

# Overview of the Government's waste reforms

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The logo for WRAP (Waste Resources Action Programme) is displayed in a dark blue, lowercase, sans-serif font. The letters 'w', 'r', and 'a' are connected, and the 'p' has a distinctive loop at the bottom. The logo is positioned on a teal-colored background that is part of a larger graphic element on the right side of the slide.

# Resources & Waste Strategy

- Consistency in household and business recycling collections in England (now known as 'Simpler recycling')
- Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR)
- Deposit Return Scheme (DRS)



# The Environmental Targets (Residual Waste) (England) Regulations 2022

- Reduction of residual waste\* (excluding major mineral wastes) on a kg per capita basis by **50% by 2042 from 2019 levels.**
- 2019 level = 574 kg per capita.
- 2042 target = 287 kilograms per capita
- Interim target of a 24% reduction per person and a 21% reduction by tonnage by 2028.

\* Residual waste is defined as that which is sent to landfill, put through incineration or used in energy recovery in the UK or overseas.



# Government response to 'Consistency in Household and Business Recycling in England'

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# Food waste

Households	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>○ Collections from all properties (including flats)</li><li>○ Food waste must be collected at least weekly</li><li>○ <b>By 31<sup>st</sup> March 2026</b></li><li>○ Transitional arrangements will apply for LAs with long-term disposal contracts</li><li>○ Consultation on exemption for co-collection with garden waste without need for written assessment: applies to hh and NHM</li></ul>
NHM	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>○ <b>By 31<sup>st</sup> March 2025</b> (micro firms by 31<sup>st</sup> March 2027)*</li><li>○ No requirement if premises do not produce food waste</li></ul>
Material included	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>○ All food intended for human or household pet consumption</li></ul>

\*producers of NHM waste with fewer than 10 FTEs (measured per enterprise, not per unit)

# Dry recyclable material in scope

Require collection	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>○ Glass: bottles and jars</li><li>○ Metals: tins and cans, aerosols, foil, food trays</li><li>○ Plastics: bottles (PET, PP, HDPE), PTT, cartons, plastic film</li><li>○ Paper and card</li></ul>
Households	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>○ <b>By 31<sup>st</sup> March 2026</b></li></ul>
NHM	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>○ <b>By 31<sup>st</sup> March 2025</b> (micro firms by 31<sup>st</sup> March 2027)</li></ul>
Plastic film	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>○ <b>By 31<sup>st</sup> March 2027</b> (for households and NHM)</li></ul>

# Garden waste

## Households

- LAs required to collect where service requested **by 31<sup>st</sup> March 2026**
- Reasonable collection charge can continue to be levied (Controlled Waste Regulations 2012)
- Garden waste materials outlined
- Defra will *“continue to monitor garden waste recycling rates and gather further evidence on the additional options.....and how they can be used to minimise the amount of garden waste which ends up in the residual waste stream”*

## NHM

- No requirement to collect: not listed as recyclable waste stream in Section 57 Environment Act 2021


# Consultation on exemptions and statutory guidance (private)



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# What was included?

- Materials in and out of scope. SoS may add materials through regulations in future (subject to conditions).
  - Explanation of duties on waste collectors of household and NHM waste.
  - Recommendation that garden waste collections provided over a period no less than 36 weeks in any calendar year, March to October inclusive.
  - Exemptions for micro firms.
  - **Residual waste collection frequency.**
  - **Co-collection exemption for dry recycling and organic waste. Applies for households and NHM waste.**
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# Residual waste collection frequency

*“Through statutory guidance, we propose requiring local authorities to collect residual (non-recyclable) waste at least fortnightly, if not more frequently, to protect local amenity and prevent unintended consequences of cutting residual waste collection frequency.”*


*“Ministers at the Department for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities have decided to waive the New Burdens Doctrine in respect of mandatory fortnightly minimum residual waste collection.”*

Requirement by 31<sup>st</sup> March 2026.

Local authorities must have regard to the statutory guidance.



# Co-collection exemption


- Applies to both dry recycling and organic waste.
  - Separate collection is default position (set out in Environment Act 2021). Co-collection may be permitted if separate collection is not technically or economically practicable or has no significant environmental benefit. Requirement for a written assessment.
  - **Power for SoS to set an exemption from separate collection if satisfied that doing so does not significantly reduce the potential for the waste streams to be recycled or composted.**
  - **Proposal set out in SG consultation to allow all dry recyclables to be collected in one container without the need for a written assessment.**
  - Exemption would apply for household and NHM waste and will be confirmed in upcoming regulations (subject to consultation).
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# Co-collection exemption: rationale

*“We consider that there is sufficient evidence that the co-collection of dry recyclable materials will not significantly reduce their potential to be recycled.”*

*“Based on available data, co-collection does not have a significant impact on recycling rates.”*

*“Six of the top 10 LAs in terms of ‘household waste’ recycling rate in England in 2021/22 provided a co-mingled service for dry materials.”*



# Funding

Food waste (households)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>○ Reasonable new burdens funding to provide weekly food waste collections</li><li>○ Funding for capital, transition and ongoing costs</li><li>○ Modelled costs</li><li>○ £295m for capital funding as part of current Spending Review (SR)</li><li>○ Transition and ongoing costs for LAs with transitional arrangements outside of this SR</li><li>○ Paid initially through Section 31 grants: rolled into LG grant in time</li><li>○ Capital costs incurred prior to 31/03/23 will not be funded</li></ul>
Dry recyclable materials (households)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>○ Funded through packaging EPR payments</li><li>○ LA costs of collecting and managing packaging waste through efficient and effective services will be met</li><li>○ Payment modelling underway</li><li>○ Aim to provide LA estimates for 2025/26 by 1<sup>st</sup> November 2024</li><li>○ First payments by end of December 2025</li></ul>

# Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR)

- Funded through packaging EPR payments
- LA costs of collecting and managing packaging waste through efficient and effective services will be met
- Payment modelling underway
- Aim to provide LA estimates for 2025/26 by 1<sup>st</sup> November 2024
- First payments by end of December 2025

EPR for packaging: producer fees have been deferred by 12-months and will commence from October 2025 (for local authority costs for 2025/26). Data reporting obligations remain unchanged; obligated producers are still required to report the packaging they use or supply from 2023

**Scheme administrator – Interim steering group appointed (including the post of Head of the Scheme Administrator)**

[Extended producer responsibility for packaging: who is affected and what to do - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](https://www.gov.uk)



# Deposit Return Scheme (DRS)

Key date:

DRS for drinks containers: the scheme will remain on its current timetable and be implemented from **1 October 2025**.

Containers in scope of England, Northern Ireland & Wales DRS are:

- PET plastic bottles
- Steel and aluminium cans
- (Wales only): Glass bottles



# DRS progress to date:

- Continuing to work with the devolved administrations to address interoperability issues and support successful DRS delivery across the UK.
  - Industry-led, not-for-profit central body will be appointed to run the scheme – Deposit Management Organisation.
  - Ongoing engagement with industry to identify potential applicant.
  - Design of DMO application template, guidance, application assessment/ approval process .
  - Aim is to have the Regulations in place in 2024 and to appoint a DMO after that.
  - Scheme due to go live on **1 October 2025**. Scotland is developing a separate scheme, due to go live at the same time.
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**Thank you**

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