

RESOURCES & WASTE POLICY UPDATE



MERSEYSIDE RECYCLING & WASTE AUTHORITY

MERSEYSIDE... A PLACE
WHERE NOTHING IS WASTED

DECEMBER 2023

Policy Updates:

POLICY DEVELOPMENT

LIVERPOOL CITY REGION (LCR)

Zero Waste 2040 Strategic Framework

The Framework was approved in June 2023 by all 7 waste collection and disposal authorities in the LCR Strategic Waste Management Partnership. It aims to achieve zero avoidable waste by 2040 and outlines how this will cut carbon emissions across the city region. The Framework has themes of people, planet and economy and promotes a system change towards a circular economy through reducing waste. Strategies and actions are in development to deliver the Framework goals.

[Link to LCR Zero Waste 2040 Strategic Framework](#)

LCRCA 5 Year Climate Action Plan

The Plan, approved in July 2023, identifies LCR Combined Authority (LCRCA) climate actions across transport, buildings, industry, clean energy and the natural environment. It recognises the circular economy as a theme running through the Plan and aims to support

- Businesses become more circular by promoting increased resource efficiency, and
- Delivery of a Circular City Region Scan to understand material resource flows and waste generation across LCR.

The Plan identifies the need to reduce consumption and change behaviours across the city region and aligns with the LCR Zero Waste Strategic Framework goals to reduce all waste.

[Link to CA 5 Year Climate Action Plan 2023-28 pdf 64 pages](#)

LCRCA Community Environment Fund

A 3rd round of the Fund worth £350,000 was approved on 06.10.23 by the LCRCA. The fund aims to promote community participation to improve LCR's environment, develop opportunities for environmental education and support long-term behaviour change. Individual projects can be supported up to a maximum of £30,000 with application details to follow.

[Link to CA news article 04.10.23](#)

NATIONAL

Environment Act 2021

The Act aims to drive an expansion in recycling services alongside a stronger focus on resource efficiency. Key initiatives include:

- A Maximising Resources, Minimising Waste Programme
- Simpler recycling - comprehensive household and business waste recycling collections across England
- Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR) schemes which require producers (e.g. manufacturers, brands and retailers) to pay for the costs of managing household waste
- Deposit return schemes, e.g. for used drinks containers.

Policies and regulations to implement the new powers are in development.

[Link to Environment Act 2021](#)

[Resources and Waste Strategy for England](#)

Maximising Resources, Minimising Waste Programme

The revised Programme published in July 2023 identifies 7 key areas for action including: construction; textiles; furniture and furnishings; electrical and electronic products; road vehicles; packaging, plastic and single use items; and food and drink. The Programme will support the national target of reducing all residual waste by 50% by 2042 (2019 baseline) and interim targets by 2028.

Proposals include:

- Revise waste hierarchy guidance to promote prevention and reuse
- Develop best practice guidance on reuse for Local Authorities (LAs), including Household Waste Recycling Centres (HWRCs) and bulky waste collections
- Develop case studies of successful reuse hubs
- Develop EPR for textiles, furniture and mattresses

- Improve EPR for electricals and batteries, including vapes
- Consult by 2025 on removing charges for bulky household waste collections.

[Link to Maximising Resources, Minimising Waste](#)

[Link to Environmental Improvement Plan 2023](#)

Simpler Recycling

DEFRA released details of Simpler Recycling in October 2023 with final regulations and statutory guidance expected in early 2024. The proposals aim to:

- Increase recycling rates
- Expand the range of materials in recycling collections
- Require Councils to collect the same recyclables from every home in England
- Give Councils flexibility about how they collect recycling
- Reduce confusion about what can and cannot be recycled.

If confirmed, Councils must introduce Simpler Recycling kerbside collections to households by 31.03.26. Food waste, plastic pots, tubs and trays, cartons, aerosols, aluminium foil and food trays will be additional materials for recycling collections in most areas of LCR, whilst collections of plastic film can be deferred to 31.03.27. Government expects residual waste collections to be made at least fortnightly. Details on funding to deliver the new services will follow. This will include EPR payments to LAs to cover the costs of managing packaging waste.

Occupiers of non-domestic premises including schools, hospitals, offices and businesses must meet similar recycling requirements by 31.03.25, but this is deferred to 31.03.27 for micro-firms. Again, there is a deferral for plastic film recycling to 31.03.27.

[Link to Simpler Recycling proposals](#)

Packaging Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR) implementation

In 2022 DEFRA announced plans to incentivise the design and manufacture of easier to recycle packaging, including:

- Producers, e.g., packaging brand owners, to fund LAs the necessary costs of managing household packaging waste (excluding ground litter)
- An estimated cost transfer from public to private sector of over £1 billion p.a
- LAs must operate efficient and effective waste systems to receive full payments

- Necessary costs relate to packaging waste collection, sorting, HWRCs, litter bins 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.

In July 2023 DEFRA deferred the start of EPR payments to LAs to 2025/26 following business concerns about costs. Final regulations to implement packaging EPR are expected in 2024, although many decisions are expected to be left with the Scheme Administrator when appointed.

[Link to 2022 consultation outcome](#)

[Link to GOV.UK press release on EPR deferral July 2023](#)

[Link to Draft EPR regulations consultation July 2023](#)

Deposit Return Scheme (DRS) for Drinks Containers

DEFRA published proposals in January 2023 to implement a DRS from October 2025. The DRS aims to reduce littering and increase recycling of drinks containers by adding a deposit to the cost of purchases. The deposit is redeemed when a container is returned to a designated return point. In England, the scheme will include plastic PET drinks bottles and metal drinks cans up to 3 litres in volume. An industry led Deposit Management Organisation (DMO) will manage DRS operations, set the deposit value and be responsible for meeting collection targets rising to 90% of in-scope containers by year 3 of operations. Retailers must provide return points, whilst transport hubs and other locations may also be encouraged to enable drinks container return.

[Link to consultation outcome](#)

UK Carbon Emissions Trading Scheme (ETS)

In July 2023 Government announced proposals to extend the UK ETS to cover incineration and Energy from Waste (EfW) facilities from 2028. A phasing in period from 2026 may precede this. The ETS will encourage reduced fossil carbon emissions from facilities, targeting the combustion of plastics and other materials with a high fossil carbon content. Anaerobic digestion facilities will not be included in the ETS. Further consultation is expected in early 2024.

[Link to consultation outcome](#)

Disposable Vapes / Nitrous Oxide Canisters

A consultation on creating a smokefree generation and tackling youth vaping closed on 06.12.23 and included questions on restricting or banning the sale and supply of disposable vapes.

[Link to vapes consultation](#)

New legislation has been introduced to control the misuse of nitrous oxide. Nitrous oxide is now a Class C drug under the Misuse of Drugs Act, but legitimate uses remain.

[Link to GOV.UK press release 08.11.23](#)

Single Use Plastics (SUPs) ban

The ban was extended in October 2023 to include most plastic plates, bowls, trays, cutlery and polystyrene drinks and food packaging. DEFRA are considering action on other single use plastics and in Autumn 2023 consulted on banning wet wipes containing plastic.

[Link to GOV.UK press release 14.01.23](#)

[Link to SUP consultation outcome](#)

[Link to wet wipes consultation](#)

Mandatory Digital Waste Tracking

In October 2023 DEFRA confirmed that tracking will be introduced from April 2025, with voluntary use available from 2024. The aim is to replace separate waste data reporting systems with a single way of recording waste and resource movements. DEFRA hope this will reduce waste crime and support the transition to a circular economy.

[Link to updated proposals Oct 2023](#)

[Link to consultation outcome](#)

Waste Carrier Reform

In October 2023 DEFRA outlined reforms to increase checks and improve the competence of operators in the waste carrier, broker and dealer system. The changes aim to make it easier for regulators to prevent and tackle waste crime.

[Link to consultation outcome](#)

Persistent Organic Pollutants (POPs)

International agreements require the destruction of waste products containing POPs above defined levels. The Environment Agency (EA) is taking action to reduce risks to the environment from waste items potentially containing high levels of POPs. Measures include a landfill ban on domestic upholstered seating from January 2023 and requirements to segregate POP's waste from other materials in bulky waste

collections and at waste sites. Additional wastes may be brought into the scope of POPs and chemicals regulation to remove pollutants from the environment.

[Link to Environment Agency guidance](#)

Prioritising Waste Collection - Guidance

The Guidance covers all scenarios where waste collection resources may become limited, e.g., staff, vehicle or fuel shortages, industrial action, extreme weather and emergency situations.

[Link to DEFRA Guidance](#)

INTERNATIONAL

EU Waste and Resources Action

New Ecodesign for Sustainable Products regulations are in development to boost access to more repairable and circular products in the EU. Products with high environmental impacts will be prioritised for action including textiles, furniture, mattresses and electronics.

[Link to European Commission press release 05.12.23](#)

UN Plastics Treaty

The UN has committed to develop a legally binding treaty by the end of 2024 with an aim to end plastic pollution by 2040. The 3rd round of negotiations completed in Kenya during November 2023 and further talks will take place in Canada in April 2024.

[Link to UNEP plastic pollution](#)

UN COP 28 Climate Summit

COP 28 took place from 30.11.23 to 13.12.23 in Dubai, United Arab Emirates. The conference took stock of global progress since the 2015 Paris Agreement on limiting global temperature rise to 1.5C by 2050. It concluded that progress is off track and nations must now develop actions by 2025 to show how they will meet the 2050 target. For the first time, the conference recognised that a transition away from fossil fuels in energy systems is required to achieve net zero by 2050. COP 29 follows in Azerbaijan during November 2024.

[Link to COP 28 conclusion press release 13.12.23](#)

UN IPCC Climate Change 6th Assessment reports

The Inter-Governmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) published a series of reports on the impacts of climate change and opportunities to mitigate and adapt to climate change. The final report from March 2023 emphasises that limiting global temperature rise to 1.5C is still possible but only if we act immediately to reach peak carbon emissions before 2025. [Link to report](#)

Steps Towards Zero Avoidable Waste:

Year	Target	Source
2025	Implement packaging Extended Producer Responsibility	Environmental Improvement Plan 2023 (DEFRA)
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
2025	Introduce a deposit return scheme for plastic & metal drinks containers	Environmental Improvement Plan 2023 (DEFRA)
2025	Expanded kerbside recycling collections from non-domestic premises	Simpler Recycling 2023
2026	Expanded kerbside recycling collections from households	Simpler Recycling 2023

2028	Near elimination of biodegradable municipal waste to landfill	Environmental Improvement Plan 2023 (DEFRA)
2028	<p>Reduce residual waste (excluding major mineral waste) produced per person by 24% (to 437kg)</p> <p>Reduce residual waste (excluding major mineral waste) tonnage by 21% (to 25.5 million tonnes)</p> <p>Reduce municipal residual waste produced per person by 29% (to 333kg)</p> <p>Reduce residual municipal</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • food waste produced per person by 50% (to 64kg) • plastic waste produced per person by 45% (to 42kg) • paper and card waste produced per person by 26% (to 74kg) • metal waste produced per person by 42% (to 10kg) • glass waste produced per person by 48% (to 7kg) 	Environmental Improvement Plan 2023 (DEFRA)
2030	Reduce carbon emissions by 68% of 1990 levels	UK agreed contribution to achieving UN climate goals (Paris Agreement)
2030	<p>50% reduction in food waste in the UK compared with 2007 (UN SDG 12.3)</p> <p>50% reduction in greenhouse gas emissions associated with food and drink consumed in the UK compared with 2015</p> <p>50% of fresh food sourced from areas with sustainable water management</p>	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
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
2040	Zero avoidable waste in LCR	LCR Zero Waste 2040 Strategic Framework
2042	Halve residual waste produced per person from 2019 levels (excluding major mineral waste) to at least 287kg	Environmental Improvement Plan 2023 (DEFRA)
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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