

RESOURCES & WASTE POLICY UPDATE



MERSEYSIDE RECYCLING & WASTE AUTHORITY

MERSEYSIDE... A PLACE
WHERE NOTHING IS WASTED

AUGUST 2022

Policy Updates:

POLICY DEVELOPMENT	IMPLICATIONS
LIVERPOOL CITY REGION (LCR)	
<p>Pathway to Net Zero A high level 'Pathway to Net Zero' strategy has been developed by the LCR Combined Authority. The Pathway aims to set a clear direction of travel for rapid, collective action on delivering a net zero carbon city region by 2040. The Pathway is based around the themes of homes, neighbourhoods, travel and workplace. A detailed action plan will follow. Link to Pathway to Net Zero (Item 104)</p>	<p>Action to reduce waste is key to delivering net zero carbon.</p>
<p>UK Shared Prosperity Fund The UK Fund aims to replace previous EU funding programmes, although at a reduced level. LCR has been allocated £52.8 million from 2022/23 to 2024/25 with key priorities including Community and Place, Supporting Local Businesses, and People and Skills. An LCR Investment Plan has been submitted to Government for approval. The need for community action on sustainable food issues is identified in the plan and a decision on plan approval is expected by Autumn 2022. Link to Shared Prosperity Fund progress (Item 9)</p>	<p>Opportunity to support food waste prevention initiatives, local growing, community composting, zero waste.</p>
<p>Community Environment Fund</p>	<p>Grant support for waste reduction projects.</p>

A second round of the £500k Fund is now in delivery with 38 projects supported in 2022. The Fund aims to encourage community participation in improving the environment and to support long term behavioural change.

[Link to Community Environment Fund article](#)

NATIONAL

Environment Act 2021

The Act received Royal Assent on 09.11.21 and is the most wide-ranging UK environmental legislation since 1990. It aims to drive an expansion in recycling services alongside a stronger focus on resource efficiency with new powers to introduce:

- consistent household and business waste recycling collections across England
- extended producer responsibility schemes to make producers pay for the cost of managing waste, e.g. packaging
- deposit schemes, e.g. drinks containers
- product resource efficiency standards
- charges on purchases of single use items.

Regulations and statutory guidance are expected in late 2022 to implement new powers including consistent recycling collections.

[Link to Environment Act 2021](#)

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

Expansion of materials to be collected for recycling.

Mandatory food waste collections.

Adaptation of services and infrastructure towards zero waste.

Funding support and implementation timescales to be confirmed.

Packaging Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR) consultation outcome

On 26.03.22 DEFRA announced the outcome of this 2021 consultation. Proposals aim to improve recycling rates by incentivising the design and manufacture of easier to recycle packaging.

Key decisions included:

- Producers, e.g. packaging brand owners, will fund local authorities (LAs) the necessary costs of managing household packaging waste (excluding ground litter) from April 2024
- This cost is estimated as £1.7 billion p.a.

Easier to recycle packaging, reduced carbon emissions.

Transfer of packaging waste management costs from LAs to businesses.

Incentivises efficient and effective LA waste management systems.

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • LAs must operate efficient and effective waste systems to receive full payments • Necessary costs relate to packaging waste collection, sorting, HWRCs, street litter and 'on the go' recycling bins, residual waste treatment, communications and data collation • A Scheme Administrator will receive Producer fees and make payments to LAs • Producers will pay fees based on the amount of packaging placed on the market. Fees will be higher for difficult to recycle packaging • Business waste may be brought into the scheme later following scheme review in 2026/27. <p>Link to consultation Link to consultation outcome</p>	<p>EPR initiatives expected for other products and wastes.</p>
<p>Consistent Recycling consultation</p> <p>DEFRA consulted on consistent recycling proposals in 2021 with final proposals delayed, possibly to Autumn 2022. Proposals are expected to increase the range of materials to be collected for recycling and to reduce confusion by specifying a consistent set of materials for recycling collections across England, including plastic pots, tubs and trays, cartons and food waste.</p> <p>Link to consultation</p>	<p>Increased recycling rates, reduced carbon emissions.</p> <p>Expansion of materials to be collected for recycling.</p> <p>Review and adaptation of waste services and infrastructure.</p> <p>Funding support and implementation timescales to be confirmed.</p>
<p>Deposit Return Scheme (DRS) for Drinks Containers consultation</p> <p>In 2021 DEFRA consulted on proposals to implement a DRS with final proposals delayed, possibly to Autumn 2022. The DRS aims to reduce littering and incentivise increased recycling of drinks containers by adding a deposit to the cost of purchases, e.g. 20p. A deposit is redeemed when a container is returned to a designated return point, e.g. a shop or a return vending machine. The scheme will focus on plastic bottles and metal cans initially, but timescales are to be confirmed.</p> <p>Link to consultation</p>	<p>Increased recycling, reduced littering and carbon emissions.</p> <p>The scheme will be funded by producers of drinks containers.</p> <p>Potential diversion of material away from kerbside recycling services.</p>

	<p>Implementation timescales to be confirmed.</p>
<p>Other DEFRA consultation outcomes expected soon:</p> <p>Environmental Targets consultation In Spring 2022 DEFRA consulted on new targets under the Environment Act 2021. Proposals include reducing all residual waste by 50% by 2042 from 2019 levels and doubling resource productivity by 2050. A 65% reuse and recycling of municipal waste by 2035 target is already in place. Link to consultation</p> <p>Waste Prevention Programme consultation DEFRA consulted on a new Waste Prevention Programme for England in 2021. The new programme is expected to set out waste prevention and reuse initiatives across a wide range of materials and to improve local reuse and repair services and facilities, including at HWRCs. Link to consultation</p> <p>Single Use Plastics consultations In 2021 DEFRA consulted on proposals to ban the supply of single use plastic plates, cutlery and expanded polystyrene drinks and food packaging. DEFRA are also considering action on plastic items including wet wipes, tobacco filters, sachets and single use cups, and how reuse and refill can be incentivised. Link to single use plastic bans consultation Link to call for evidence on problematic plastics</p> <p>Household Waste Recycling Centre (HWRC) consultations In Spring 2022 DEFRA consulted on measures to prevent charging for DIY waste at HWRCs and launched a call for evidence on the use of booking systems to visit HWRCs. Government is concerned that charging and booking systems cause fly tipping, although evidence to support this is limited. Merseyside residents are not charged for bringing household waste to HWRCs and booking systems are limited to van and trailers users to prevent trade waste from entering sites.</p>	<p>Achieve zero avoidable waste and reduce carbon emissions through more prevention, reuse, recycling.</p> <p>Digitalisation of data reporting systems for all wastes.</p> <p>Implementation timescales to be confirmed.</p>

[Link to consultation and call for evidence](#)

UK Carbon Emissions Trading Scheme (ETS) consultation

In Spring 2022 BEIS consulted on developing the ETS including proposals to extend the scheme to energy from waste facilities by the mid – late 2020's. The ETS would target fossil carbon emissions, e.g. from combustion of plastics.

[Link to consultation](#)

Digital Waste Tracking / Waste Crime consultations

In 2021 DEFRA released consultations on the introduction of mandatory digital waste tracking and on reform of the waste carrier, broker, dealer registration system. The consultations aim to improve the accuracy, coverage and timeliness of waste data reporting and to reduce waste crime.

[Link to mandatory digital waste tracking consultation](#)

[Link to reform of the waste carrier, broker, dealer registration system consultation](#)

Consultations on the horizon

DEFRA consultations on waste collection statutory guidance and strengthening producer responsibility systems for electrical and battery wastes are anticipated during 2022. Separate consultations on extending producer responsibility to additional wastes, e.g. textiles, bulky / furniture wastes, may follow before 2025.

Guidance on recycling collections and residual waste collection frequency.

Increased responsibility for businesses to reduce waste and support reuse and recycling services.

Persistent Organic Pollutants (POPs)

International agreements require the destruction of products containing POPs above defined levels. The Environment Agency (EA) is concerned over the POPs content of domestic upholstered seating appearing in the waste stream. Guidance from the EA and DEFRA on managing this waste to ensure reduction of POPs in the environment is expected soon, including a landfill ban.

POPs wastes must be removed from the environment by incineration only.

Implications to be confirmed for reuse and recycling of POPs wastes.

<p>Prioritising Waste Collection Guidance Guidance on prioritising waste collections was reissued on 23.07.21 to cover all scenarios where waste service resources may be reduced, e.g. staff, vehicle or fuel shortages. Link to DEFRA Guidance</p>	<p>Follow the guidance if waste services require prioritisation.</p>
<p>INTERNATIONAL</p>	
<p>EU Waste and Resources Action EU Green Deal proposals aim to make sustainable products the norm and empower consumers, including action on textiles and construction products. EU legislation is under review to increase prevention, reuse and separate collection of materials and set food waste reduction targets. Link to EU Green Deal press release Link to EU WFD review press release</p>	<p>UK may adopt similar measures in future to maintain Brexit alignment of UK – EU environmental standards.</p>
<p>UN COP 27 Climate Change Summit Important agreements were reached at COP 26 in Glasgow in 2021, including to cut methane emissions by 30% by 2030, but there was concern that action is not being taken quickly enough to avoid dangerous climate heating. COP 27 follows in Egypt in November 2022.</p>	<p>Accelerated action required to avoid dangerous climate heating.</p> <p>Target zero waste to limit carbon emissions.</p>
<p>UN COP15 Biodiversity Summit The Covid delayed Summit was split into two halves with a virtual session in October 2021 to be followed by a face-to-face meeting in December 2022. The Summit aims to agree a post 2020 Global Biodiversity Framework to conserve natural capital and reduce pollution including eliminating the ‘discharge of plastic waste’.</p>	<p>Biodiversity at risk from climate change and unsustainable consumption of material resources.</p>

Targets Tracker:

Year	Target	Source
2025	55% reuse and recycling of LCR waste	LCR Year One Climate Action Plan 2021-22 EU target for municipal waste (not adopted in England)
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
2030	50% reduction in food waste in the UK compared with 2007 (UN SDG 12.3) 50% reduction in greenhouse gas emissions associated with food and drink consumed in the UK compared with 2015 50% of fresh food sourced from areas with sustainable water management	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
2030	60% of municipal waste reused or recycled	EU target (not adopted in England)
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
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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