging.
Review of WEEE / Batteries System	2020	To confirm	To improve the current systems 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.
CURRENT CONSULTATIONS			
Revision of Standard Rules Sets for Biowaste Treatment (EA) Link to consultation	Opened 21.10.19 Closes Extended to 28.02.20	Support NAWDO 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. The NAWDO response supports measures to reduce contamination in composts, but raises concerns about the ability of LAs to reduce contamination of input materials to 0.5%. The proposals could be improved by accepting a role for pre-treatment screening in managing contamination of input material, alongside communications to residents.
RESPONSES MADE IN THE LAST 12 MONTHS			
Consultation on WEEE Compliance Fee Methodology 2019 (DEFRA) Link to consultation	Submitted 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. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Government have approved the Joint Trades Association (JTA) compliance fee proposal.
National Food Strategy Call for Evidence (DEFRA) Link to consultation	Submitted 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"> Government response expected by April 2020. Current timescale is to produce a National Food Strategy by winter 2020 / 21.

<p>Consultation on Consistency in Household and Business Recycling Collections in England (DEFRA) Link to consultation</p>	<p>Submitted 13.05.19</p>	<p>Merseyside & Halton Waste Partnership (MHWP)</p>	<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"> Government Response 23.07.19. Further consultation expected Summer 2020. Link to Government Response
<p>Consultation on Reforming the UK Packaging Producer Responsibility System (DEFRA) Link to consultation</p>	<p>Submitted 13.05.19</p>	<p>MHWP</p>	<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"> Government Response 23.07.19. Further consultation expected Summer 2020. Link to Government Response
<p>Consultation on Introducing a Deposit Return Scheme (DRS) in England, Wales and Northern Ireland (DEFRA) Link to consultation</p>	<p>Submitted 13.05.19</p>	<p>MHWP</p>	<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"> Government Response 23.07.19. Further consultation expected Summer 2020. Link to Government Response
<p>Plastic Packaging Tax (HM Treasury) Link to consultation</p>	<p>Submitted 12.05.19</p>	<p>MHWP</p>	<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"> Government Response 23.07.19. Further consultation expected by 2020. Link to Government Response

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 non-statutory target (pooled target for MRWA & 5 Merseyside Districts) Individual LAs – No target
2020	Reduce the amount of local authority collected municipal waste (LACMW) landfilled to 10%	JRWMS: Merseyside – JRWMS non-statutory 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 – Non-statutory
2025	All plastic packaging placed on the market being recyclable, reusable or compostable	Our Waste, Our Resources: A Strategy for England 2018: National – Non-statutory
2025	70% of all plastics packaging waste effectively recycled or composted	UK Plastics Pact 2018: National – Non-statutory
2030	Eliminate landfilling of food waste	Clean Growth Strategy 2017: National – Non-statutory
2030	Reduce the amount of LACMW landfilled to 2%	JRWMS: Merseyside – JRWMS non-statutory target

2030	Reduce total waste arisings from households by 8% based on 2011 levels	JRWMS: Merseyside – JRWMS non-statutory pooled target
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
2040	Zero carbon Liverpool City Region	LCR Metro Mayor LCR – Non-statutory
2042	Eliminate avoidable plastic waste	25 Year Environment Plan 2018: National – Non-statutory
2050	Zero avoidable waste and a doubling of resource productivity	Clean Growth Strategy 2017: National – Non-statutory
2050	Reduce carbon emissions by 100% of 1990 levels	Climate Change Act 2008 (amended 2019): National - Statutory

Glynn Stevenson
Waste Strategy Policy Officer
MRWA
0151 255 2526
glynn.stevenson@merseysidewda.gov.uk