



Department
for Environment
Food & Rural Affairs

Circular Economy Joint Stakeholder Forum



Tuesday, 6 May 2025

Agenda

14:30-14:35	Welcome and Introduction	Joe Shields
14:35-15:00	Extended Producer Responsibility for Packaging: Amending Statutory Instrument Update	Dexter Davies
15:00-15:20	PackUK – Updates: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Recyclability Assessment Methodology• Fee Modulation• Report Packaging Data	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Alice Brown• Ben Graham• Yulia Karabanovych
15:20-15:30	Deposit Return Scheme	Shehab Choudhury

Agenda

15:30-15:35	Circular Economy	Alex Rennison
15:35-15:45	Simpler Recycling Collections in England	Aaron Moon
15:45-15:55	Waste Electrical and Electronic Equipment	Graeme Vickery Natalie Way
15:55-16:00	Vapes	Freya Ballard
16:00-16:05	Engagement Activities/Close	Joe Shields



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Extended Producer Responsibility for Packaging: Amendments Update

Extended Producer Responsibility for Packaging

Central role in the circular economy transition

- pEPR has been designed to integrate with a suite of interconnected reforms which provide the basis for system-wide change.

Commitment to continuous improvement

- Feedback from the UK waste management sector, local authorities and the packaging value chain has been instrumental in shaping a more effective and efficient scheme.
 - This week, the UK government are notifying an amending Statutory Instrument (SI) to the Extended Producer Responsibility for packaging (pEPR) regulations to the European Union in respect of Northern Ireland.
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pEPR: Amendments Update

Forthcoming amendments:

- Enhancing Producer Leadership
 - Enable the appointment of a Producer Responsibility Organisation (PRO)
 - Support greater producer leadership and align with international best practice
- Offsetting for Closed Loop Recycling Systems
 - For businesses which collect and recycle their own materials to the same grade (food-grade plastic)
 - Decreases reliance on virgin plastics
- Operability changes
 - Technical changes that will enable more efficient operations.

pEPR Amendments Update

Enhancing Producer Leadership

- Today we are launching an Expression of Interest process through the circular economy newsletter which invites PRO candidates to agree the role of the PRO with the four nation governments.
 - Details of eligibility and selection criteria for this process can be found in the newsletter and linked EOI form
 - Candidates should respond **before 10 June 2025**.
 - Subject to parliamentary process, we expect to appoint a PRO early in 2026, once the new regulations come into force.
 - Local government will be engaged in the development of this work to get the right PRO proposition that works for all across the packaging value chain.
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Commitment to continuous improvement: response to feedback

Approach to Dual-Use Packaging

- We will work with these businesses to explore their proposals at pace, including considering whether they require regulatory amendments.

Efficiency and Effectiveness of Local Authority Packaging Services

- We will consider further measures to support and incentivise improved efficiency and effectiveness of local authority services to manage packaging waste. This will focus on how we ensure that investment through pEPR supports local authorities to deliver improved outcomes and value for money.

Clarity on Litter

- Provisions relating to street binned and littered packaging waste payments are not included in the amending SI to the pEPR Regulations being brought forward at this time.
-

Commitment to continuous improvement: response to feedback

Recyclability Assessment Methodology (RAM) and Reporting Requirements

- The RAM has been simplified and the updated RAM V1.1 guidance is now live
- We are working with compliance schemes and producers on options to reduce the reporting burden.

Supporting and Growing the UK's existing recycling infrastructure

The four nations will work in partnership to bring forward a programme of work to support stability and growth of the UK's plastics' reprocessing sector. Including:

- **Strengthening of the Plastics Packaging Tax:** HMT have announced that the government intends to implement a mass balance approach for chemically recycled plastic for the purposes of the PPT, from April 2027.
 - **Reforming of the Packaging Recovery Note (PRN) system.** We will look at measures to stabilise the PRN market, reduce price volatility and reduce exporting of plastic waste.
 - **Food Grade Plastics:** The Food Standards Agency is now the competent authority.
-

Further updates covering England

Supporting Glass Reuse

- Reuse has a significant role to play in moving to a circular economy.
- Glass reuse has the potential to support significant emission reductions and industry is already making significant progress in this area.
- Defra will do more to support industry to increase reuse and refill, with an initial focus on on-trade glass bottle reuse. We will continue discussions with the sector to support a transition towards glass reuse.

A circular Economy Finance Coalition

- Together with the Dutch government and the Lord Mayor of London, Defra has established a Circular Economy Finance Coalition. This will explore ways to boost investment in critical infrastructure and technologies.
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Next Steps

Amending SI

- The EU notification process will run from 6 May until 29 July.
- Plan to lay the SI before Parliament in November 2025, with a view to the amendments **coming into force from 1 January 2026**.

PRO Expression of Interest

- Download the [EOI form](#) containing eligibility and selection criteria and submit it to packaging@defra.gov.uk **by 10 June 2025**.
- Selected candidates will be invited to engage directly with the four nations to agree their proposals for the role of the PRO, with this engagement concluding by early September 2025.
- PackUK will launch the formal application process in October 2025, with the PRO expected to be appointed by March 2026.

Dual-use packaging & Efficiency and Effectiveness

- We will be seeking views on both these areas over the coming months.
-

Questions



PackUK - pEPR updates



Recyclability Assessment Methodology v1.1

- Pack UK (Pecyn UK in Wales) published RAM v1.1 on Monday 28 April.
 - RAM v1.1 has been developed based on industry feedback from v1.
 - It is a simplified version of the RAM, designed to make it easier for large producers and schemes to assess and report against the RAM in 2025.
 - To further assist producers, a package of support will be published shortly. It will include an Agreed Positions document and a series of one-page guidance notes for the materials covered by the RAM.
 - The updated methodology reflects PackUK's commitment to continuous improvement and industry engagement and has been designed to make the assessment process practical, intuitive, and accessible.
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Proposed RAM Modulated Fee Methodology Reminder

The modulation factor timeline could look like*:

- **2026 invoices: Red 1.2x Base fee**
- **2027 invoices: Red 1.6x Base fee**
- **2028 invoices: Red 2.0x Base fee**
- **Beyond 2028: publish range in 2025**

We will only use the RAM (recyclability assessment methodology) as the basis for fee modulation for the first 3 years of the policy, with the potential to add other sustainability factors after that.

We calculate the fee % discount on green (recyclable) materials so it is **equal across categories**, while being **cost neutral overall for producers** (producers using recyclable packaging are **rewarded with lower fees**).

**2028 Red =
2.0x base fee**

**2027 Red =
1.6x base fee**

**2026 Red =
1.2x base fee**

Amber = base fee

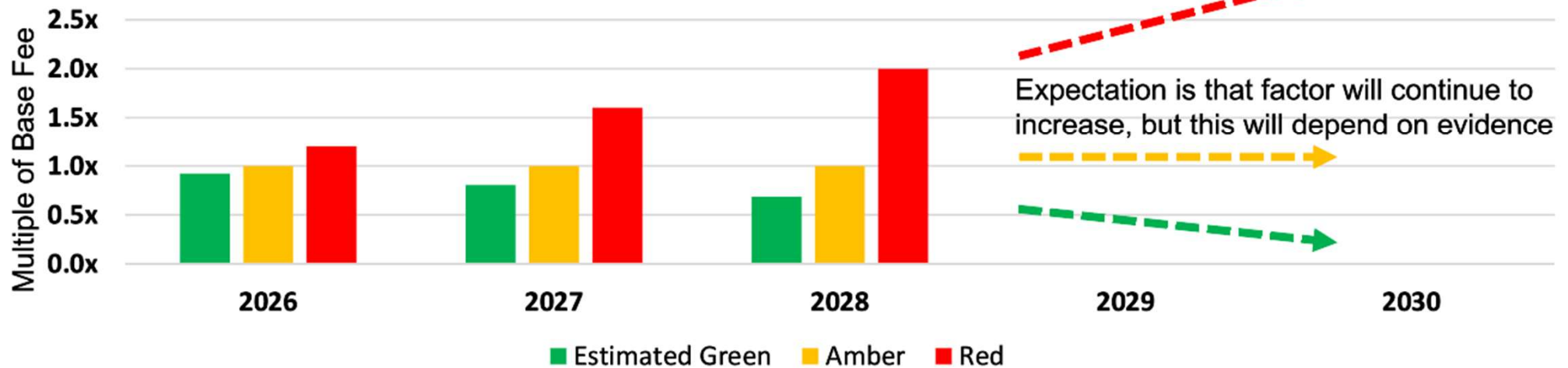
Green fee **decreases** as
the Red fee rises – total
costs paid by producers
won't change

*subject to change before the final policy statement

Increasing modulation over time

Aim to **drive more unrecyclable materials** out of the market over time by increasing Red modulation factor; while ensuring there's certainty for producers and reducing the immediate financial shock.

Modulation Factors 3 Years and Beyond

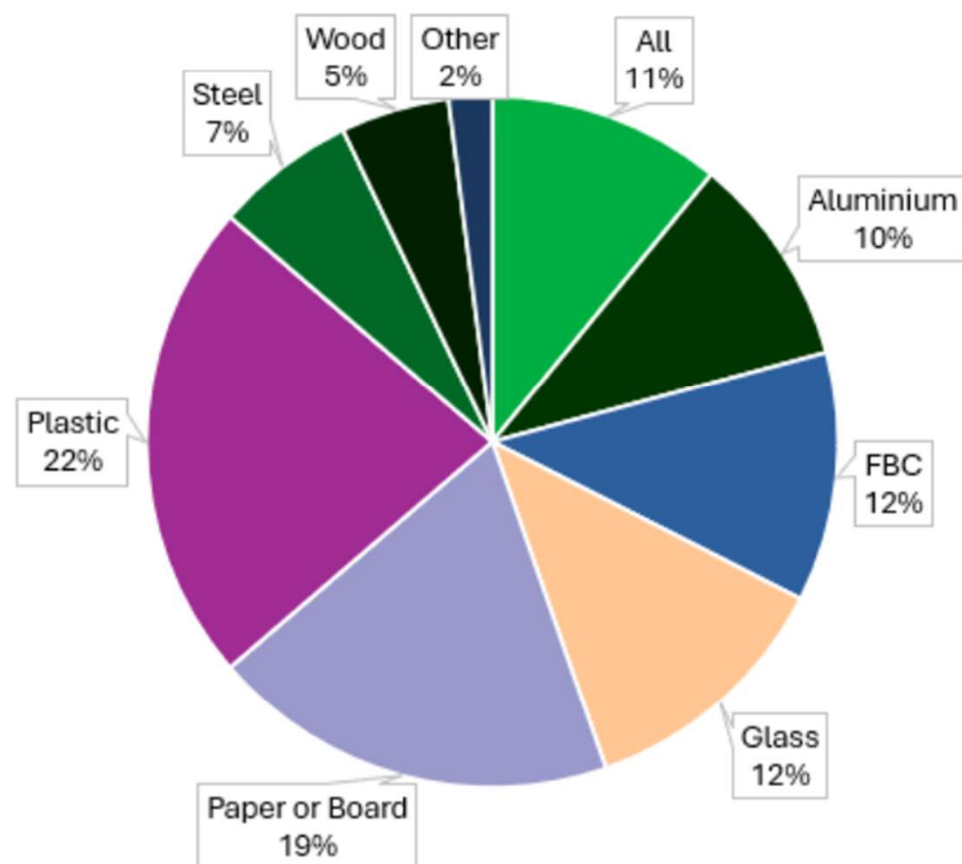
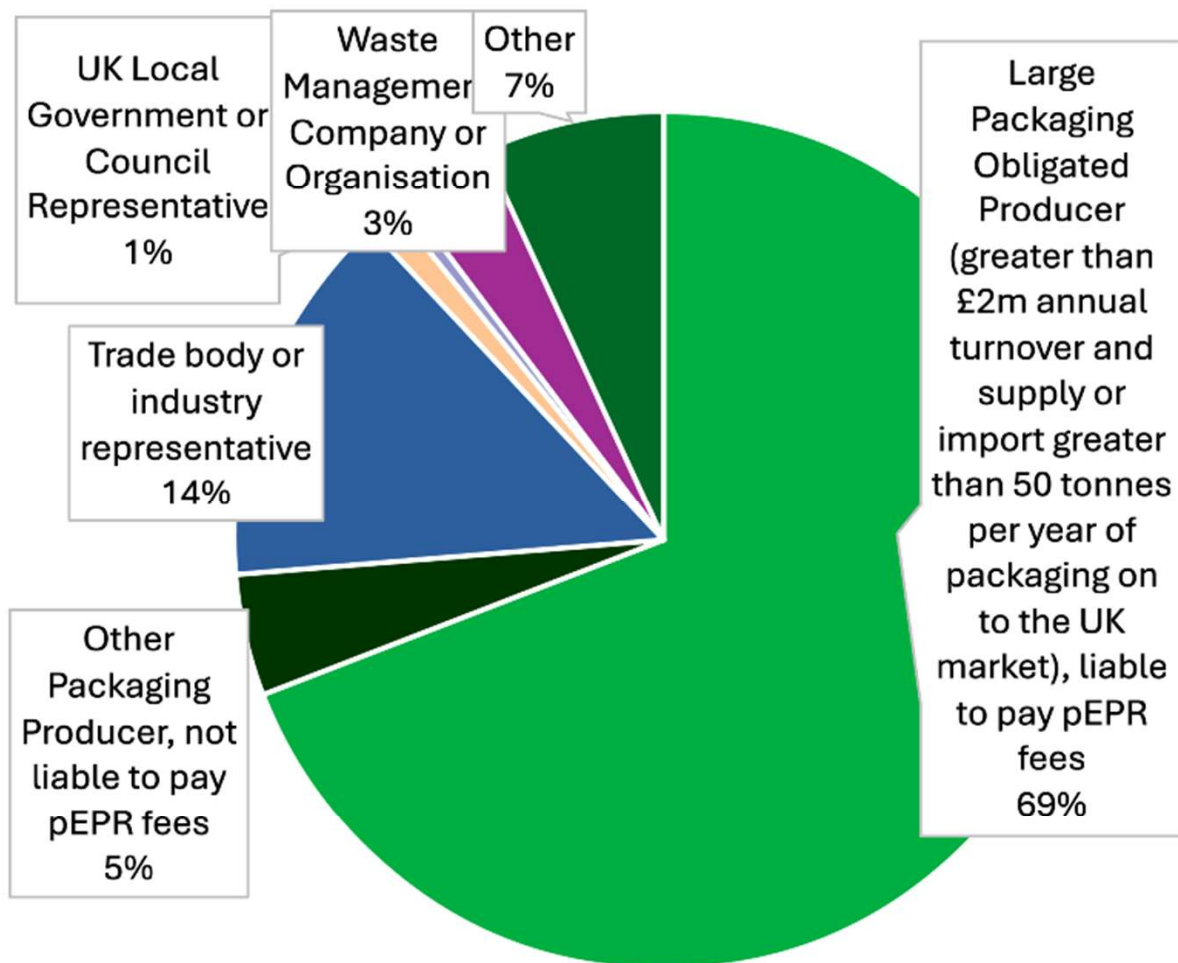


Modulation is **always cost neutral** for producers overall – funds are redistributed from unrecyclable materials (charged a premium) to discount the most recyclable materials by a **percentage discount**. Packaging producers who put **recyclable** packaging on to the market will pay **lower fees**.

Fee Modulation Survey Results

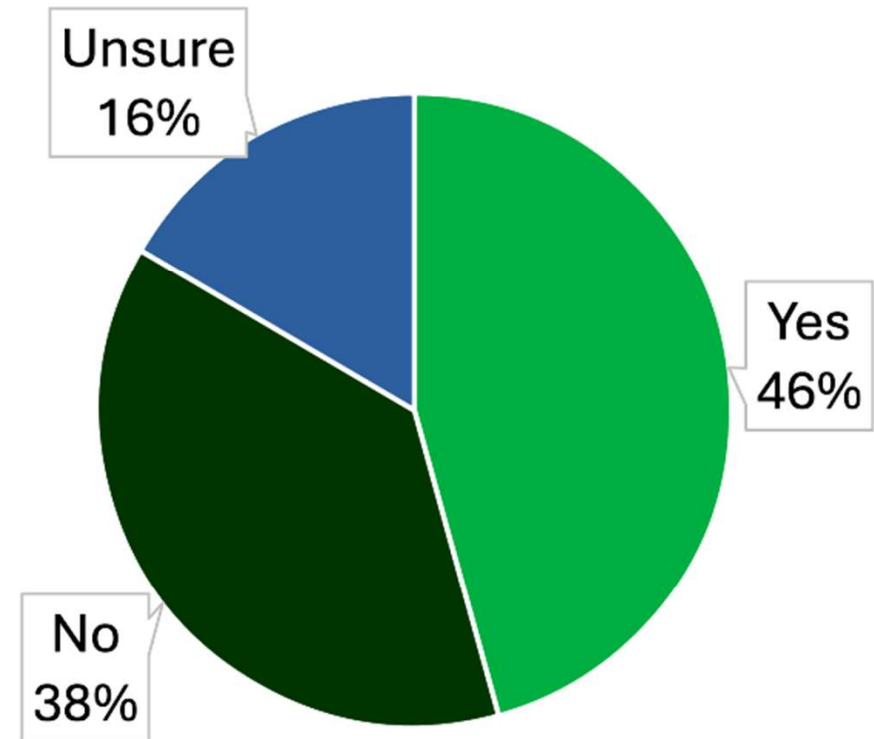
- We asked you to fill out a survey on our proposed policy for fee modulation at the previous Joint Stakeholder Forum on April 1
 - In total there were 180 responses to the survey
 - The majority of responses were from large packaging producers
 - More supported the approach and initial modulation factor than rejected it
 - 45% foresee changing packaging in response to modulation
 - Some producers voiced concerns about complying with the RAM in time and not seeing base fees in advance to plan adequately. Some concerns were also voices about medical packaging, which will have an opt out from modulated fees.
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Who answered?



Do you agree with how we have applied modulation to materials with different RAM categories?

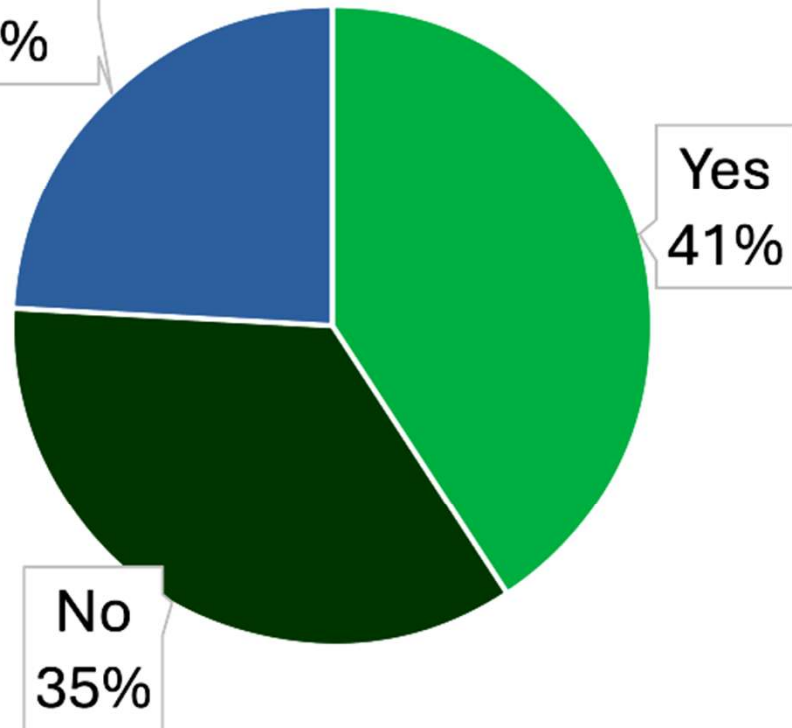
- 46% of total respondents agree with our RAM Fee methodology
- This methodology sets Amber category fees at base fee, uplifts Red category fees by a fixed modulation factor, and then uses the excess to fund an equal percentage discount applied to all Green materials below their respective base fee



There is slightly less support for our proposed modulation factors for Red RAM category materials, which are still not final

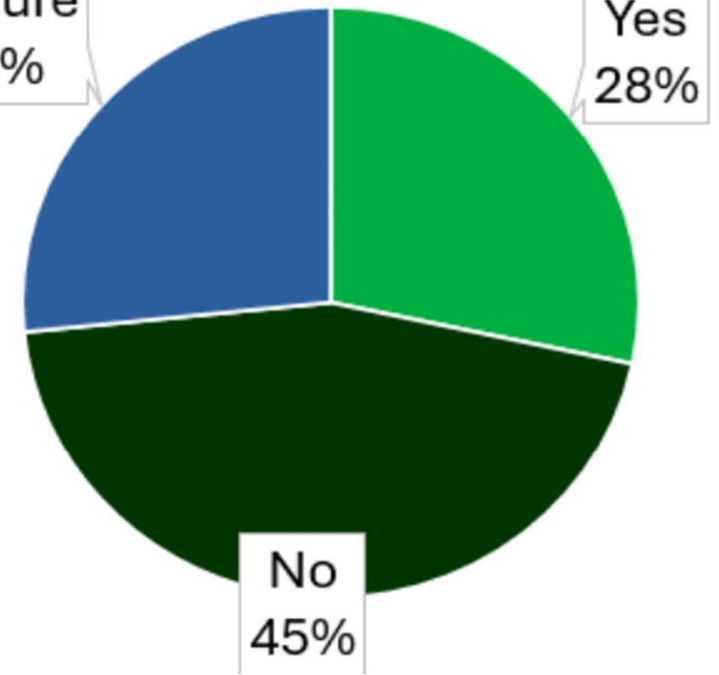
Do you agree that the initial 2026 fee uplift for Red RAM category materials of 1.2 times the base fee, with the entire excess used to discount green category fees?

Unsure
24%



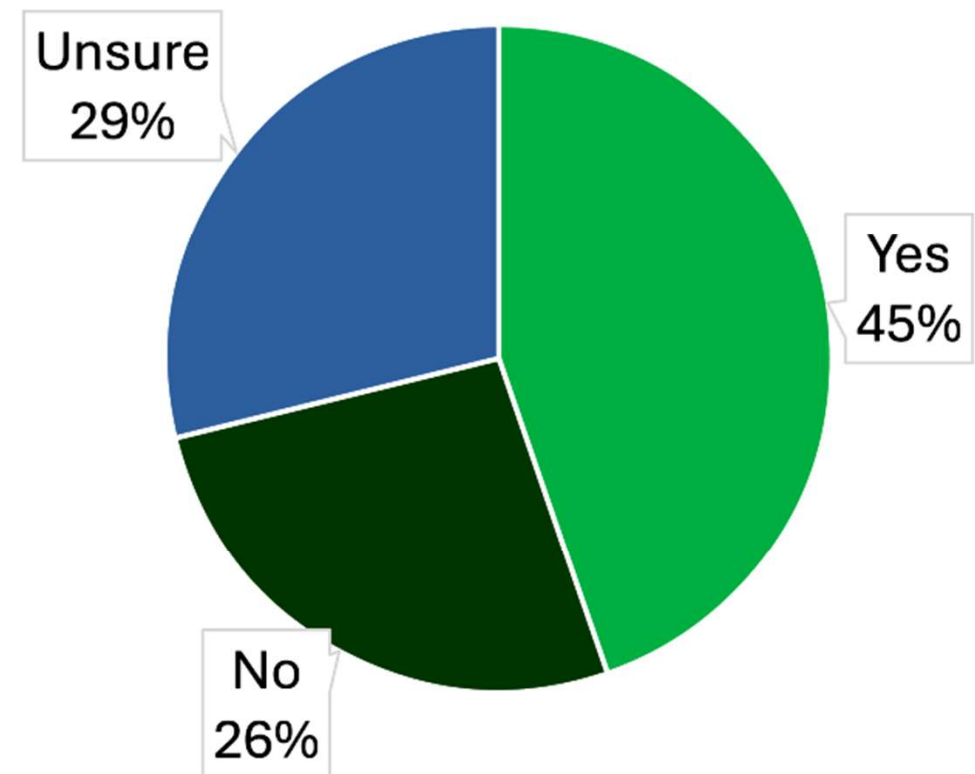
Do you agree with the policy of increasing Red RAM category fees to 1.6 times and 2.0 times base fee in 2027 and 2028, respectively?

Unsure
27%



Having seen the fee factors proposed, do you foresee changing any of your existing plans to use more recyclable materials in your packaging?

- 45% of respondents see themselves **changing their existing plans** on the use of recyclable materials in their packaging
- Strongly incentivising the use of more recyclable materials in packaging is one of the **core aims** of fee modulation and what we want to see



Next Steps

- The survey closed on April 25th, and we are still analysing the data and comments received
- We may consider changes to the proposed approach to modulation after we have completed our analysis of the survey feedback and evidence received
- Our modulation approach is also currently in review, so is still subject to change and the timeline cannot be guaranteed
- **Our aim is for a fee modulation policy statement to be published in June, and to present it, as well as a more detailed breakdown of the survey comments, at the June CE Stakeholder Forum.**

New Producer Functionality – May 2025

The rollout of new RPD functionality to support producer compliance with the new Producer Responsibility Obligations (Packaging and Packaging Waste) Regulations 2024 continues in May, with new features being delivered to:

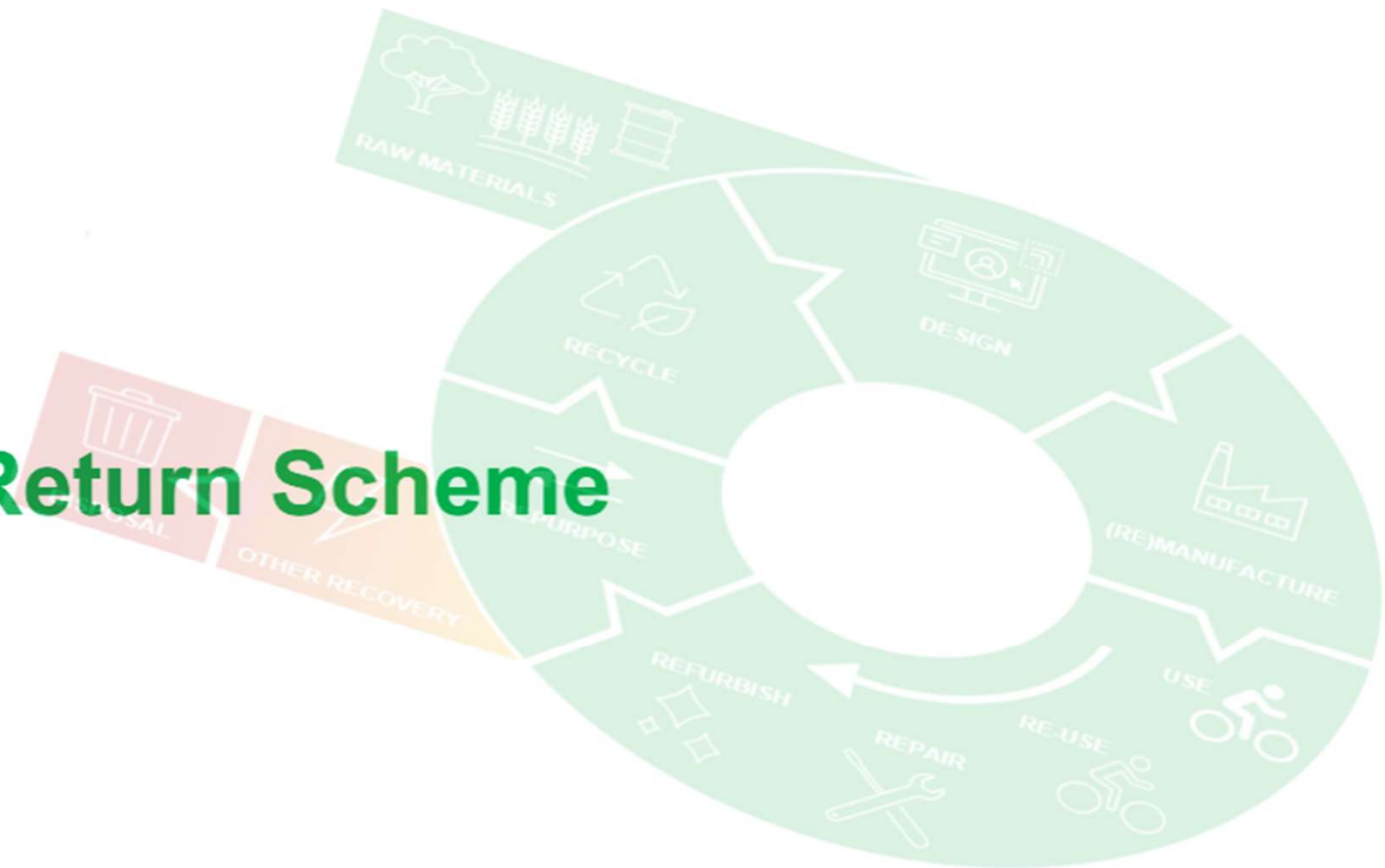
- Visualise **Producer Recycling Obligations**;
- Allow Producers to notify regulators of a **Mid-Year Change** to their corporate structure;
- Allow the payment of **late registration** and PoM **resubmission fees** through RPD;
- Identify Producers on the Public Register (following registration).





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Deposit Return Scheme



Appointment of the Deposit Management Organisation (DMO)

- Today it was announced that UK Deposit Management Organisation Limited (UK DMO) was appointed on Friday 2nd May as the scheme administrator for the Deposit Return Scheme in England, Northern Ireland, and Scotland.
- The DMO is an industry-led private body. This model was chosen based on industry feedback and on international precedent.
- UK DMO represents a significant portion of the UK drinks and retail sector.

UK DMO



Delivering the UK's Deposit Return Scheme – cutting waste, boosting recycling and creating a circular economy that works for everyone.

UK Deposit Management Organisation Ltd (UK DMO) is the official operator of the Deposit Return Scheme for single-use plastic and metal drinks containers in England, Northern Ireland and Scotland. As a business-led, not-

DRS Engagement Update

DRS Engagement: Transitioning from Government-led engagement to DMO-led engagement

Government has engaged extensively with industry over the last few years, working together to develop the **DRS policy and legislation**. This has been led by government using forums such as DRS Industry Forum and the sector specific sub-groups.



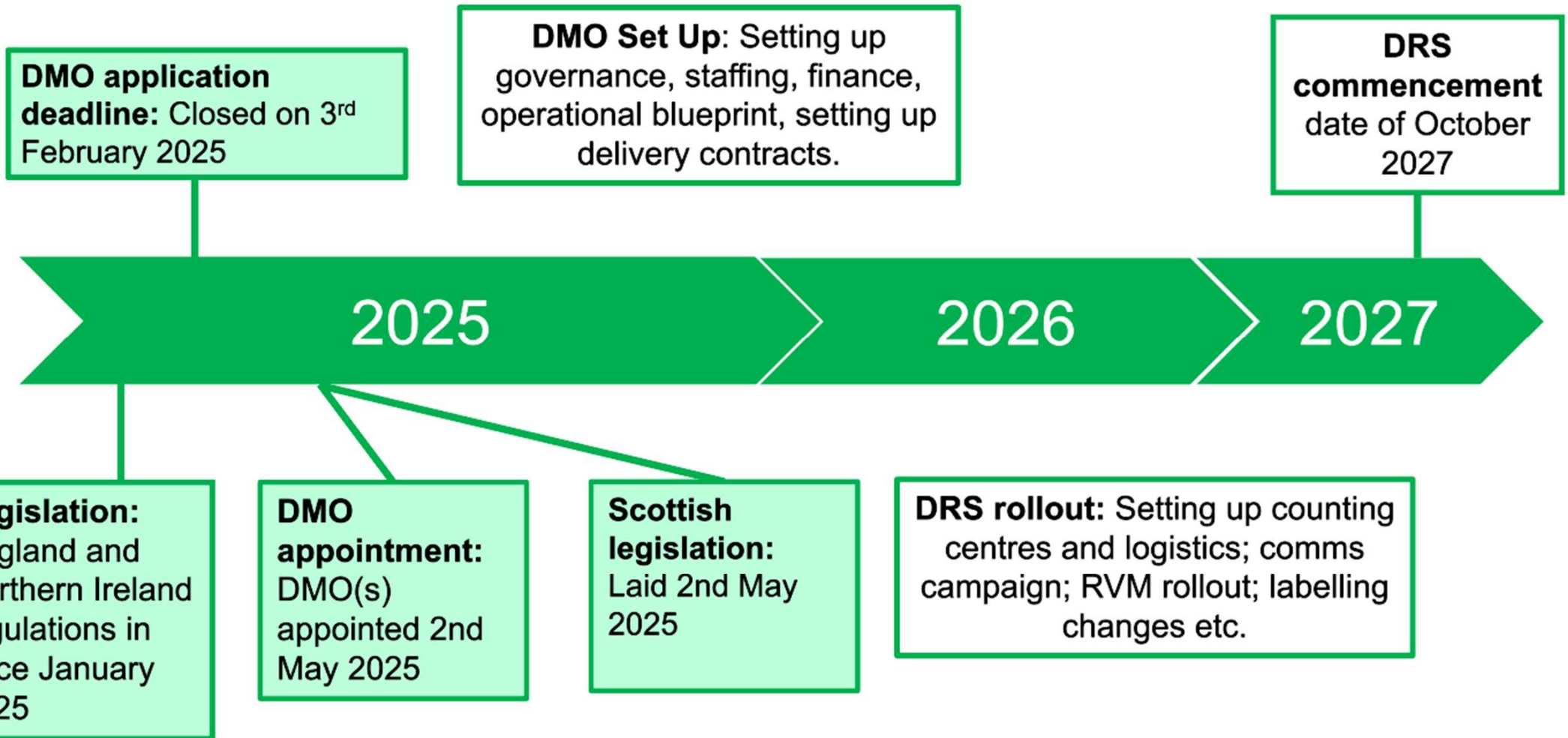
The next phase of engagement will be led by the DMO and **focus on operational delivery**. UK DMO is in the very early stages of establishing itself and is currently developing the operational blueprint to set out the detail of how the scheme will be delivered. UK DMO will be updating on their progress and engaging with stakeholders throughout.



What's changing?	What's staying the same?	Moving forward:
Transition away from government-led forums, such as DRS Industry Forum and sub-groups. The main operational discussions will take place through DMO-led forum(s).	Government will maintain regular engagement with drinks producers, retailers, consumer groups and other relevant stakeholders through regular 1:1s with trade associations and key stakeholders.	Government will work closely with UK DMO across the three nations, and alongside producers and retailers, to support the smooth implementation of the DRS.

[More actions](#)

Next steps



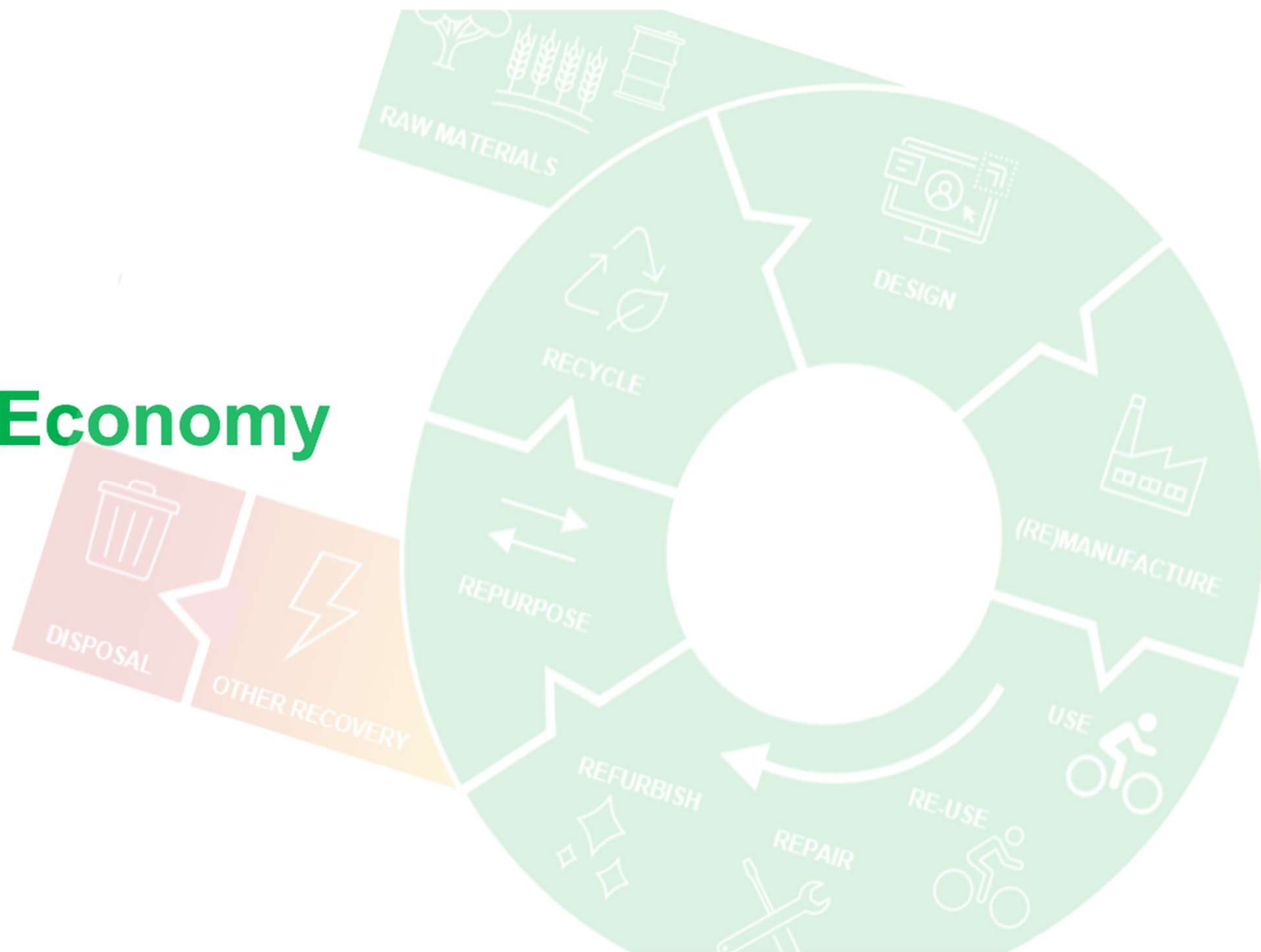
Questions





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Circular Economy



Engagement Update – Delivered



Circularity in Construction – Workshop with the UK Green Building Council start up network (60+ members) on 9 April; Ongoing conversations with the Greater London Authority and LAs on Circular Economy Statements and planning processes. Taskforce led stakeholder panel was held on 1 May with discussions on emerging themes and challenges for CE in Built Environment.



Circularity in Agrifood and Packaging – Two Taskforce-led panels on 2 April: one on packaging re-use with trade associations and major producers, and another on packaging innovation with startups and SMEs; Taskforce attendance at a meeting of the UN Food is Never Waste Coalition 2 April; Defra-led conversations with trade associations on 2 and 12 April; Taskforce attendance at a Defra-led land use roundtable 8 April; Taskforce attendance at On-Farm Anaerobic Digestion Summit on 9 April; Taskforce led stakeholder panel was held on regenerative farming and agri-tech on 23 April.



Circularity in Textiles – direct engagements with lead trade organisations like the Textile Recycling Association, British Retail Consortium, UK Fashion and Textile Association, and the British Fashion Council; international interlocutors like GIZ; policy advocates like WEFT; and third sector actors like the British Heart Foundation. Taskforce led stakeholder panels held on 2 May.



Circularity in Transport – Taskforce conversations with major automotive manufacturers like BMW and Polestar; key trade organisations like the Society of Motor Manufacturers and Traders; and leading battery and EV recycling firms like Recyclus and Lithium Battery Recycling Solutions.



Circularity in Electricals - Taskforce-led roundtable with members of the Industry Council of Electronic Equipment Recycling on 16 April.

Engagement Update – Upcoming



Circularity in Agrifood – Taskforce-led roundtables on 7 May: one on anaerobic digestion, and two others focusing on alternative proteins, and future food.



Circularity in Electricals – Taskforce led roundtables focusing on CE in Electronics and potential interventions, date TBC. Ministerial roundtable to be held with taskforce and stakeholders.



Circularity in Textiles – Taskforce-led interviews with Primark, M&S, Vinted, Depop, IKEA, Dunelm, Wayfair, Salvation Army, British Heart Foundation upcoming. Further taskforce led panel held on 7 May focusing on EU alignment and textile marketing. Ministerial roundtable to be held with taskforce and stakeholders.



Circularity in Transport – Taskforce led panel 19 May regarding the value chain in both EV batteries and light automotives.



Circularity in Chemicals and Plastics – Taskforce led conversation on 16 May focusing on topics such as defossilisation and development in chemicals and plastics.

Ministers will be deployed across the CE priority sectors, with engagement efforts sustained throughout the summer to ensure we reach all stakeholders who have expressed interest in participating.

Simpler Recycling Collections in England



Delivery Timeline for Simpler Recycling Collections

2024

2025

2026

2027

Beyond

Dates confirmed in commencement regulations



Food waste transitional arrangements confirmed in commencement regs

Secondary legislation (negative statutory instrument) in force



FY 24/25:

Remaining secondary legislation comes into force and final guidance published



FY 23/24:

Local authorities receive **capital transitional** funding for food collections



31 March 2025:

Workplaces (with 10 or more employees) recycle all waste streams, except garden and plastic films



FY 24/25

LAs receive **transitional resource** funding for food collections



FY 25/26:

LAs receive **EPR** funding for packaging collections



31 March 2026:

Households recycle all waste streams, except plastic films (and food where transitional arrangement applies)

1 April 2026:

LAs start receiving **ongoing resource** funding for food collections



31 March 2027:

Micro-firms (less than 10 employees) recycle all waste streams except garden waste

31 March 2027:

Plastic films and flexible packaging collections from all households and workplaces



Commencement regulations:

Food waste collections begin for local authorities who have a transitional arrangement

 Policy & legislation

 Funding

 Implementation dates



Complete

Simpler Recycling for Workplaces

As of 31st March, there is now a legal requirement for workplaces (businesses and relevant non-domestic premises) to separately present household-like waste in the following waste streams:

- **Dry mixed recycling** – Plastic, metal, glass
- **Paper and card**
- **Food waste** – including leftovers and waste from food preparation
- **Residual waste** – non-recyclable materials including absorbent hygiene products.

The workplace must present their waste in accordance with the arrangements agreed with their waste collector.

The requirement comes into effect for micro-firms (those with <10 full-time equivalent staff) from 31 March 2027.



We want to showcase more examples of best practice within workplaces at these forums and as part of our online resources. If you are interested to speak or be part of a written case study, please contact recycling@defra.gov.uk

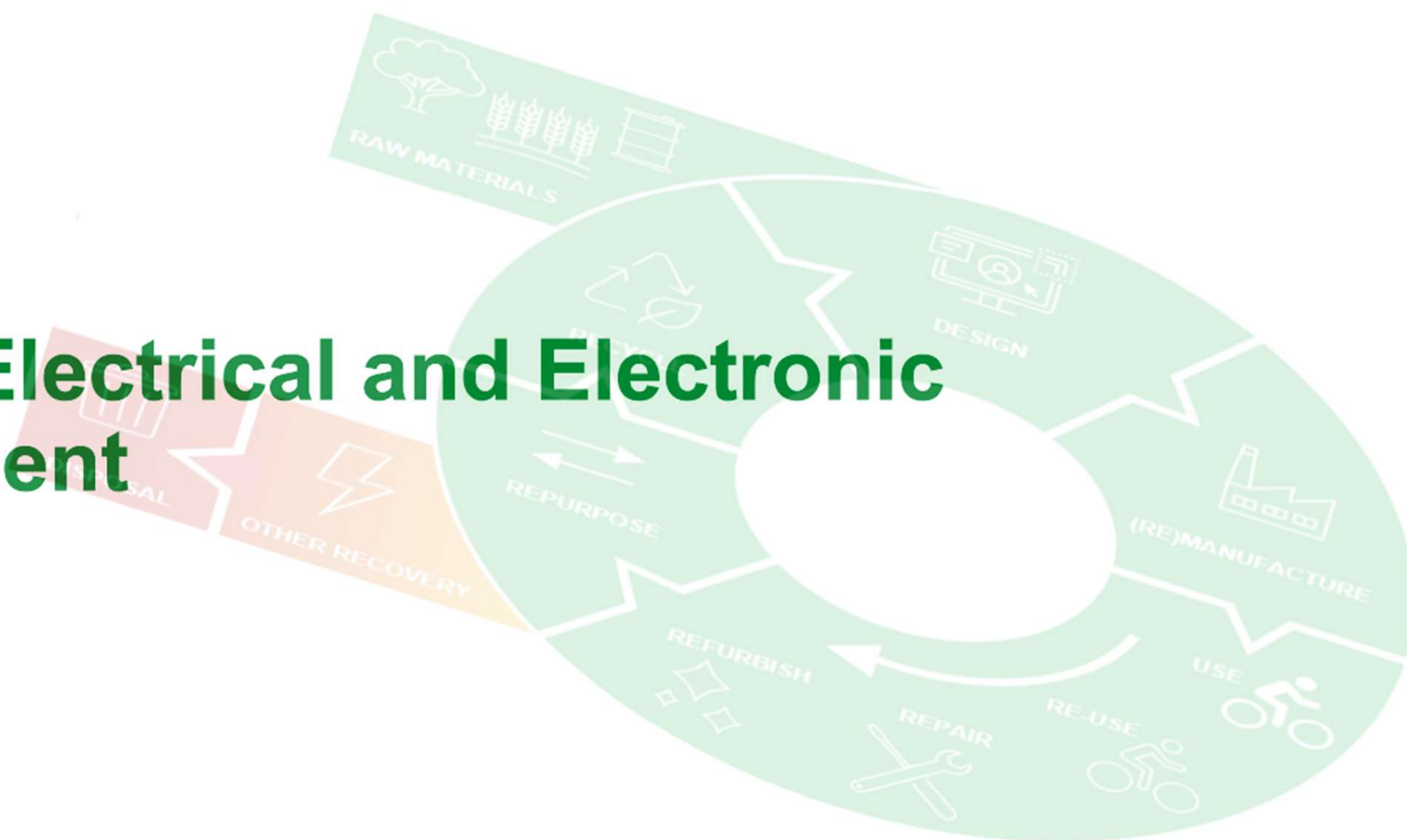
Questions



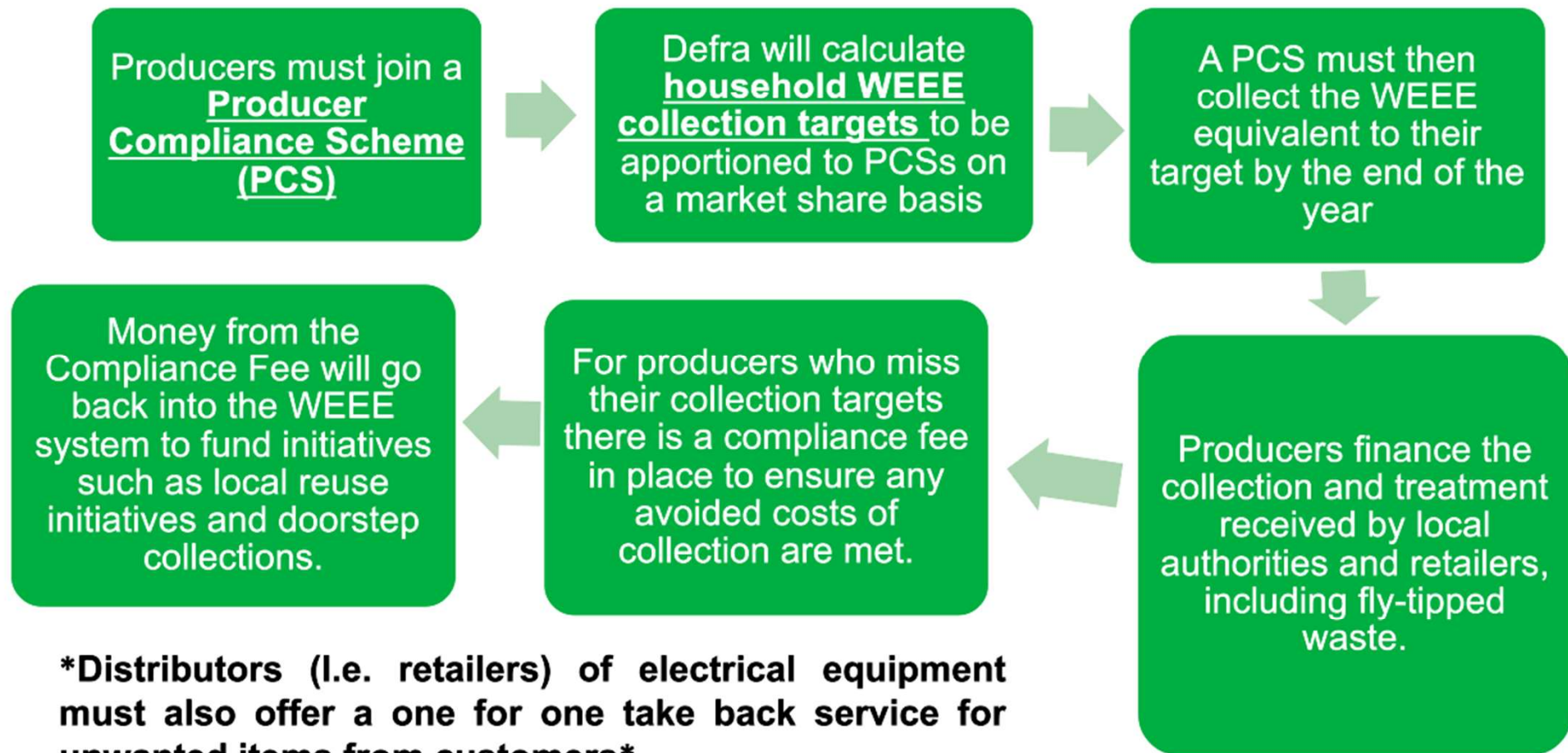


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Waste Electrical and Electronic Equipment



How does the system work?



Distributors (i.e. retailers) of electrical equipment must also offer a one for one take back service for unwanted items from customers

Regulatory Reform

Consultation held 2023:

Taking forward two key reforms as a matter of priority:

- **Online Market Places becoming producers**
- **Separated category for vapes**

Expected to come into force summer 2025 with financial requirements in 2026.



Single-use vape supply ban comes into force on 1 June 2025

- From 1 June selling or supplying single-use vapes in all contexts will be prohibited.
 - This includes in settings such as stop-smoking services and other medical settings and includes supply for export.
 - A single-use vape is a vape that is not intended or designed to be reused, for a product to be sold after 1 June 2025 it must have the following features:
 - Refillable: The e-liquid container on the vape can be refilled or replaced with another e-liquid container (a pod), that can be purchased separately.
 - Rechargeable: The battery on the product can be recharged **and** the coil can be replaced, either individually or as part of a refill pod.
 - All replaceable parts must be available separately for sale.
-

Resources:

- Defra Business Guidance on the ban: [Single-use vapes ban - GOV.UK](https://www.gov.uk/guidance/single-use-vapes-ban)
- Toolkit for business: TBC



What should businesses be doing to prepare?

- Businesses should have stopped purchasing stock of single-use vapes if they will not be able to sell it before 1 June 2025 and should aim to sell through their stock of single-use vapes ahead of this date.
 - Businesses should let customers know that after 1 June 2025 they will no longer be able to purchase single-use vapes. Defra has created an information poster for businesses to display that can provide users with relevant information.
 - If after 1 June, you have stock of single-use vapes these must be removed from shelves and separated from other stock until they can be collected by a relevant recycling service.
-

Questions





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Round Up | Communications and Engagement Update



Navigate forward

Next Meetings

Joint Stakeholder Engagement Forum 3rd June

Joint Stakeholder Engagement Forum 1st July

We will not be having a Joint Stakeholder Engagement Forum in August

Joint Stakeholder Engagement Forum 2nd September

Joint Stakeholder Engagement Forum 7th October

Joint Stakeholder Engagement Forum 4th November

Joint Stakeholder Engagement Forum 2nd December

Circular Economy Newsletter

To keep up to date with news on Defra's Circular Economy reforms subscribe to the Circular Economy newsletter here



<https://tinyurl.com/2zhyh4fn>

THANK YOU

