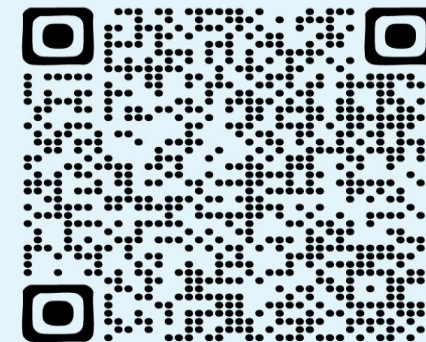


Simpler recycling Workplaces

Guidance on new rules



www.gov.uk/guidance/simpler-recycling-workplace-recycling-in-england



Environment
Agency

Workplace
compliance
toolkit

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



EA Principal Functions

**Land & Air Quality -
Regulation**



Waste Regulation



**Water Quality &
Water Resources**



**Flood Risk
Management**



**Conservation &
Biodiversity**



**Fisheries -
Recreation & Navigation**

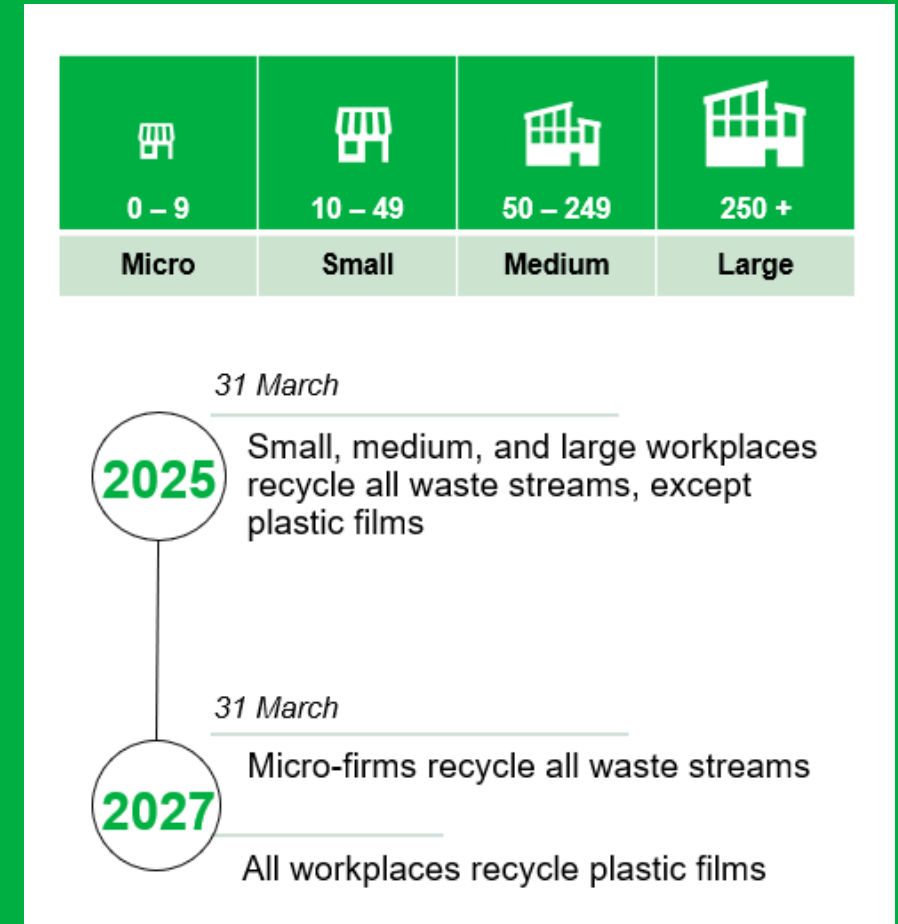
Waste Regulatory Reform

- The waste sector reforms are about improving overall performance, enhancing regulator powers to reduce environmental crime and minimising the harmful effects of waste, on both the environment and on people.
- The Environment Agency Waste Regulatory Reforms Programme includes:
 - Simpler Recycling
 - Packaging extended producer responsibility
 - Deposit Return Scheme
 - Waste Tracking
 - Batteries extended producer responsibility
 - Waste electrical and electronic equipment extended producer responsibility
 - Carriers, brokers, dealers
- The Environment Agency will implement the reforms when they Go Live and will play an important role in delivering compliance and enforcement as part of transitioning the change with key stakeholders – the waste industry and their customers.



Simpler Recycling: The Policy...

- As of the 31st March 2025 small, medium, and large workplaces (businesses and relevant non-domestic premises) need to separately present household-like waste in the following waste streams:
 - **Dry recycling** – Plastic, metal, glass
 - **Paper and cardboard**
 - **Food waste** – including leftovers and waste from food preparation
 - **Residual waste** – non-recyclable materials including absorbent hygiene products.
- Workplaces must present their waste in accordance with the arrangements agreed with their waste collector.



Presenting waste for collection...

Workplaces can choose to procure a waste collector that provides a waste collection service that suits their needs. The below outlines the minimum collection service that a workplace should have, but they can opt for greater segregation. For example, a café may choose to have a separate glass collection where they produce high volumes of glass.

	Container 1: Dry mixed recycling	Glass - such as drinks bottles and rinsed empty food jars Metal - such as drinks cans and rinsed empty food tins, empty aerosols, <u>aluminium foil</u> , <u>aluminium</u> food trays and tubes Plastic - such as rinsed empty food containers and bottles	Can be co-collected where the waste collector has completed a co-collection assessment.
	Container 2: Paper and card	such as newspapers, envelopes, delivery boxes and packaging	
	Container 3: Food waste	Such as food leftovers and waste generated by preparing food.	
	Container 4: Residual waste	Such as non-recyclable materials, absorbent hygiene products such as <u>nappies</u> , and highly contaminated materials such as food packaging that cannot be washed.	

What do waste collectors need to do?

- They should ensure dry recyclable materials (plastic, metal, glass, paper and card) and food waste are collected separately from each other and residual waste.
- Paper and card must also be collected separately from plastic, metal and glass unless the waste collector has completed a written co-collection assessment.
- Separately collected recyclable waste must not be subsequently mixed with other materials of different properties.
- Recyclable waste must be collected for recycling or composting, it should not be disposed of to landfill or incineration.



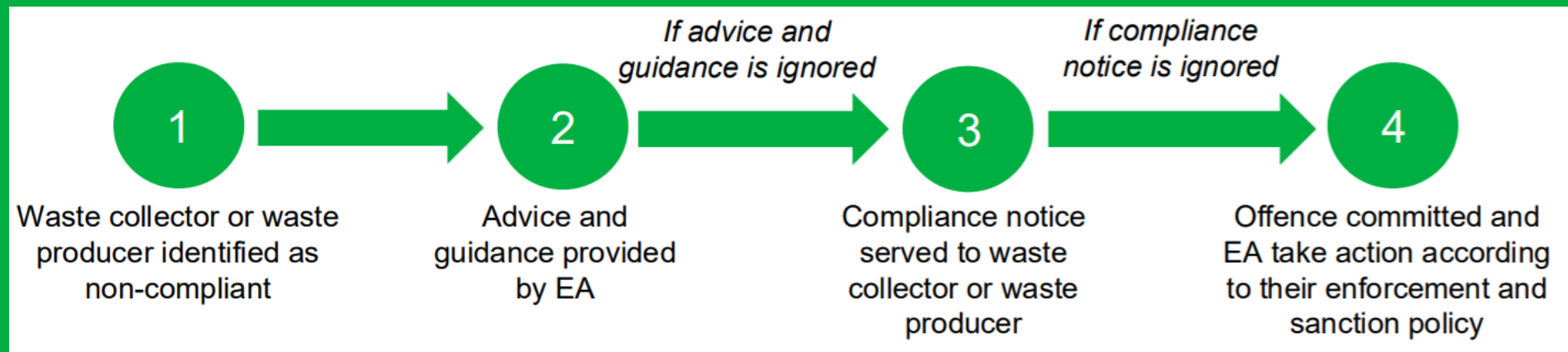
The basics of what the EA do...

- With the requirements being new, we are currently in our first phase of engaging with businesses and raising awareness through workshops/webinars/conferences.
- We speak to industry, DEFRA & other regulators to understand barriers to Simpler Recycling
- We respond directly to customer enquiries, helping them to understand their responsibilities.
- We receive reports of non-compliance from all sources and investigate these on a case-by-case basis. We issue advice as a first response where appropriate to help those we regulate get it right.

What compliance action could the EA take?

We can issue a Compliance Notice against anyone who is party to arrangements for collection made under Section 45AZA or section 45AZB of the Environmental Protection Act 1990 (such as waste collectors, producers and brokers). However, we cannot serve a Compliance Notice against Waste Collection Authorities.

Failure to comply with a compliance notice is an offence and we will consider our enforcement response in accordance with our Enforcement and Sanctions Policy.



What do we understand so far

- Waste collectors have raised awareness with customers helping secure compliance
- There are barriers to full compliance in some circumstances
- LA & EA have an equivalent duty on Producers
- We need to increase our intelligence network

Equivalent Duty on Producers

- Both LA & EA can require workplaces to comply with Simpler Recycling
- Section 47 for LA & Section 45AZA/45AZB for EA
- EA need to confirm if an equivalent duty has been made
- EA receives reports falling under Section 47

Example SR non-compliance report received by EA



LA & EA Network

- Build a network of contacts with LA
- Seek confirmation of equivalent duty
- Share potential non-compliance with Sec 47
- Please Complete our survey to provide your LA contact details
<https://www.smartsurvey.co.uk/s/5Y1U0R/>
- Enquiries from workplaces & LA - SRfB@environment-agency.gov.uk

Non-Compliance Reporting

- Local Authority Officers visit these producers
- Any suspected non-compliance with Simpler Recycling can be reported to the EA - [Report a Simpler Recycling non-compliance - GOV.UK](#)

Next Years Aims

- Continue engagement to raise awareness of SR
- Increase our intelligence network
- Monitor barriers to compliance to allow a pragmatic approach
- Increase our compliance activity – follow up on previous reports

Further Reading: legislation, guidance & tools...

- Primary Legislation:
 - [Environmental Protection Act 1990](#) (as amended by the Environment Act 2021)
- Secondary Legislation:
 - [The Separation of Waste \(England\) Regulations 2024](#) (Materials List)
 - [The Separation of Waste \(England\) Regulations 2025](#) (Exemptions)
- Guidance:
 - [Simpler recycling: workplace recycling in England - GOV.UK](#)
- Useful tools:
 - [Simpler Recycling - Communications Toolkit](#) (FAQs, posters, signage)
 - [Business of Recycling | WRAP Website](#) (Sector specific information, templates)

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