



Our waste, Our Resource, A Strategy for England

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Some Facts

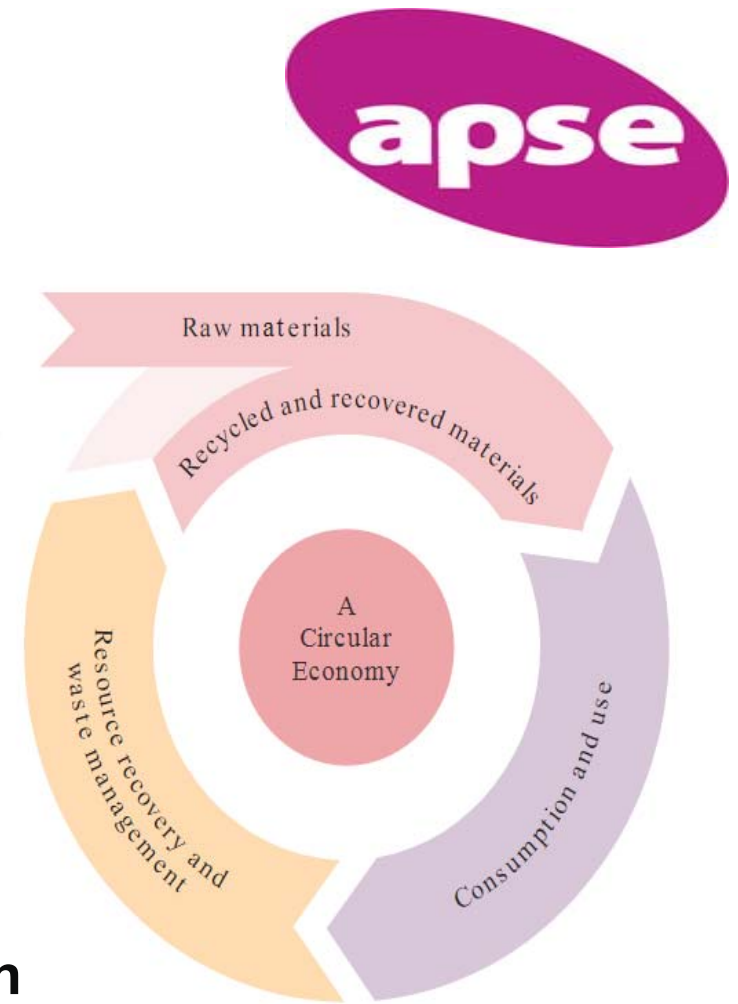


- **Recycling rates have risen from 11% in 2001 to 45.2% in 2017, however since 2017 rates stagnated around 44 - 45%.**
- **Some still improving but some have seen falls in recycling and quality of materials collected.**
- **Some LA's still not collecting food waste.**
- **Landfill Tax currently the only real driver to increase recycling rates.**
- **Plastics now high on public agenda – Blue planet effect, different types causing confusion and the 2018 Chinese ban on post-consumer contaminated plastics.**
- **Contamination still a massive problem in many collection systems.**
- **Need to improve collected materials quality, increase demand amongst UK firms and meet higher quality demands for export.**
- **Greater consistency in materials collected and how it is collected.**

The Case for Action

25 Year Environment Plan

- Pledges to leave the environment in a better condition for the next generation.
- The Strategy has been designed to meet that commitment.
- Supported by a series of consultations.
- The UK aims to be a world leader in using resources efficiently and reducing the amount of waste we create.
- A more circular economy will see resources kept in use for longer, to extract maximum value from them.





Two Overarching Objectives

1. To maximise the value of resource use; and
2. To minimise waste and its impact on the environment



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The highlights



- **Consultation on a tax on plastic packaging containing <30% recycled content.**
- **Consultation on increasing the plastic carrier bag charge to 10p and extending it to small shops.**
- **Consultation on banning the most problematic plastic products (e.g. straws, cotton buds, stirrers).**
- **Extended Producer Responsibility;**
- **Deposit Return Schemes;**
- **Subject to consultation, legislation to:**
 - **Specify a ‘core set’ of materials that local authorities will be required to collect;**
 - **Determine which collection systems drive quality;**
 - **Introduce non-binding performance indicators for local authorities; and**
 - **Introduce minimum service standards to improve the quantity and quality of what is recycled**

The highlights - (cont.)



- **Food Waste - every household and appropriate business has a weekly, separate collection of food waste from 2023 (subject to consultation).**
- **Garden Waste - free garden waste collections for households with gardens (subject to consultation).**
 - **Timings for changes**
 - **Funding for changes**
 - **Implications for Councils**

Resources & Waste Strategy Consultations



The UK Government published four consultation papers on the key policy proposals in the Resources & Waste Strategy. These were open for consultation until 13th May 2019:

- **Consistency of collections**
- **Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR) for packaging**
- **Deposit Return Scheme (DRS) for (some) drinks packaging**
- **Plastic Packaging Tax**

Consistency of collections key proposals



- **Consultation sets out:**
 - **proposals for collecting a core set of dry materials for recycling** (glass bottles & containers, paper & card, plastic bottles, plastic pots, tubs & trays, and steel & aluminium tins and cans)
 - **proposals on improving quality by source separating dry recycling materials** in collections, especially paper and glass, to improve the quality of dry recyclables collected from households
 - **Proposals for separate weekly food waste collections** from households (including flats) from 2023

Consistency of collections

Key proposals (cont)



- Asks whether WCAs should provide a **free fortnightly garden waste collection** service for households with gardens
- Asks whether **statutory guidance on minimum service standards** for waste and recycling services, aligned to WRAP's consistency framework, should be introduced.
 - to include a minimum standard on the **frequency of residual waste collection**, with an expectation that it would not be less frequent than fortnightly?
- sets out proposals to develop **non-binding performance indicators** to support local authorities in delivering high quality and quantity in recycling and waste management

Packaging Material Proposed Target 2025 (2030)



- **Paper & card** 82% (85%)
- **Glass** 70% (75%)
- **Aluminium** 55% (60%)
- **Steel** 75% (80%)
- **Plastic** 50% (55%)
- **Wood** 30% (30%)

Total Packaging Recycling 66% (70%)

Extended Producer Responsibility Consultation



- Proposes that **funding to meet the costs of managing packaging wastes** are transferred from central government and local taxpayers to businesses.
- **Local authorities will be paid by producers** for collecting and managing packaging that arises in household waste (*how much and for what is subject to consultation*)
- Collection services will have to meet with any **minimum collection standards** required in each nation. Suggests that this will lead to more consistent service provision across the country

Deposit Return Scheme for packaging consultation



A DRS would see a deposit added to the price of drinks in in-scope drinks containers at the point of purchase, which would be redeemed when consumers return their empty drinks containers to designated return points.

- **Some concern about return point numbers and locations.**
- **Public acceptance**
- **Practicalities**
- **All in or targeted materials**

Introducing a DRS



- **Legislation excludes Scotland – but looking for UK-wide consistency.**
- **Make it easy for consumers to return drinks containers to increase recycling and reduce street litter.**
- **Welsh Government has had success with capturing 75% of plastic bottle and are looking to improve on that figure.**
- **Defra looking to undertake additional research on impact of this on Local authorities collections, costs passed on to customers and carbon emissions from increased transport and movement.**
- **Links to enhanced producer packing regulations and proposed plastics tax.**
- **Need for clear definition of what can be returned, where to and how to reclaim deposit.**
- **Topographical considerations (urban / rural) and accessibility.**
- **Producers and retailers take responsibility for what they put on market but not placing undue costs on compliance.**
- **Strong measures to promote compliance and limit opportunities for fraud.**

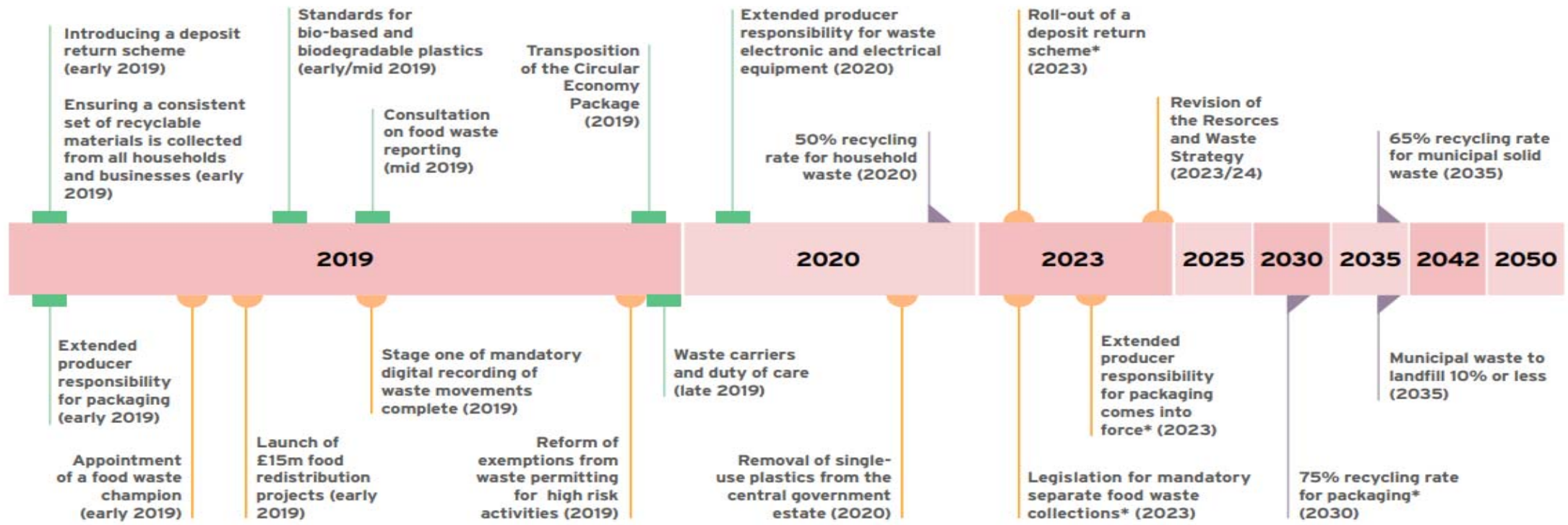
Plastics Packaging Tax



- **Products used for the containment, protection, handling, delivery and presentation of goods. (includes predominantly plastics).**
- **Tax would apply to all plastic packaging manufactured in the UK and unfilled plastic packaging imported into the UK.**
- **The tax would be charged on the full weight of the packaging product, at a flat rate set per tonne of packaging material based on the point when it is made available for use or onward sale.**
- **Need for better design and less wasteful production methods.**
- **Easier to recycle and 30% recycled content in new products.**

KEY MILESTONES

- Double resource productivity by 2050
- Eliminate avoidable waste of all kinds by 2050
- Eliminate avoidable plastic waste over the lifetime of the 25 Year Environment Plan
- Work towards eliminating food waste to landfill by 2030
- Work towards all plastic packaging placed on the market being recyclable, reusable or compostable by 2025



STRATEGIC AMBITIONS ▲ CONSULTATIONS ■ TARGETS ▼ KEY MILESTONES ●

*subject to consultation

Implications of the proposals for different stakeholders



- **The management of packaging waste costs local authorities in the region of £820m per year.**
- **Local authorities will be paid by producers for collecting and managing packaging that arises in household waste.**
- **Local authorities will have to collect all recyclable packaging that is identified for collection through household collection services.**
- **Collection services will have to meet with any minimum collection standards required in each nation.**
- **This will lead to more consistent service provision across the country.**
- **Waste companies will have the confidence to invest in collection services and recycling infrastructure.**
- **Pre-processors and manufacturers can expect to have greater confidence in the supply of materials resulting from the adoption of more consistent approaches to collecting recyclable materials.**
- **Consumers will have clarity on what packaging items can be recycled and those that can't be recycled.**
- **For items that can be recycled consumers will be able to recycle them wherever they live. Combined with more consistent collection services, this will reduce confusion and contribute to more packaging being recycled, less contamination and hence better quality materials.**

Energy from Waste Tax



- **The government will consider introducing a tax on incinerated waste if other measures to drive up recycling rates fail.**
- **The strategy says that incineration is expected to continue to play a “significant” role in ensuring that rubbish is not sent to landfill.**
- **Government statistics show that:**
 - **41% of municipal waste is burnt.**
 - **(EfW) plants in England contribute about 3.4 per cent of the nation’s total renewable electricity supplies.**
- **The strategy says:**

“Should wider policies not deliver the government’s waste ambitions in the long-term, we will consider the introduction of a tax on the incineration of waste.”

Inquiry into the implications of the Resources and Waste Strategy for England on local authorities



- **Housing, Communities and Local Government Committee launched inquiry in March 2019.**
- **Considering financial implications of strategy proposals to meet increased waste standards.**
- **Likely impact in recycling rates.**
- **How strategy may impact existing contracts for waste collection and disposal.**
- **Should waste services be standardised across England or should there continue to be flexibilities for local authorities.**
- **Are there opportunities for closer joint-working between authorities particularly in two-tier areas.**
- **deadline for written submissions was 26 April 2019. (Results TBA)**

Contact details



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Interim requirements

**Roads & Highways, Building Maintenance, Bereavement Services,
Environmental, Parks & Open Spaces, Waste, Facilities & Leisure etc.**

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