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APSE Recycling, Waste and Circular Economy Seminar 2026

“Simpler Recycling and Beyond”



Thursday 18 June, 2026

Sheffield Town Hall

Programme

09:30 Registration and exhibition viewing

10:00 Session One

Welcome from the Chair

CLlr Martin Reilly, Derry City and Strabane Council

Keynote presentation:

Understanding Recycling's History: Learning from Sheffield's Story as the First 'Recycling City'

Dr Henry Irving, Senior Lecturer in Public History, Leeds Beckett University

Audience question and answer session

10:20 Session One - Policy Updates

Defra – Simpler Recycling Policy Update and LA Engagement

Chris Mills and Ben Whelan, Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs

Environment Agency Local Authority Update (invited) TBC

Q&A and Panel Discussion Chaired by Bonni Jee, APSE Principal Advisor

PackUK – Local Authority EPR update

Jane Martin, Head of Communications and Engagement, PackUK

11:30 Coffee Break, Exhibition Viewing and Networking

11:50 Session Two - Pressing Issues, Trends and Innovations

Update on the Health and Safety challenges facing LA's in waste and recycling activities in the 'simpler recycling' era

Chris Jones OBE, Director of Risk Management and Compliance, Cory Group and Former Chair of WISH

Recycle Your Electricals - 'Stop Battery Fires' campaign

Niamh McBride, Environmental Partnerships Lead, Material Focus

Food Waste Recycling Interventions – boosting yields and participation in Scotland

Jenny Robinson, Recycling Partner, Zero Waste Scotland

Fly Tipping & AI technology. How Vizzia is helping 200 local authorities in Europe & the UK

Alain-Charles Lauriano do Rego, UK Country Lead Vizzia, APSE Approved Partner

Audience question and answer session

12:30 Lunch, networking and exhibition viewing

13:30 Session Three - Interactive breakout session – please choose one to attend

Main Hall

WRAP Behaviour Change and Communications Workshop:

Good practice communications to support effective delivery of Simpler Recycling

A workshop delivered by Ruth Hunter and Sally Wilson, Local Authority Technical Consultants, WRAP

Breakout Room 1

Operational clinic and discussion forum with APSE Associates: rolling out new services, food collections, ironing out fleet, contract & operational issues, and 'LGR 101'

Craig Denmark is an APSE Associate and Interim Waste Manager who successfully delivered Food Waste Collections in Derby City by the 31 March deadline.

Paddy Knowles is an APSE Associate Consultant and Trainer with over 40 years experience in the sector, with an interest in service reviews and health and safety

14:15 Coffee Break, Exhibition Viewing and Networking

14:30 Session Four - Local Authority best practice showcase

Waste Service Transformation: The next Chapter for Cumberland Council

Neil Dixon, Assistant Director, Waste Management and Public Space, Cumberland Council

'Do we need another Hero?' An overview of Kirklees' Community & Outreach work

Stacy Townend and Philippa Hather, Recycling Officers, Kirklees Council

123+ to the top – How Stratford-on-Avon is the leading recycling authority in England

Julie Lewis, Head of Environmental and Neighbourhood Services, Stratford-on-Avon District Council

Audience question and answer session

15:15 Break and exhibition viewing

15:30 Session Five - Beyond Simpler Recycling

'Smarter Tech, Simpler Recycling: Newcastle's Digital Approach'

Mark Mohun, Lead Business Analyst, City Operations, Transport and Neighbourhoods - Newcastle City Council

The Restart Project: How Local Authorities can lead on the Circular Economy and Repair

Fiona Dear, Co-Director, The Restart Project

Audience question and answer session

16:00 Seminar Close

About the Seminar

As Simpler Recycling brings sweeping changes across the country, join us in Sheffield to hear all about best practice and discuss getting the basics right and a look forward to what's next in the pipeline for local authority waste management. From recycling of electricals and other hard to recycle items, and moving to a circular economy, alongside key policy from ETS to EPR, to DRS and LGR, we'll also ensure key issues including operations and health and safety remain front of mind through presentations, discussions and workshops.

A fabulous opportunity for elected members, officers, and other key stakeholders to hear the latest on policy, ask questions, share thoughts and views on how they are meeting the growing environmental agenda, operational and financial challenges to create a better, safer and more sustainable environment - for present and future generations. Join us to hear directly from government, policy and local authority leaders and a chance to network with colleagues and share best practice!

About the Venue

We're delighted to be using a Local Authority venue for this year's seminar. Sheffield Town Hall is an impressive Grade I listed Victorian building, opened in 1897 by Queen Victoria and remains the headquarters of the City Council, located in the heart of the city.

Within easy reach of the mainline railway station and nearby multi-storey parking, this historic venue is the ideal backdrop for us to be discussing the future of local authority waste and recycling.

Did you know: Sheffield was the first 'Recycling City' in the UK to launch recycling collections, in 1989?

What better place could there be to come together and look at the future of recycling and waste management!

Booking Information

Delegate Packages Exclusive of VAT

What's included?

The delegate fee covers attendance, delegates' documentation, lunches and light refreshments

APSE member delegate fee: £195 + VAT

Non member delegates fee: £290 + VAT

Commercial delegates: £420 + VAT

Visit www.apse.org.uk/events to book your place on this event

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