

SIMPLER RECYCLING GUIDE

LEADING THE INDUSTRY FOR THE
BENEFIT OF THE PLANET



WHAT IS SIMPLER RECYCLING?

Simpler Recycling will assist in delivering improved recycling requirements in England.

This legislation will assist both households and businesses in increasing recycling efforts and achieving the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs' (DEFRA) recycling target of 65%, as part of the Government's broader Resources and Waste Strategy.

This encompasses the already implemented Plastic Packaging Tax, Extended Producer Responsibility (pEPR) for packaging, and a Deposit Return Scheme.

Together, these measures are expected to reduce contamination and foster the growth of a recycled plastic market. All businesses and other non-household premises with 10 or more Full-Time Equivalent Employees (FTE) will be required to separate plastic, paper and card, glass, metals (such as cans, tins, and foil), and food waste from general waste. This will help preserve valuable resources, prevent unnecessary waste, and promote the circular economy in the UK.

WHEN IS IT COMING INTO PLACE?

Phase 1 (31 March 2025)

- The mandatory separation and collection of dry recyclable materials and food waste will apply to businesses and non-household premises with 10 or more full-time equivalent (FTE) employees in England.

Phase 2 (31 March 2026)

- Households will be required to segregate dry recyclable materials, with mandatory separate weekly collections for food waste, which may be combined with garden waste.

Phase 3 (31 March 2027)

- The mandatory separation and collection of dry recyclable materials and food waste will be implemented for businesses and non-household premises with fewer than 10 full-time equivalent (FTE) employees (micro-firms) in England.
- Plastic film packaging and eligible plastic bags will be collected from both businesses and households.



WHAT SIMPLER RECYCLING MEANS FOR YOUR BUSINESS

WHAT ARE THE MATERIALS IN SCOPE?



Glass

- Glass packaging, including bottles and jars



Metal

- Steel and aluminium tins, cans, aerosols and jar/bottle lids
- Aluminium foil, food trays, and tubes



Plastic

- Plastic bottles made from polyethylene terephthalate (PET, including amorphous, recycled PET), polypropylene (PP) and high-density polyethylene (HDPE)
- Pots, tubs and trays made of PET
- PE/PP plastic tubes larger than 50mmx50mm
- Food, drink and other liquids cartons, including aseptic and chilled cartons



Plastic from 2027

Plastic film packaging and plastic bags made of mono-polyethylene (mono-PE), mono polypropylene (mono PP) and mixed polyolefins PE and PP (NEW)*

*via pEPR DEFRA is encouraging mono-polyolefin (aka mono-material polyolefin) design to improve material quality and film-to-film recycling.



Paper & Cardboard

- All paper and card are in scope, except:
- Paper and card that contains glitter or foil
 - Paper that is laminated
 - Stickers and sticky paper
 - Padded lined envelopes
 - Paperback and hardback books
 - Wallpaper



Food

- All food intended for human or household pet consumption
- Food waste from the processing or preparation of food, including inedible food parts such as bones, eggshells, fruit and vegetable skins, tea bags and coffee grounds

DEFRA is taking a flexible approach to Simpler Recycling to enable Local Authorities and waste collection companies to flex solutions to suit the needs of their customers.

At The NWH Group, we will take a practical approach to support your environmental performance with our efficient and compliant services. We will continue collecting Dry Mixed Recycling (DMR) and offer separate cardboard and paper collections as appropriate. We will continue to collect glass and food waste separately from DMR to maximise recycle rates.

When will your business be in scope?

- Businesses with 10 or more FTEs must be ready by 31st March 2025
- Businesses with less than 10 FTEs must be ready by 31st March 2027

* The FTE criteria applies to the business as a whole, not by site.

Understand Your Waste

1. **Conduct a Waste Audit:** What waste does your business produce?
2. **Check Your Infrastructure:** Are the right bins and services in place?
3. **Review your current setup** to identify any additional requirements.
4. **We'll assist you** through your Account Manager or a quick and easy Microsoft form.

Make The Switch

1. **We'll review your information:** we'll propose the best solution for your waste profile and operations.
2. **Switch early** to ensure compliance and avoid potential legislative fines.
3. **Conduct your audit** to receive your plan and order bins in time, avoiding a bottleneck in March.
4. **Start recycling sooner** to bolster your business' sustainability and resilience.

Check Your Existing Internal Arrangements

1. **Effectively sorting waste on site** improves material quality at collection and ensures compliance, avoiding rejected collections due to contamination.
2. **Clearly label** all containers and match indoor containers to outdoor ones.
3. **Place containers strategically** where waste is generated.
4. **Engage employees** early with clear communication and educational materials.

Brief The Team

1. **Hold team meetings** to explain the new recycling system.
2. **Use clear signage** - We provide posters and stickers for communal areas and bins.
3. **Ensure staff are trained**, with future employees trained during induction.
4. **Brief everyone handling waste**, including outsourced cleaning companies, to maintain compliance.

Celebrate your success!

1. **More can be recycled** if you separate your waste.
2. **Track your progress** with monthly monitoring and reporting and The NWH Group will provide bespoke solutions and recommendations to enable you with continuous improvement.
3. **Share your success** with your teams and demonstrate the impact of their cooperation and dedication.

Contact us for more information.

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