



Department
for Environment
Food & Rural Affairs

Waste Reforms Announcement

Business Readiness Forum

Thursday 26 October 2023

Agenda

10:00 – 10:05	Welcome	Kayti Boorman, Stakeholder Engagement, Resources & Waste
10:05 – 10:10	Summary of Announcement	Clare Delaney, Deputy Director, Simpler Recycling & Waste Tracking
10:10 – 10:30	Simpler Recycling	Naomi Fitzgibbons, Head of Recycling Policy, Simpler Recycling
10:30 – 10:40	Q&A	Kayti Boorman, Stakeholder Engagement, Resources & Waste
10:40 – 10:50	Waste Crime & Waste Tracking	Chris Preston, Deputy Director, Resources & Waste
10:50 – 10:55	Q&A	Kayti Boorman, Stakeholder Engagement, Resources & Waste
10:55 – 11:00	Round up, future meeting dates and close	Kayti Boorman, Stakeholder Engagement, Resources & Waste



Department
for Environment
Food & Rural Affairs

Announcement Summary

Clare Delaney

Deputy Director, Simpler Recycling & Waste Tracking
Resources & Waste Directorate



Department
for Environment
& Rural Affairs

Simpler Recycling in England

Government response and next steps

What: Simpler Recycling collections

Who: Households and 'non-household municipal premises' (e.g. businesses, hospitals, schools)

Where: England only

Why:

- Reduce confusion and make recycling easier
- Improve recycling rates
- Produce better quality recyclate
- Help to tackle environmental impacts of food and plastic waste
- Help grow UK recycling industry and ensure more recycled material in products we buy



What will change under Simpler Recycling?

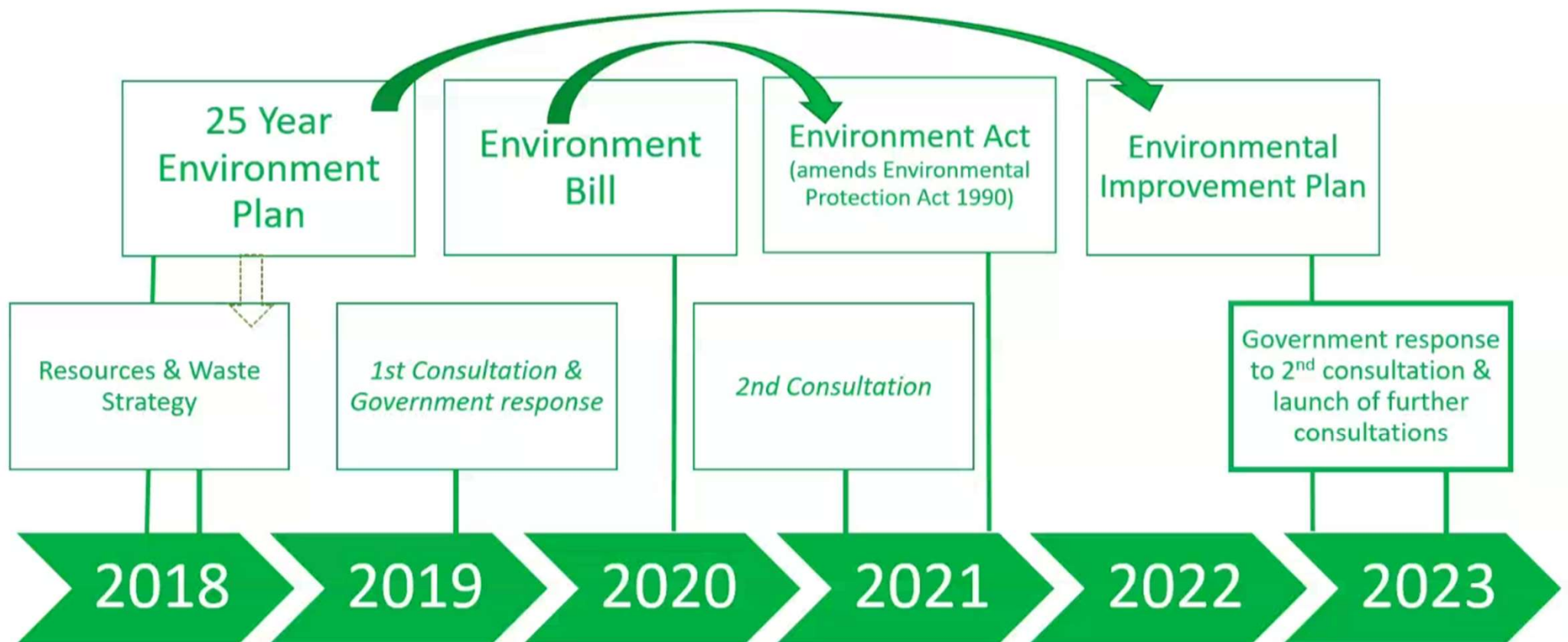
Before

- Currently in England, local authorities and individual premises decide what to collect for recycling and how to collect it
- This has led to inconsistency throughout the country
 - 90% of LAs collect glass bottles
 - 80% collect foil
 - 19% collect plastic film
 - No LA currently collects all dry recyclable materials
- Under the previous s45A of the Environmental Protection Act 1990, LAs must collect at least two types of recyclable waste
 - **Unless** cost of doing so is unreasonably high or alternative arrangements are available
- Under the Waste Regs 2011, every waste collector required to collect paper/card, metal, plastic and glass separately
 - **Unless** certain conditions apply e.g. it does not deliver the best environmental outcome, or it is not technically feasible

After

- Six recyclable waste streams: plastic, paper and card, glass, metal, food waste and garden waste
- LAs must always collect the recyclable waste streams separately from residual waste
- NHM premises must arrange for separate collection of the recyclable waste streams (except garden waste)
 - Same exceptions
- **Now there is no exception available to not collect recycling in any circumstance**
- The same materials will be collected for recycling everywhere - will be listed in regulations

Simpler Recycling journey to date...



Summary of implementation dates



Non-household Recycling

Simpler Recycling for non-household premises (such as businesses, schools and hospitals) in England will be implemented by **31 March 2025**



Household Recycling

Simpler Recycling for households in England will be in place for most by **31 March 2026*** to align with EPR implementation

*(Where specific local authority contracts apply, we have agreed that weekly household food waste collections may start by a later date - known as a transitional arrangement)



Micro-firms

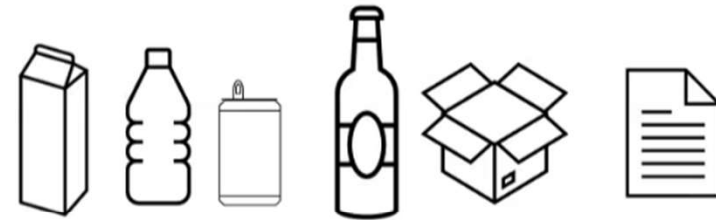
Micro firms (those with fewer than ten full-time equivalent employees) will need to meet requirements by **31 March 2027**



Plastic films

Plastic film and flexibles collections from all premises will be introduced by **31 March 2027**

Dry recyclable materials for collection



- **Materials to be collected:**

- Glass packaging: bottles and jars
- Paper and card
- Metal: tins and cans, foil and aluminium packaging and aerosols
- Plastic packaging incl. bottles, pots, tubs and trays, cartons, films and flexibles

- **Timescales:**

- Non-household municipal premises – **by 31 March 2025**
- Households – **by 31 March 2026**
- Micro-firms – **by 31 March 2027**
- Collection of films and flexibles from all properties – **by 31 March 2027**

Food Waste Collections



- The food waste stream includes:
 - *all food intended for human or household pet consumption, regardless of whether it has any nutritional value*
 - *biodegradable material resulting from the processing or preparation of food, including inedible food parts such as bones, eggshells, fruit and vegetable skins, tea bags and coffee grounds*
- Weekly food waste collections from all households **by 31 March 2026**
 - **Unless** a transitional arrangement agreed to allow longer (where an LA is bound by a long-term waste disposal contract)
- Separate food waste collections from non-household municipal premises **by 31 March 2025**, except for micro-firms who have until **31 March 2027**
 - No obligation to provide weekly for NHM
- On-site food waste treatment technologies remain permitted in line with waste hierarchy

Garden waste collections (households only)



- The garden waste stream includes *all organic material from the garden* **except:**
 - *Ash, full-sized trees, invasive weeds and species, soil, turf cuttings and waste products of animal origin*
- Decision was made not to proceed with requirement for free garden collections
- Other government policies offer better value for money, including weekly separate food waste collections
- Requirement to collect from households where requested, from **31 March 2026** but...
- **May recover a reasonable charge for collection under the Controlled Waste (England and Wales) Regulations 2012 (as is currently the case)**

Consultations

1. Consultation on Exemptions and Statutory Guidance for Simpler Recycling in England
 - Targeted consultation for those the Secretary of State considers appropriate on proposed exemptions on co-collections and statutory guidance
 2. Consultation on Additional Policies Related to Simpler Recycling in England
 - We are consulting on additional policies relating to Simpler Recycling, including expanding the list of relevant non-domestic premises in scope
 - Public consultation: we would like to hear from anyone impacted by Simpler Recycling
- Both consultations run from 21 October 2023 – 20 November 2023

Next steps & stakeholder engagement

- We are working closely with industry and the public sector to enable us to meet the ambitions of the Resources & Waste Reforms
 - We will continue to engage extensively following the publication of this government response
 - We are aware that some LAs may find the introduction of the reforms more challenging than others. We intend to work with those local authorities and support them in overcoming any difficulties they might face in relation to compliance within the legislative timeframes
-
- ✓ Business Readiness Forum
 - ✓ Local Authority Forum
 - ✓ Waste Management Forum
 - ✓ Resources & Waste newsletter
 - ✓ Direct engagement with local authority networks and waste industry bodies
 - ✓ Partnering with WRAP to deliver dedicated support for LAs and businesses



Summary of the **Simpler Recycling** reforms

What?

- Reforms to recycling collections in England
- Household and non-household premises to have separate collections of:

Residual



Organic recyclable waste



Dry recyclable waste



Why?

Contribute towards reaching:
65% municipal recycling rate by 2035



Environmental, economic or social benefit

- Reduced landfill and incineration and associated carbon emissions
- Reduced carbon emissions as a result of reduced production from virgin materials
- Support growth of UK recycling industry



Who?

All households in England including flats



Non-household municipal (NHM) premises in England



- Businesses:

MICRO	SMALL	MEDIUM	LARGE
≤10	≤50	≤250	>250

(number of full-time equivalent employees)



- Residential homes
- Educational establishments
- Hospitals or nursing homes



Subject to consultation:

- Places of worship
- Penal institutes
- Charity shops
- Hostels
- Public meeting places

Collectors

- (Subject to consultation)** Local authorities / other waste collectors can co-collect dry recyclables and/or co-collect organic waste to reduce the number of containers required
- Local authorities must provide a weekly food waste collection to all households
- Local authorities must provide garden waste collections to households where requested



Waste collection authorities



Other waste collectors

When?

31st March



Small, medium, and large NHM premises recycle all waste streams, except plastic film



31st March



Households recycle all waste streams, except plastic film



31st March



Micro-firms recycle all waste streams
Plastic film collections from all properties



How?

- Funding will be provided to local authorities for the household collection requirements:
 - Local authorities will receive payments from packaging producers under EPR from October 2025
 - Local authorities will receive new burdens funding for providing food waste collections
 - Local authorities can charge for garden collections





Department
for Environment
Food & Rural Affairs

Waste Crime and Waste Tracking

Chris Preston

Deputy Director, Resources & Waste
Resources & Waste Directorate

Waste carriers, brokers and dealers reform

Reform of the waste carriers, brokers and dealers (CBD) regime in England will ensure that only appropriate people are in control of waste.

- Ensuring those transporting and managing waste are competent, that they understand their responsibilities and the role they need to play in securing compliance and preventing waste
- Reduce opportunities for waste criminals to exploit the current weaknesses in the regime
- Provide greater flexibility for enforcement
- Link effectively with digital waste tracking to allow more effective accountability

The reform will:

- Shift from the registration system to a permitting system enabling full background checks on applicants
- The inclusion of a technical competence requirement
- Introduce registered exemptions for some activities/situations, broadly corresponding to current lower-tier registrations.

Impact: reduction in waste crime

- Requirement to demonstrate competence should reduce misclassification of waste and stop waste ending up in the wrong place, so reducing the incidence of waste crime and fly-tipping.
- Increased background checks needed to operate as a waste carrier, broker or dealer will make it easier for regulators to stop rogue operators entering the system and make it harder for un-registered operators to find work in the sector.
- Tougher regulatory powers and permit fees mean the regulator will have a wider range of more appropriate powers and better capacity to tackle wrong-doing under the system through compliance and enforcement.
- They should also make it easier for householders and businesses to demonstrate their Duty of Care - for example, it will be a requirement for waste carriers to include permit numbers in advertising and in vehicles which householders will be able to check against the database.
- Alongside mandatory digital waste tracking, regulators will be able to check whether the right waste is in the right place with the right people.



Department
for Environment
Food & Rural Affairs

Digital Waste Tracking

What is Waste Tracking?

Mandatory digital waste tracking will make it easier to track waste and resources throughout the economy.

We will for the first time have a comprehensive way to see what is happening to the waste produced in the UK:

- Where and how it is created
- What is done to it
- Where it ends up

Scope

- UK wide
- All UK waste movements of controlled and extractive waste – this will include all household, commercial and industrial waste and any waste that leaves a mine/quarry
- Green List Waste imports and exports
- Includes reporting on Persistent Organic Pollutants (POPs)
- Generally, if some type of waste record is required now i.e. waste transfer note, hazardous waste consignment note, Annex VII form, then a record on the waste tracking service will also be required.

Why is Digital Waste Tracking being introduced?



- To simplify the existing array of requirements to record information about waste movements and waste activities and to overhaul existing paper-based recording-keeping systems so that those handling waste will record information from the point it is produced to the point it is disposed of on a central digital service.
- This will:
 - help businesses comply with their duty of care with regards to waste
 - reduce the ability for waste criminals to operate and undercut legitimate businesses through their systemic mis-handling of waste, illegal exports and fly tipping
 - Help us move towards a more circular economy
 - lead to environmental benefits
 - allow for more efficient and effective regulation of waste

Timelines

- Autumn 2023 – Private Beta testing
 - Small, defined groups of industry users
- 2024 – Public Beta testing
 - Elements of the service publicly available to users on a voluntary basis
 - Service features will likely be made available in phases
- April 2025 - Following public testing and the laying of secondary legislation, use of the service will become mandatory (including cost recovery via a service charge)