

Simpler Recycling – Simpler by name and by nature?

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Together, we stand for
a world beyond waste.

A woman with long blonde hair and glasses is engaged in a conversation with a man whose back is to the camera. They are in a social setting, possibly a conference or networking event, with other people blurred in the background.

CIWM

Our purpose - to move the world beyond waste

CIWM is the leading professional membership body for the resources and waste sector, representing and supporting over 6,500 professionals and 250 organisations across the UK and worldwide.

We provide expert training, qualifications, technical advice and information on a wide range of subjects.

What is Simpler Recycling?

- the regulations formerly known as “consistent collections in England”
- first proposed in the 2018 Resources & Waste Strategy
- enabled by the Environment Act 2021
- latest proposals ‘launched’ in late 2023 following consultations in 2019 & 2021
- making it easier for people to do the right thing, maximise use, minimise waste, drive-up recycling rates
- aims to standardise waste streams – the “core set” - for recycling/composting which must be collected by all English waste collection authorities



Mandatory 'dry recyclables'

- **glass** - glass packaging including bottles and jars
- **metal** - steel and aluminium tins, cans, lids, & aerosols
- **metal** - aluminium foils, food trays, & tubes
- **plastic** - bottles, pots, tubs, & trays, tubes >50mm x 50mm
- **plastic** - film packaging & plastic bags, including metallised
- **cartons** - food, drink & other liquids (including aseptic & chilled cartons)
- **paper & card** - except laminated, padded lined envelopes, books, wallpaper, stickers and sticky paper, glitter or foil containing

No indication that minimum collection frequency will be prescribed.

All dry recyclables can be collected in one bin but must be separate from residual and organic wastes.



Other mandatory collections

Food waste – must be collected weekly from households:

- *all food intended for human or household pet consumption, regardless of whether it has any nutritional value*
- *biodegradable material resulting from the processing or preparation of food, including inedible food parts such as bones, eggshells, fruit and vegetable skins, tea bags and coffee grounds*
- *government preference for food waste to be treated by anaerobic digestion (AD)*

Garden Waste - all organic materials except:

- *ashes, full-sized trees, invasive weeds and species, soil, turf cuttings, waste products of animal origin*
- *an 'on request' service for citizens but no requirement for it to be free of charge*

Residual waste must be collected at least fortnightly



Timelines for implementation

Dry recyclable collections (excluding plastic films)

- from households - by 31 March 2026
- businesses & relevant non-domestic - by 31 March 2025
- micro firms (<10 FTEs) – by 31 March 2027

Plastic films

- all sources - by 31 March 2027

Weekly food waste collections

- from households - by 31 March 2026*

** unless a collection authority is committed to long-term contracts whereby they can request 'transitional arrangements'*

- businesses & relevant non-domestic - by 31 March 2025
- micro firms – by 31 March 2027



Household collections - who is paying?

1. Government – '*reasonable costs*' for new food waste collections covered by '*new burdens*' funding:

- capital costs (vehicles, containers)
- resource costs (vehicle re-routing, comms, project management)
- ongoing service costs (collection & disposal costs)
- payments levels under section 31 of the Local Government Act 2003 announced on 25 March - £295 million total

2. Producers – collecting and managing packaging waste

- EPR related payments to local authorities based on providing '*efficient & effective*' services

3. Householders – '*reasonable charges*' for garden waste collections.



Next steps

- publication of statutory guidance
- non-statutory guidance on collection best practice (in conjunction with WRAP)
- consultation responses from government on additional policies – expanding the definition of non-domestic premises and information recording requirements for waste collectors
- ongoing monitoring of the recycling credits mechanism with EPR funding
- implementation from October 2024 of *'Materials facilities: waste sampling and reporting requirements'*



Final thoughts

- can existing collection, handling, & processing infrastructure cope?
- is there sufficient time & capacity to source the necessary new equipment?
- will EPR and new burdens funding be sufficient?
- are there suitable end markets for an increasing quantity of recyclables?
- will the requirement for minimum two-weekly residual waste collections hinder recycling efforts?
- can co-collected dry recyclables be recycled effectively?
- what will be the impact of other legislation – DRS, Emissions Trading Scheme (ETS), etc.?
- how might the proposed household collections of WEEE impact upon requirements?





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