

RESOURCES & WASTE POLICY UPDATE



MERSEYSIDE RECYCLING & WASTE AUTHORITY

MERSEYSIDE... A PLACE
WHERE NOTHING IS WASTED

DECEMBER 2022

Policy Updates:

POLICY DEVELOPMENT	IMPLICATIONS
LIVERPOOL CITY REGION (LCR)	
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 and a net zero action plan will follow. Link to Pathway to Net Zero (Item 104)	Action to reduce waste is key to delivering net zero carbon.
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 prepared and identifies the need for community action on sustainable food issues. Funding allocations are now being offered to LCR Districts. Link to Shared Prosperity Fund progress (Item 9)	Opportunity for Councils to support food waste prevention initiatives, local growing, community composting, zero waste.

NATIONAL

Environment Act 2021

The Act 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 to implement new powers including consistent recycling collections are delayed.

[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.

New Waste Ministers

Rishi Sunak PM has appointed Therese Coffey MP as DEFRA Secretary of State and Rebecca Pow MP as the minister responsible for waste resources issues.

[Link to Thérèse Coffey MP](#)

[Link to Rebecca Pow MP](#)

Both ministers have previous waste experience in DEFRA.

Can support implementation of the Environment Act 2021.

Electricals Reuse and Recycling Fund

The fund aims to support projects which make it easier for more people to reuse and recycle unwanted small household electricals. Grants up to £50,000 are available for new approaches and up to £100,000 to develop existing collection services. Applications can be made by any organisation and the deadline for Expressions of Interest is 31.01.23.

[Link to Fund](#)

Promotes reuse and repair of electricals.

Opportunity to develop community drop off points and kerbside collection systems.

Packaging Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR) implementation

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. DEFRA are now developing detailed implementation plans and regulations for an April 2024 start.

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 transfer from public to private sector is estimated as £1.7 billion p.a
- 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.

[Link to consultation](#)

[Link to consultation outcome](#)

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.

EPR initiatives expected for other products and wastes.

Consistent Recycling consultation

DEFRA consulted on consistent recycling proposals in 2021 but final proposals are delayed. Measures 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.

[Link to consultation](#)

Increased recycling rates, reduced carbon emissions.

Expansion of materials to be collected for recycling.

Review and adaptation of waste services and infrastructure.

Funding support and implementation timescales to be confirmed.

<p>Deposit Return Scheme (DRS) for Drinks Containers consultation In 2021 DEFRA consulted on proposals to implement a DRS but final proposals are delayed. 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. 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 Government consultation outcomes due:</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.</p>	<p>Most Government responses to consultations are delayed.</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 single use plastic bans consultation](#)
[Link to call for evidence on problematic plastics](#)

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 currently 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.

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

Net Zero Review call for evidence

BEIS commissioned an independent review of net zero and ran a call for evidence in October 2022. The review aims to reduce the burdens on businesses and consumers in meeting the net zero 2050 target and is due to report by the end of 2022.

[Link to 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](#)

<p>Consultations on the horizon DEFRA consultations on waste collection statutory guidance and strengthening producer responsibility systems for electrical and battery wastes are expected but delayed. Separate consultations on extending producer responsibility to additional wastes, e.g., textiles, bulky / furniture wastes, may follow before 2025.</p>	<p>Statutory guidance on waste collection.</p> <p>Increased responsibility for businesses to reduce waste and support reuse and recycling services.</p>
<p>Persistent Organic Pollutants (POPs) International agreements require the destruction of products containing POPs above defined levels. The Environment Agency (EA) is concerned about the POPs content of domestic upholstered seating appearing in the waste stream and risks to the environment. EA guidance includes a landfill ban for waste upholstered domestic seating from January 2023 and requirements to segregate POPs waste from other materials. Further EA guidance to follow.</p>	<p>POPs domestic seating wastes must be removed from the environment by incineration only.</p> <p>Implications for waste collection, storage and treatment.</p>
<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 and industrial action. 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 proposals published on 30.12.22 aim to promote reusable and refillable packaging and ensure all packaging is easily recyclable by 2030. Link to press release Link to EU packaging waste proposals</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 COP 27 was hosted by Egypt during November 2022 and reached agreement on a ‘loss and damage’ fund for vulnerable countries seriously affected by climate change. Limited progress was made on commitments to reduce carbon emissions and phase out fossil fuels.</p>	<p>Accelerated climate action required to avoid dangerous global heating.</p>

Link to COP 27 conference	Take zero waste action to limit carbon emissions.
UN COP15 Biodiversity Summit The Covid delayed Summit was split into two halves with a virtual session in October 2021 followed by a face-to-face meeting in Montreal 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'. Link to COP 2015	Biodiversity at risk from climate change and unsustainable consumption of material resources.
UN Plastics Treaty Negotiations have commenced on an international treaty to reduce plastic waste. The UN has committed to develop a legal binding treaty by 2024 with an aim to end plastic pollution by 2040.	Supports action to reduce single use plastics and plastic packaging waste.

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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