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Dear Chief Executive,

Waste Reforms – including Simpler Recycling

We want to make it easier for people to do the right thing, maximise use, minimise waste and drive-up recycling rates.

As [Recycle Week](#) came to a close, on Saturday 21 October 2023, we launched [new waste reforms](#) to make it easier for households and businesses to recycle by introducing a simpler approach to waste collections. This common-sense approach - [Simpler Recycling](#) (formerly known as Consistency in Household and Business Recycling in England) means an end to the post code lottery so, for the first time, people across England will be able to recycle the same materials, as well as get weekly food waste collections.

By 31 March 2025, non-household municipal premises (such as hospitals, schools, and businesses), except micro-firms, will be required to recycle all recyclable waste streams, excluding garden waste and plastic film.

By 31 March 2026, local authorities will be required to collect the following recyclable waste streams from all households in England: paper and card, plastic, metal, glass, food waste and garden waste, excluding plastic film. This includes a free, weekly food waste collection for households, except where a specific transitional arrangement has been agreed to allow longer for implementation. Local authorities will be required to collect garden waste, where requested, and can continue to choose to charge for this service. This means an end to the postcode lottery so, for the first time, people across England will be able to recycle the same materials, as well as get weekly food waste collections.

As confirmed in the government consultation response to the consultation on Extended Producer Responsibility for packaging, the government will require the kerbside collection of plastic film packaging by 31 March 2027. In addition, by 31 March 2027, micro-firms (businesses with fewer than 10 full-time equivalent employees) will also be required to recycle all recyclable waste streams, excluding garden waste.

We have listened to councils and households who are concerned about the risk of too many bins cluttering our streets. We know that local authorities can attain high recycling rates with a co-mingled recycling service (collecting all dry recycling together). Having assessed the highest performing councils on recycling rates, we propose to introduce exemptions to allow all councils in England the option to co-collect. Local authorities will retain the flexibility to provide the most appropriate services for their communities.

We are committed to providing local authorities with support to prepare for the upcoming changes and associated costs to deliver these new reforms, which will be funded through:

- a) reasonable new burdens funding for weekly food waste collections from households, and
- b) the Extended Producer Responsibility for packaging scheme, starting in 2025/26.

We will shortly provide further detail on the new burden grants, including when and how funding will be distributed.

Local authorities in England are invited to feedback on the proposed exemptions to co-collect and on statutory guidance for Simpler Recycling. [Click here](#) to respond to this consultation, which will close at 11:59pm on 20 November 2023. As this is a private consultation, we ask that you not share this link beyond your organisation.

Additionally, we are holding a public consultation, which includes a proposal to expand relevant non-domestic premises in scope. [Click here](#) to respond to this consultation, which will close at 11:59pm on 20 November 2023.

Find out more

We are hosting a Local Authority Waste Reforms (including Simpler Recycling) Forum on Tuesday 24 October 2023, from 10:00 - 11:30 to discuss the response, consultations, next steps and timelines. There will be an opportunity to ask questions, please encourage your waste teams to attend. If your local authority does not attend this forum, please [email](#) to receive an invite.

We have also published the following Resources and Waste Reforms updates:

- [Response](#) to the consultation on the 'introduction of mandatory digital waste tracking'
- [Response](#) to the consultation on reforming the waste carrier, broker and dealer regime in England (regulations for those involved in transporting and managing waste)

Together these measures are a significant step to reducing, reusing, and recycling more of our waste in line with our landmark [Resources and Waste Strategy](#). They will help us achieve our [25 Year Environment Plan](#) to eliminate avoidable waste by 2050, our [Environment Act](#) target to halve the amount of residual waste we produce by 2042, and our ambition of recycling 65% of municipal waste by 2035.

Excellent progress has already been made with new restrictions and bans on single-use cutlery, balloon sticks, expanded and extruded polystyrene food and drinks containers and restrictions on single-use plastic plates, trays, bowls, that came into force on [1 October](#). We have introduced a ban on microbeads in rinse-off personal care products, restrictions on the supply of single-use plastic straws, drink stirrers and cotton buds, and our Plastic Packaging Tax. Our single-use plastic carrier bag charge has successfully cut sales by over 97% in the main supermarkets.

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

Best wishes,



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