



Date: 9 May 2024

Dear Chief Executive,

Simpler Recycling in England - updates on additional consultations

Today, [Thursday 9 May](#), we have published two government responses confirming the details of our Simpler Recycling reforms. This will enable local authorities and other waste collectors in England to move forward and ensure a common-sense approach that is both easy and effective for everyone.

As announced in [October 2023](#), local authorities and other waste management organisations will be required to collect the same recyclable materials from all non-household municipal premises (such as businesses, hospitals and schools) by 31 March 2025 and households by 31 March 2026. Micro-firms (businesses with fewer than 10 full-time employees) will be required to comply with these reforms by 31 March 2027.

Exemptions and statutory guidance for Simpler Recycling in England

The government response to the consultation on [exemptions and statutory guidance for Simpler Recycling in England](#) confirms arrangements on how recyclable materials can be collected. We will provide exemptions to allow for the collection of all dry recyclables (paper and card, plastic, metal, glass) together in one container, and food and garden waste together in another container. This means that local authorities and other waste collectors will retain the flexibility to collect the recyclable waste streams in the most appropriate way ensuring recycling is as simple as possible.

We have outlined our policy positions to be included in statutory guidance, including guidance that local authorities should provide a minimum fortnightly collection of residual waste, alongside a weekly food waste collection.

Additional policies related to Simpler Recycling

We have also published the government response to the consultation on [additional policies related to Simpler Recycling](#), expanding the list of non-domestic premises. Aligning with the [Controlled Waste \(England and Wales\) Regulations 2012](#), these include places of worship, penal institutes, charity shops, residential hostels, and premises used for public meetings.

The [Digital Waste Tracking](#) service, being introduced from April 2025, will be used by waste

collectors to record the types of waste collected and which waste is being co-collected under Simpler Recycling. This will help to improve data on recycling services.

Next Steps

It is our intention to introduce regulations as part of the new Simpler Recycling legislation before summer recess.

This legislation sits alongside regulations to underpin the implementation of [packaging Extended Producer Responsibility](#) that was notified to the World Trade Organisation and European Union last week, and regulations to take forward the implementation of the [Deposit Return Scheme for drink containers](#) that was similarly notified in April, to form an ambitious set of collection and packaging reforms.

We have brought forward up to £295 million in capital funding to roll out weekly food waste collections across England. This will cover the cost of additional bins and vehicles. We will also be providing resource funding to be spent from 2024/25 to support local authorities to transition to the implementation of weekly food waste collections where they need to expand or introduce weekly food waste collections from households. Local authorities will receive ongoing resource funding from 1 April 2026.

Find out more

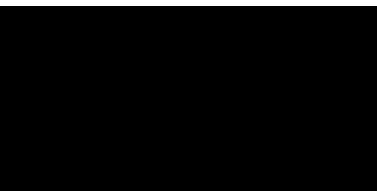
We are hosting a Local Authority Engagement Forum on Wednesday 15 May 2024, 2pm-3.30pm. This session will provide local authorities in England more information about the Simpler Recycling government responses and next steps towards implementation. This is an invite only session. Please [email](#) if you have not received an invite or would like to receive one.

I want to thank you, and your teams, for all your support in working towards our shared outcome of increasing recycling rates in a way that works for local government.

Simpler Recycling constitutes a significant step towards meeting our [25 Year Environment Plan](#) commitment to eliminate avoidable waste by 2050 and will help towards meeting our recycling ambition of 65% of municipal (household-like) waste to be recycled by 2035. It will also enable us to make significant carbon savings and is key to meeting our net zero ambitions.

Together, we will strive to deliver on effective Simpler Recycling reforms across England.

Best wishes,



Emma Bourne OBE
Director - Resources & Waste
Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs