

## RESOURCES & WASTE POLICY UPDATE 19.06.20

POLICY DEVELOPMENT	IMPLICATIONS
<b>LIVERPOOL CITY REGION (LCR)</b>	
<p><b>Covid Economic Recovery Strategy</b>            Covid has, and continues to have, a <b>serious impact on the LCR</b>, its people and economy. <b>Recovery presents a significant challenge</b> and the LCR is developing a strategy to tackle this, recognising the <b>opportunities to 'build back better'</b> and deliver a fairer and more sustainable economy. An Economic Recovery Group and LCR Recovery Panel have been established.</p>	<p><b>Opportunity to build back better through a more circular economy.</b></p>
<p><b>Future Innovation Fund</b>            LCR Metro Mayor Steve Rotheram launched the <b>£3m fund</b> on 12.06.20. The funding aims to support <b>SME innovation</b> in response to the pandemic, including activities delivering a <b>more zero carbon and circular economy</b>. <b>The first £1m tranche of funding closes for applications on 06.07.20.</b>  <a href="#">Link to Future Innovation Fund</a>  <a href="#">Link to LCRCA press release</a></p>	<p><b>Funding for SME zero carbon circular economy initiatives.</b></p>
<p><b>LCR Climate Partnership Board</b>            Following commitments at the LCR Environment Summit in November 2019, the Partnership <b>held its first meeting in May 2020</b> chaired by Gideon Ben-Tovim. The Partnership is expected to play a key role in delivering the LCR's Climate Emergency response.</p>	<p><b>45% of greenhouse gas emissions are linked to products.</b></p>
<p><b>Local Industrial Strategy (LIS)</b>            The Draft LIS was <b>approved by the LCR Combined Authority on 20.03.20</b> and recognises the role of the circular economy. Some amendments are expected subject to further discussion with Government, whilst the <b>impact of Covid may require further change</b>. Final LIS delivery will be supported by an Implementation Plan.</p>	<p><b>A more circular economy can support clean growth, climate and covid recovery objectives.</b></p>
<p><b>LCR CA and LEP meetings</b>            The LCR Combined Authority last met on 05.06.20 and the next meeting follows on 31.07.20.  <a href="#">Link to LCR Combined Authority meeting papers</a></p> <p>The Local Enterprise Partnership Board last met on 21.05.20 and the next meeting follows on 16.07.20.  <a href="#">Link to LEP Board meeting papers</a></p>	

<b>NATIONAL</b>	
<p><b>COVID-19</b></p> <p><b>Waste Services Guidance</b>  Government has published <b>guidance on managing waste services and on working safely</b> during the pandemic. The Waste Industry Safety and Health Forum (WISH) has also published detailed advice.  <a href="#">Link to Guidance for Prioritising Waste Collection Services During Covid-19</a>  <a href="#">Link to Guidance on Managing HWRCs During Covid-19</a>  <a href="#">Link to Guidance on Working Safely During Covid-19</a>  <a href="#">Link to WISH Covid-19 and Waste Management Activities information</a> (see INFO 13 and REF 07)  <a href="#">Link to UK Covid-19 Recovery Strategy</a></p> <p><b>Recovery Roundtables</b>  BEIS have established 5 ‘recovery roundtables’ to explore the challenges and solutions for economic recovery from the pandemic. These <b>include a Green Recovery group</b> which first met on 10.06.20 to discuss the <b>economic opportunities from the shift to net zero carbon emissions</b>.  <a href="#">Link to BEIS press release</a></p> <p><b>LA waste services status</b>  Local authority networks are running <b>weekly surveys on the status of waste services</b> across the country.  <a href="#">Link to weekly waste services status survey results</a></p>	<p><b>Additional waste management costs and wider financial impact on LAs.</b></p> <p><b>Opportunity for a green recovery through a more circular economy.</b></p> <p><b>Covid-19 guidance continues to be updated as lockdown eases.</b></p> <p><b>Local lockdown measures may follow new Covid outbreaks.</b></p>
<p><b>Environment Bill</b>  Progress of the Bill through Parliament has been <b>delayed due to the pandemic</b>. Committee findings are now expected by 25.06.20 with further debates to follow. The Bill has a wide remit and would <b>implement Resources and Waste Strategy proposals including recycling consistency, Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR) and Deposit Return Schemes (DRS)</b>.  <a href="#">Link to Environment Bill</a>  <a href="#">Link to Environment Bill policy paper</a></p>	<p><b>Increased resource efficiency, recycling and circular economy.</b></p> <p><b>Shift towards producer responsibility for funding municipal waste management.</b></p>
<p><b>National Resources and Waste Strategy (RAWS) progress:</b></p> <p><b>RAWS consultations</b>  The second round of consultations on RAWS proposals for recycling consistency, packaging EPR and</p>	<p><b>Risk of delay to RAWS implementation due to Covid.</b></p> <p><b>Initial single use plastic bans</b></p>

<p>DRS in England are <b>delayed until early 2021</b> according to DEFRA. Stakeholder engagement is expected through summer 2020 to refine proposals for consultation. On 13.05.20, the <b>Scottish Government passed legislation to implement a DRS in July 2022</b>.  <a href="#">Link to Scottish DRS announcement</a></p> <p><b>Single Use Plastic bans</b>  The <b>ban on plastic straws, stirrers and cotton buds will now start in October 2020</b> following Parliamentary approval on 15.06.20. The ban was originally planned from April 2020 but has been delayed due to Covid.</p> <p><b>Waste Strategy: Implications for LAs - Government response to Parliamentary Report</b>  The Government response, published on 19.05.20, is in line with proposals for implementing recycling consistency measures from 2023. Government also re-emphasised that <b>householders should not be charged at HWRCs for 'DIY waste'</b> and this will be clarified in a <b>Controlled Waste Regulations review</b>.  <a href="#">Link to Government response</a></p>	<p><b>from October 2020.</b></p>
<p><b>Brexit</b>  Negotiations on the future UK–EU relationship began in March 2020, with the <b>UK seeking a Free Trade Agreement with the EU</b>. On 15.06.20 the UK confirmed it would not seek a further extension to the Brexit <b>transition period due to end 31.12.20</b> and would be prepared to leave the transition without a deal. Negotiations are expected to intensify from July towards a <b>possible deal in the autumn</b>.  <a href="#">Link to EU pages on future relationship</a>  <a href="#">Link to UK future relationship proposals</a>  <a href="#">Link to Get ready for 2021</a></p>	<p><b>Prepare for change in 2021.</b></p> <p><b>Possible divergence of UK and EU environmental standards and waste policy alignment.</b></p>
<p><b>Spring Budget 2020</b>  The 11.03.20 budget announced:</p> <p><b>Plastic packaging</b> - a <b>plastic packaging tax will apply from April 2022 at £200 per tonne for packaging containing less than 30% recycled content</b>. The detailed design of the tax is under consultation.</p> <p><b>Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR)</b> - £700,000 to develop IT capability for packaging ahead of EPR introduction from 2023.</p> <p><b>Landfill tax</b> – <b>increases in the standard rate to £94.15/t (April 2020) and £96.70/t (April 2021)</b>. Lower (inert) rates are £3.00/t and £3.10/t for the same dates.</p>	<p><b>Plastic packaging tax to strengthen markets for recycled plastic.</b></p> <p><b>Ongoing landfill tax increases.</b></p> <p><b>Strengthened focus on waste crime.</b></p>

<p><b>Waste Crime</b> - £7.2 million to enable <b>smart tracking of waste movements</b> across the economy and £2 million for innovative approaches to tackling <b>fly-tipping</b>.  <a href="#">Link to Budget 2020 documents</a></p>	
<p><b>Other National Activity</b></p> <p><b>WEEE (Waste Electrical and Electronic Equipment) Persistent Organic Pollutants (POPs)</b>  On 08.06.20 the Environment Agency updated guidance on classifying and managing WEEE containing POPs. In practice this means that <b>WEEE from products manufactured before 2009 should not be reused</b>. Recycling processes will need to improve to ensure WEEE plastics containing POPs are separated and destroyed to reduce risks to the environment from these pollutants.  <a href="#">Link to WEEE POPs Guidance</a></p> <p><b>Recycle Your Electricals campaign</b>  Launch of a UK wide <b>campaign to encourage increased recycling of WEEE</b>.  <a href="#">Link to campaign</a></p> <p><b>Energy Related Products – resource efficiency</b>  BEIS launched a call for evidence on 12.06.20 towards new measures for improving energy efficiency, which also encourage <b>wider resource efficiency and circular economy action for these products</b>. The call closes 04.09.20 and we've encouraged LCR Circular Economy Club members to comment.  <a href="#">Link to Call for Evidence</a></p> <p><b>Electrical Waste and the Circular Economy – Parliamentary Inquiry</b>  Environmental Audit Committee inquiry launched 13.03.20.  <a href="#">Link to Inquiry</a></p> <p><b>Resource Action Fund update</b>  Latest updates including Covid <b>changes to the Textiles Recycling and Reuse Small Scale Grant</b>.  <a href="#">Link to Resource Action Fund</a></p> <p><b>Funding for Sustainable Plastics</b>  <b>£800,000 for product design, services or business models</b> that make plastic use more sustainable.  Applications close 16.09.20  <a href="#">Link to funding</a></p>	<p><b>Shift towards WEEE circular economy to reduce environmental impact of WEEE materials.</b></p> <p><b>Avoid WEEE reuse for items made before 2009.</b></p> <p><b>Funding for textiles and plastics.</b></p>

<p><b>25 Year Environment Plan – Progress reports</b> Trends and progress since the Plan was published in January 2018. <a href="#">Link to progress reports</a></p> <p><b>Guidance on Street Sweepings Storage and Dewatering – RPS 65</b> Updated guidance 15.06.20 on environmental permits for these activities. <a href="#">Link to EA Guidance</a></p>	
<p><b>EU &amp; INTERNATIONAL</b></p>	
<p><b>UN Climate Change Conference (COP 26)</b> The <b>November 2020 conference has been postponed</b> due to the impact of Covid and <b>rearranged for 1-12 November 2021</b>. The UK and Glasgow will remain as hosts. <a href="#">Link to COP 26</a></p>	<p><b>Opportunity for UK climate action and circular economy global leadership.</b></p>
<p><b>EU Green Deal / Circular Economy Plan</b> The EU Green Deal aims to achieve a <b>net zero carbon continent by 2050 and includes a new Circular Economy Action Plan</b> tackling product design, a new ‘right to repair’ and a range of actions between now and 2023 to boost the circular economy. A number of these measures are reflected in the UK’s Environment Bill. <a href="#">Link to European Green Deal</a> <a href="#">Link to EU Circular Economy Action Plan</a></p>	<p><b>EU prioritising circular economy action to deliver net zero carbon.</b></p> <p><b>EU trade, product and environmental policy influential on UK post Brexit.</b></p>
<p><b>International Waste Export Restrictions</b> The Environment Agency and WRAP continue to monitor the UK export situation and <b>restrictions across Asia and the Far East continue</b>. The Covid pandemic has added further export restrictions.</p>	<p><b>LAs to raise any operational concerns with EA ASAP.</b></p>

## CONSULTATION RESPONSES UPDATE 19.06.20

CONSULTATION	DATES	RESPONSE	SUMMARY AND IMPLICATIONS
<b>FUTURE CONSULTATIONS</b>			
Recycling Consistency / Statutory Guidance	Early 2021	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)	Early 2021	To confirm	To follow the 2019 packaging EPR consultation and consider the preferred approach in more detail. Implementation from 2023 earliest.
Deposit Return Scheme (DRS)	Early 2021	To confirm	To follow the 2019 DRS consultation and consider the preferred approach in more detail. Implementation from 2023 earliest.
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.
HWRC Service Standardisation / National Consistency / Controlled Waste Regs 2012	2020	To confirm	Possible consultation. May cover opening hours, accepted wastes, 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.

<b>CURRENT CONSULTATIONS</b>			
Plastic Packaging Tax: Policy Design (HMRC) <a href="#">Link to consultation</a>	Opened 11.03.20  Closes 20.08.20 (extended)	MRWA / MHWP	Follows on from the earlier 2019 consultation and considers the preferred approach and design of the tax in more detail. Plastic packaging with less than 30% recycled content would be taxed at £200/tonne from April 2022.
<b>RESPONSES MADE IN THE LAST 12 MONTHS</b>			
Consultation on WEEE Compliance Fee Methodology 2019 (DEFRA) <a href="#">Link to consultation</a>	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"> <li>Government have approved the Joint Trades Association (JTA) compliance fee proposal.</li> </ul>
National Food Strategy Call for Evidence (DEFRA) <a href="#">Link to consultation</a>	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"> <li>Awaiting Government response. Pre Covid-19 timescale was to produce a National Food Strategy by winter 2020 / 21.</li> </ul>

Merseyside and Halton Waste Partnership (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> 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%	<b>JRWMS:</b> Merseyside – JRWMS non-statutory target
2025	55% of municipal waste reused or recycled	<b>Revised EU Waste Framework Directive 2018:</b> EU – Statutory National – adoption to be confirmed
2025	20% reduction in UK food and drink waste and carbon emissions compared with 2015	<b>Courtauld Commitment:</b> 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> National – Non-statutory
2025	70% of all plastics packaging waste effectively recycled or composted	<b>UK Plastics Pact 2018:</b> National – Non-statutory
2030	Eliminate landfilling of food waste	<b>Clean Growth Strategy 2017:</b> National – Non-statutory
2030	Reduce the amount of LACMW landfilled to 2%	<b>JRWMS:</b> 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> 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> EU – Statutory 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> EU – Statutory 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> EU – Statutory National – adoption to be confirmed
<b>2040</b>	<b>Zero carbon Liverpool City Region</b>	<b>LCR Metro Mayor</b> LCR – Non-statutory
<b>2042</b>	<b>Eliminate avoidable plastic waste</b>	<b>25 Year Environment Plan 2018:</b> National – Non-statutory
<b>2050</b>	<b>Zero avoidable waste and a doubling of resource productivity</b>	<b>Clean Growth Strategy 2017:</b> National – Non-statutory
<b>2050</b>	<b>Reduce carbon emissions by 100% of 1990 levels</b>	<b>Climate Change Act 2008 (amended 2019):</b> National - Statutory

Glynn Stevenson  
Waste Strategy Policy Officer  
MRWA  
0151 255 2526  
[glynn.stevenson@merseysidewda.gov.uk](mailto:glynn.stevenson@merseysidewda.gov.uk)