

Introduction to Local Authority Waste Management

Starting at 14:00



Introduction to Local Authority Waste Management

Paddy Knowles

APSE Associate Consultant



A bit about us...



Waste, Recycling & Circular Economy

How can we help you?



Join our network:

Briefings, sharing best-practice, network meetings, the latest policy updates, advocacy, and network queries across our 3,000+ contacts in local government.

apse membership resources



Training:

High-quality training courses, including:

- Introduction to Waste Collection & Street Cleansing
- Health and Safety in Waste & Environmental Services
- Carbon Literacy
- ...and many more!

apse training



Consultancy and Interim Management:

Providing service specific specialists that can assist with service reviews, transformation, commercialisation and any strategic overview you and your authority might need!

apse solutions



Performance Networks

Analyse key metrics across cost, performance, and productivity. Benchmark your refuse collection with the UK's leading local authority network. Use the LAMS app to carry out real-time street scene and cleanliness inspections

apse performance networks



Energy

Climate Change and Energy advice to support your journey to decarbonisation – from depot to fleet decarbonisation, we have it covered.

apse energy





LGR: Making Waste Work

Appraise the most effective strategic and operational pathways through reorganisation



Health & Safety in Waste and Environmental Services

An overview of the big picture, key risks and hazards and legislative consequences of non-compliance.



Introduction to Waste Collection and Street Cleansing

An introduction to waste and how it is regulated.



Principals of Managing Abandoned and Nuisance Vehicles for Councils

Practical exercises and discussion to apply relevant legislation.

Paddy Knowles

APSE Associate Consultant

- **Tech IOSH;**
- **Chartered Waste Manager;**
- **Worked in LA Waste Sector for 44 years;**
- **Technically Competent Person for Incineration, Landfill & Waste Treatment / Transfer Operations.**



Working with Waste Management



Who does what?

There are four major Waste Management Authorities types in the England & Wales.

- **The Environment Agency – The Regulator**
- **Waste Disposal Authority's (WDA's) – County Councils.**
- **Waste Collection Authority's (WCA's).**
- **Unitary Authority's. (UA,s act as both WCA and WDA).**

Who does what?

Environment Agency (EA)

- Waste Management Legislation is enforced by the Environment Agency.
- The Agency is responsible for issuing licenses for waste carriers, waste disposal and treatment sites.
- They ensure compliance with standards and regulations, such as the Radioactive Substance Act and the Special Waste Regulations.
- Also has an advisory role – not only to LA's but also Central Government with the formation of policy, and to businesses and industrial sites on compliance.
- They give you advice on waste management practices, recycling and waste minimisation and waste offences.

Who does what?

Waste Disposal Authority (WDA) County Council

- Waste Disposal Authority's (WDA's) were established in the UK following the introduction of the EPA 1990.
- WDAs are in charge of the use of funds from the Council Tax to facilitate the disposal of Municipal waste.
- Provide locations where residents can take their waste and dispose of it for free (HWRC's).
- WDAs must manage the waste collected by the Waste Collection Authority's and that delivered to HWRC's by residents.
- WDAs are responsible for the development and implementation of plans to deal with Municipal waste.

Who does what?

Waste Collection Authority (WCA)

- **The Waste Collection Authority is charged with the collection of Municipal Waste. (Domestic and Commercial when requested)**
- **There are 420 WCA's in the UK who are responsible for collecting waste from nearly 36.1 million homes and businesses.**
- **There are 317 in England, comprising of District and Unitary authorities, 22 in Wales, 32 in Scotland and 11 in Northern Ireland.**
- **The WCA passes on the waste to the Waste Disposal Authority (WDA) that is tasked with the ultimate treatment and disposal of that waste.**
- **In England WCAs tend to be the District Councils and Unitary Authorities.**

Who does what?

Unitary Authority (UA)

- **The UA acts as both the (WCA) and (WDA) and is tasked with collection of and the ultimate treatment and disposal of that waste.**
- **There are approximately 132 UAs in the UK.**
- **There are 132 in England, 32 in Scotland, 22 in Wales and 11 in Northern Ireland.**

The Problem

There are a growing number of accidents, incidents and prosecutions involving waste every year in the UK.



A lack of knowledge & understanding of the legal requirements for managing waste was a contributory factor in most of these cases.



Understanding the dangers and legal requirements relating to waste could prevent these incidents and prosecutions.



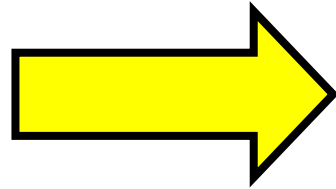
Introduction to Waste

What is Waste?

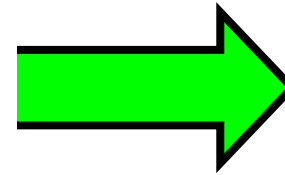
Example



Inputs



Or Activity



Output –
Final Product



Waste



Legal Definition of Waste

To avoid further confusion and allow greater control, the EU developed and adopted a common, legal definition of waste in 1991 (via the EU Waste Framework Directive*).

“Waste” means any substance or object which the holder discards or intends or is required to discard.



* Article 3(1) of the Revised Waste Framework Directive (rWFD) 2008/98/EC

Legal Definition of Waste

Waste becomes waste at its
“Point of Arising”.

The **intent** of the original producer is key in determining if something is a waste or not.

Even if a waste can be traded, sold or is capable of being recovered this does not necessarily mean it is not a waste.



Legal Definition of Waste

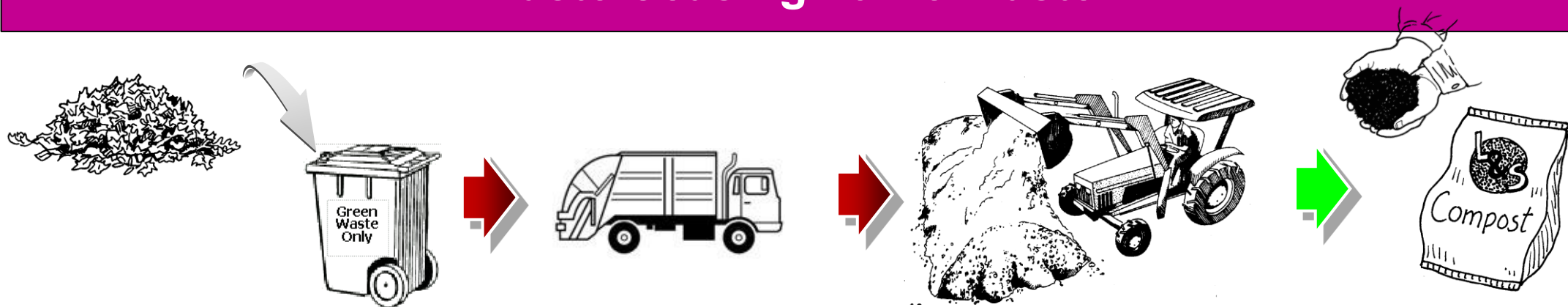
Waste ceases to be waste when:

There is no reason to subject it to the controls set out in the Waste Framework Directive.

So, until it has undergone a complete recovery / treatment operation / process or put to final use it will still be classed as a waste.



Waste Ceasing To Be Waste:



Biodegradable material is thrown into a recycling bin;
Holder has discarded the material; **therefore, material is Waste.**

Waste material is collected by the Local Authority, compacted in an RCV & then transported to a commercial compost facility.

The waste material is composted.

Material is Waste.

The processed waste material meets the requirements of "PAS 100:2011"

No longer a Waste.

← Waste Regulations & "Duty of Care" Applies →

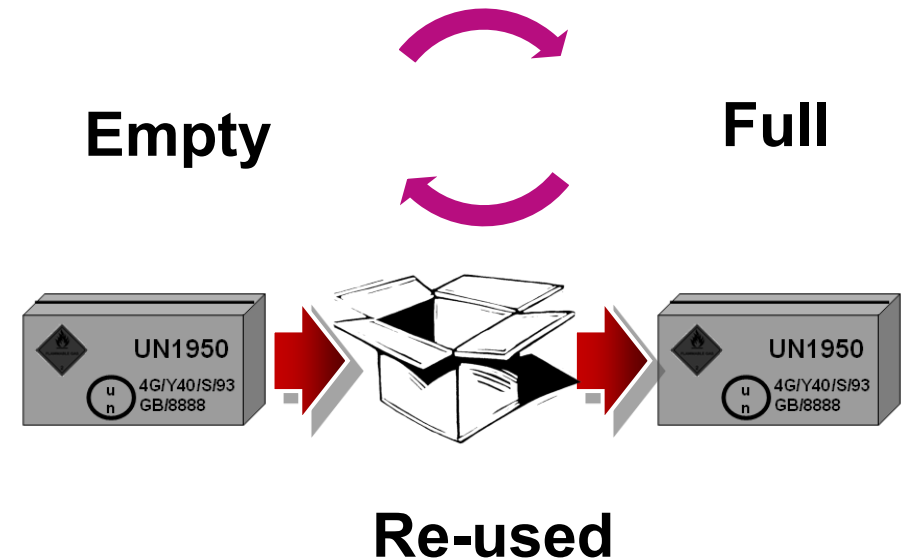
Introduction to Waste

The “Commercial Chain Of Utility”

Where an unwanted product stays within the “**Commercial Chain of Utility**” it will not be deemed a Waste.

This includes packaging which is exchanged (empty for full) with a supplier (such as gas cylinders etc).

This also includes packaging which is re-used for the same purpose for which it was designed for.



The Hazards Posed by Waste

Waste - Public Health Issues



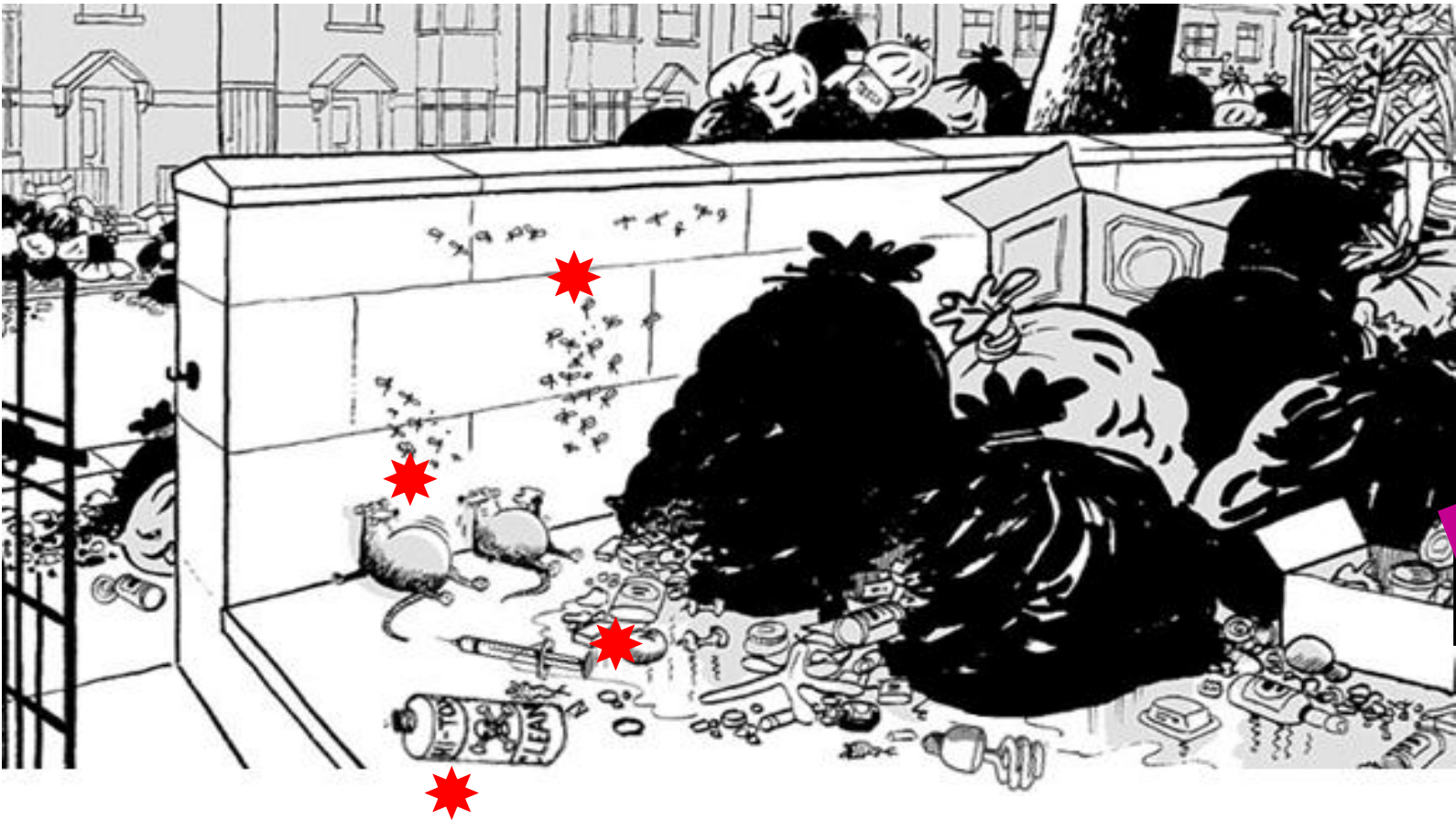
City of Naples (circa 2008)

Waste management is first and foremost a Public Health issue

A direct correlation between poor waste management and public health was established by Edwin Chadwick in Great Britain in 1842.

The Hazards Posed by Waste

Waste - Public Health Issues




Rotting waste attracts vermin such as Rats which act as vectors for disease



Food waste allows flies & other insects to feed, breed and multiply



Sharps waste can cause physical injury & act as a vehicle for infection



Many common materials are hazardous to health & the environment

The Environmental Impact of Waste

Waste in the form of litter & Fly-Tipping can ruin the visual amity of the environment and cause a statutory nuisance with regards to odours etc.



There is also a financial cost associated with Litter and Fly-Tipping.

Waste Types

When classifying waste by its source (place of origin and/or who produced it) the Controlled Waste Regulations 1992 divide it into 3 main categories:



“Household” Waste;



“Commercial” Waste;



“Industrial” Waste.

Waste Types



Household Waste is defined by Section 75(5) of the Environmental Protection Act 1990 and Schedule 1 of the Controlled Waste Regs 1992 as:

Waste arising from domestic properties & caravans, residential homes, charity premises, campsites, royal palaces, prisons and premises forming part of a school, university or other educational establishment or hospitals and nursing homes.

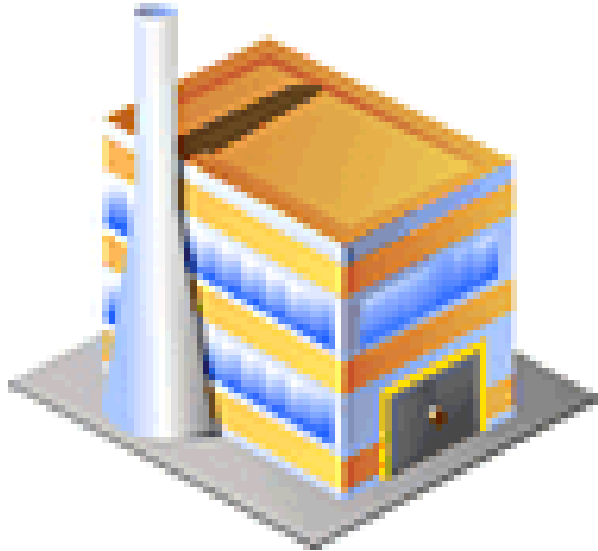
Waste Types



Commercial Waste is defined by
Section 75(7) of the
Environmental Protection Act
1990 and Schedule 4 of the
Controlled Waste Regs 1992 as:

Waste arising from premises used wholly or mainly for the purposes of trade, business, sport or recreation. It includes offices, showrooms, hotels, clubs, courts, government offices, local authorities, banks and markets.

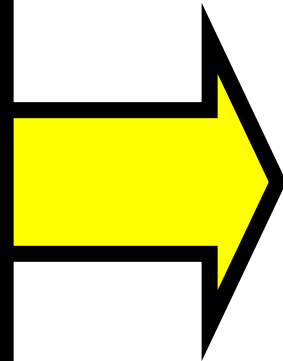
Waste Types



Industrial Waste is defined by
Section 75(6) of the
Environmental Protection Act
1990 and Schedule 3 of the
Controlled Waste Regs 1992 as:

Waste arising from factories, public transport premises, premises used to supply utility services (water, gas etc), commercial garages, laboratories, workshops, construction & demolition sites, mines, quarries and agricultural premises.

Waste Types



Where Household & Commercial Waste is collected together by a Local Authority (Council) it is commonly known as Municipal Waste or Municipal Solid Waste (MSW).

When classifying waste by its **Potential** to cause **Harm** (to people and / or the environment) we divide it into 3 categories:



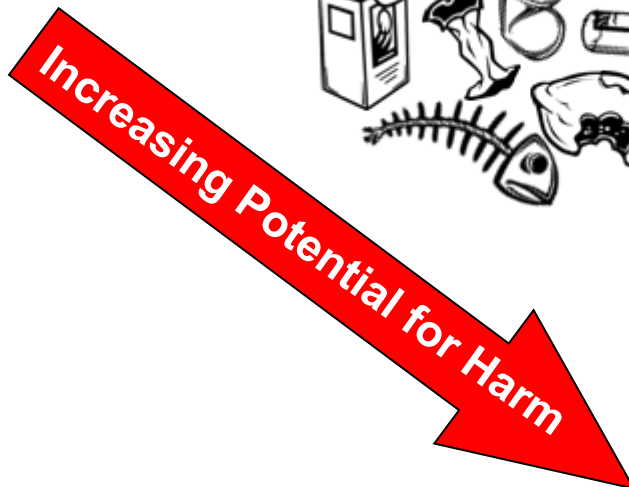
“Inert” Waste



“Non-Hazardous” Waste



“Hazardous” Waste



Waste Types



Inert Waste is any waste that will not undergo any significant physical, chemical or biological transformation after it has been disposed of.

Inert Waste will not burn, dissolve or chemically react and will not break down due to exposure to biological agents (known as biodegrading) and poses a limited threat to health and / or the environment.

Examples of Inert Waste would be soil, rocks, sand and clean brick and rubble.

Waste Types



Non Hazardous Waste is any waste that is not Inert or Hazardous and is characterised by its ability to degrade over time (via bio-degrading and / or photo-degrading) after it has been disposed of.

Non-Hazardous Waste has an increased potential to cause harm to health and/or the environment.

Examples of Non-Hazardous Waste would be food, paper, wood, textiles, metal and plastic.

Waste Types



Hazardous Waste is any waste that displays 1 or more hazardous properties based on chemical hazards (flammability, toxicity etc) or biological hazards (infectiousness etc) but not on physical hazards (sharp edges, weight etc).

Hazardous Waste has a great potential to cause harm to health and/or the environment.

Examples of Hazardous Waste would be: Mineral oils, asbestos, many chemicals and clinical wastes.

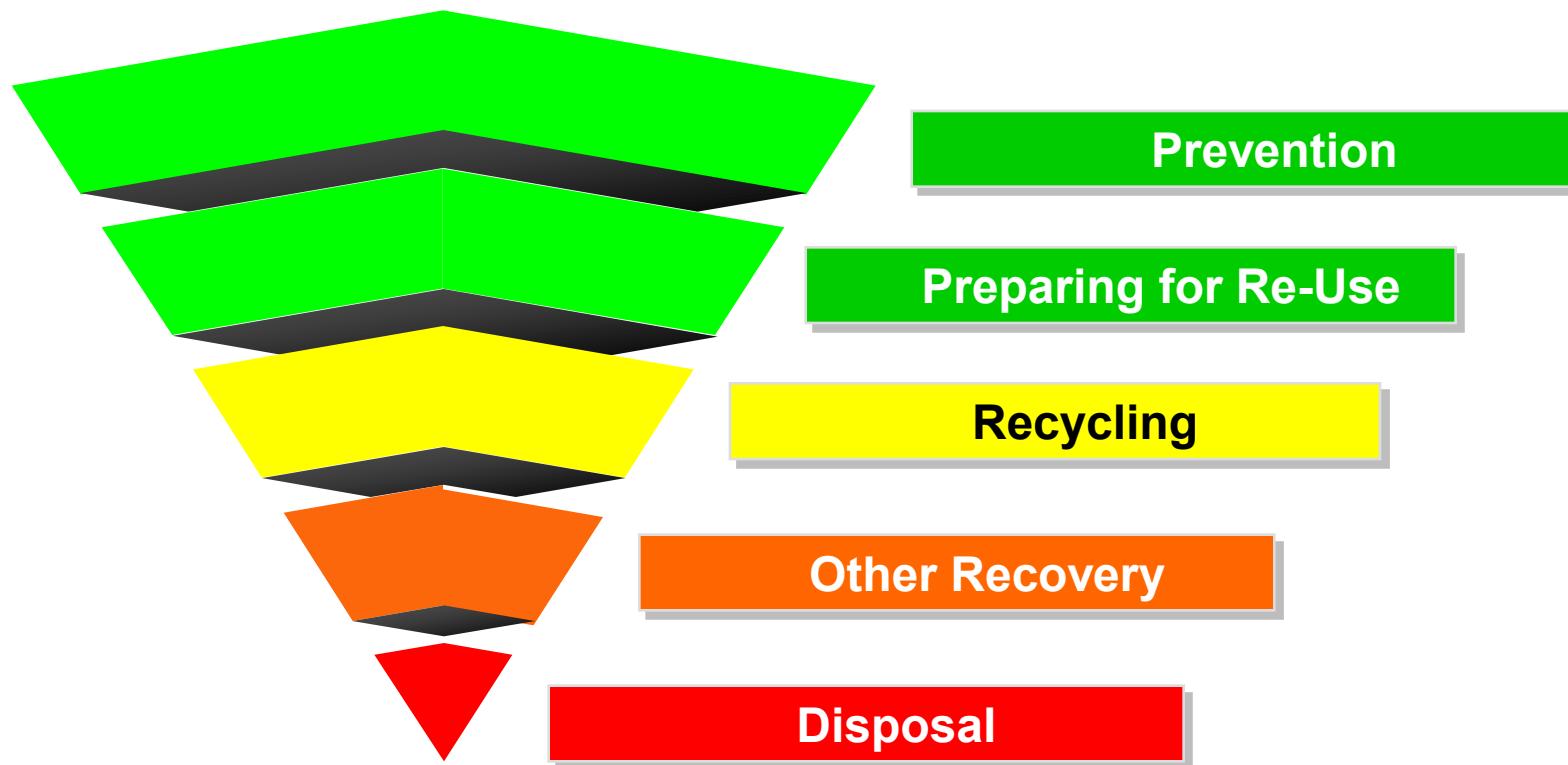
The Waste Hierarchy

The **Waste Hierarchy** refers to a system of classifying “Waste Management Strategies” according to their desirability;

It dictates that you should try to extract the maximum benefit from your waste, whilst minimising the quantity produced in the first place;

To assist this, a set of waste management options have been identified and placed in a framework of increasing desirability.

The Waste Hierarchy



The Waste Hierarchy

Preparing for Reuse: This includes Cleaning, Checking & Inspecting, Repairing & Segregation;

Recycling: This includes Composting;

Other Recovery: This includes Energy Recovery from Combustion, Anaerobic Digestion, Gasification & Pyrolysis and using Excavation Waste for backfill.



The Duty of Care

The “Duty of Care” Principal dictates that: **It is everyone's responsibility (& duty) to ensure that waste is managed correctly and safely.**

The Duty of Care is enshrined in UK law via the Environmental Protection Act 1990 (section 34).



Environmental Protection Act 1990

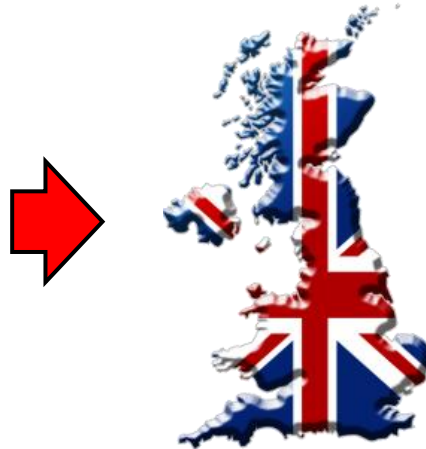
1990 CHAPTER 34

European Union (EU)

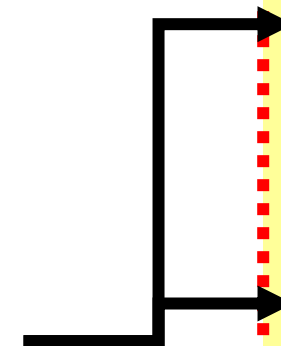
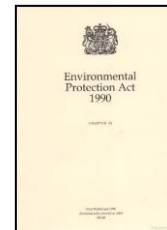


**Waste
Framework
Directive 1975**

UK



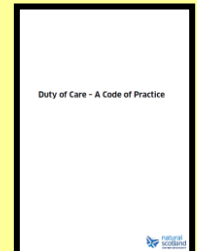
**Section 34 of the
Environmental
Protection Act 1990**



***The Environmental
Protection (Duty of
Care) (Scotland)
Regulations 2014***

***The Control of Pollution
(Amendment) Act 1989
& Waste Management
Licensing (Scotland)
Regulations 2011***

**Duty of Care
“Code of
Practice”**



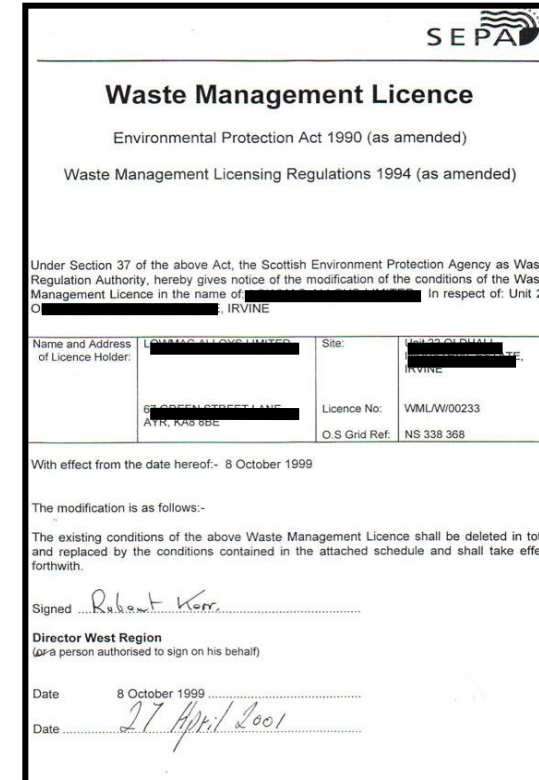
The Duty of Care – **Authorised Persons**

In line with Section 34 (3) of the EPA 1990 **“Authorised Persons”** include:

Waste Collection/Disposal Authorities
(Local Councils);

Waste Managers - holders of a Waste Management Licence, Environmental or PPC Permit or a registered Exemption;

Registered or Exempt **Waste Carriers**.



SEPA

Waste Management Licence

Environmental Protection Act 1990 (as amended)
Waste Management Licensing Regulations 1994 (as amended)

Under Section 37 of the above Act, the Scottish Environment Protection Agency as Waste Regulation Authority, hereby gives notice of the modification of the conditions of the Waste Management Licence in the name of: [REDACTED] In respect of: Unit 2 of [REDACTED], IRVINE

Name and Address of Licence Holder:	[REDACTED]	Site:	[REDACTED], IRVINE
	6 GREEN STREET LANE AYR, KA6 6BE	Licence No:	WML/W/00233
		O.S Grid Ref:	NS 338 368

With effect from the date hereof:- 8 October 1999

The modification is as follows:-

The existing conditions of the above Waste Management Licence shall be deleted in tota and replaced by the conditions contained in the attached schedule and shall take effect forthwith.

Signed: *R. Kerr*

Director West Region
(or a person authorised to sign on his behalf)

Date: 8 October 1999

Date: *27 April 2001*

Duty of Care – Waste Chain



Waste Producer



Waste Carrier



Waste Manager

Non-Hazardous Waste

Consignor

Haulier

Consignee

Hazardous Waste

Transferor

Transferee/Transferor

Transferee

Health & Safety

- The waste and recycling sector remains one of the UK's most dangerous work environments, consistently recording a fatal injury rate roughly 8 times higher than the all-industry average. **Source: HSE**
- 6 fatal injuries to waste workers in 2025/26. reported to be average for the last 6 years. **Source: (RIDDOR)**
- This brings the total number of fatal injuries to workers in the waste sector over the last five years to 33. **Source: HSE**
- 1,530 waste industry workers suffer from a work-related illness each year. **(80% Muscular Skeletal)**
Source: HSE
- In 2025/26 4.7% of workers in the waste sector in GB were suffering from an illness that they believe was caused or made worse by their work in the sector. **Source: HSE**
- This is significantly higher than the rate for workers across all industries. **Source: HSE**

What happens beyond the kerbside?

➤ Depots, fleet, route optimisation, and working arrangements

➤ Waste Transfer Stations

➤ Energy from waste

➤ Landfill

➤ Materials Recovery Facility (MRF)

(why not go on a tour of your local MRF?)

➤ Anaerobic digestion (food waste only)

➤ Composting (garden waste or mixed food+garden waste)



general
waste



mixed
recycling



food
waste



garden
waste

It's about policy...

What's hot off the press and what's on the horizon?

Bonni Jee

APSE Principal Advisor



Hang in there!...

Simpler
Recycling

Local government finance
long-term settlement
promised

3 or 4 weekly collections?

DRS 

New
burdens
funding

Consistent
Collections

£ ETS

Political changes

EPR

Climate change and the
ecological emergency

Circular
Economy
Taskforce

Waste and
Resources
Strategy

Net Zero
(or not?)

LGR

Procurement

Insourcing?

Industrial Action

Decarbonisation and
electrification

Aging workforce

Simpler Recycling Simplified

- Environment Act 2021
- Core materials to be collected at kerbside since 31 March 2026:
 - Food
 - Glass, plastic containers, cans, foil
 - Paper and card
 - Cartons
 - Garden waste (may be a subscription)
- Large Businesses since March 2025, smaller (<10) from 2027
- Soft plastics from ~~March 2027~~ April 2030



Emissions trading scheme

- Inclusion of waste incineration and energy-from-waste (EfW) facilities from 2028 onwards
- Voluntary Monitoring, Reporting, and Verification (MRV) period started 1 January 2026
- “CIWM strongly urges incineration and EfW plant operators to engage in the process.”
- **Impact on LAs?**
- APSE is reaching out to Defra and DESNZ along with other partners e.g. LGA to understand more and represent the sector
- Importance of waste composition
- Behaviour change and innovations to reduce ‘fossil-based’ plastic going to EfW

**Want more
detail?
Check out our
briefing:**

[24-50 The Emissions Trading Scheme Issues for Local Authorities.pdf](#)

EPR (extended producer responsibility) payments

- APSE has met with PackUK and will have periodical meetings going forward to understand more and provide feedback based on our significant experience of benchmarking
- Year 1 payments have been received
- Efficiency and effectiveness?
- ‘UK Government to close any funding shortfall gap’
- No ringfencing... but not using funds appropriately for recycling services could lead to future deductions
- Always looking for good practice and use of the funding going towards improved facilities

Deposit return scheme

- Still on track for 1 October 2027
- Plastic drinks bottles and cans (plus glass in Wales) will have a deposit (20p?)
- Return to reverse vending machines
- Impacts on LA recycling services – lower yield, you are left with the ‘other’ materials
- Positive on streetscene – less litter... you’d think
- Major culture change...
- But commonplace in Europe



Food for thought

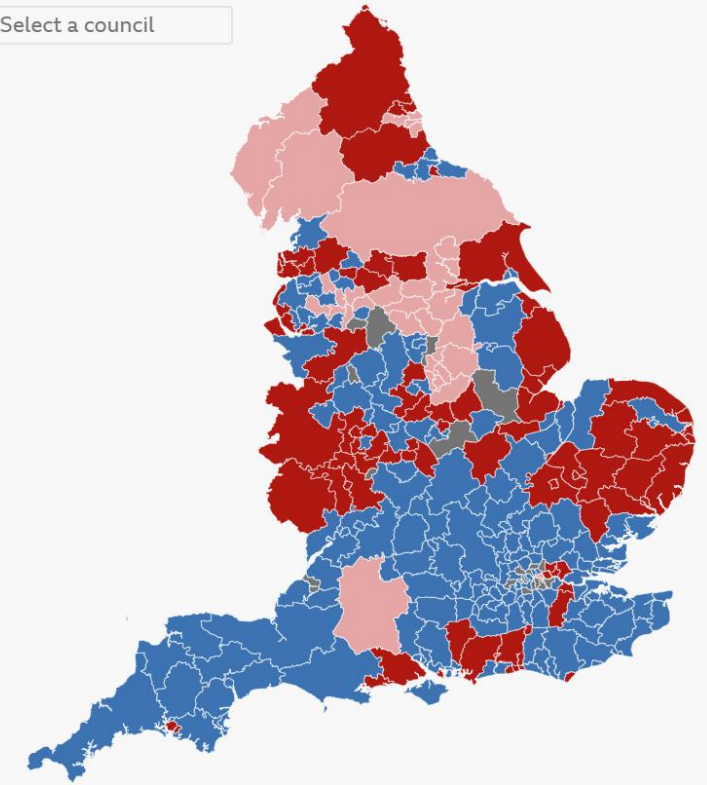
- Well done to the 75% of you who now have food waste collections in place (despite BBC spin)
- Others still underway and a handful with long extensions (‘transitional arrangements’)
- Why should you and your residents bother?
 - Increased recycling rates (food is heavy)
 - Food goes to anaerobic digestion (AD) to be turned into electricity and fertiliser – win-win
 - Collected more often than general waste – so it doesn’t stink
 - See how much you are throwing away and waste less food
 - Many now accept plastic bags as liners, so no additional cost to residents (but check first)

www.apse.org.uk

Find if the service will be in place for **all households** from 31 March and an approximate date if not

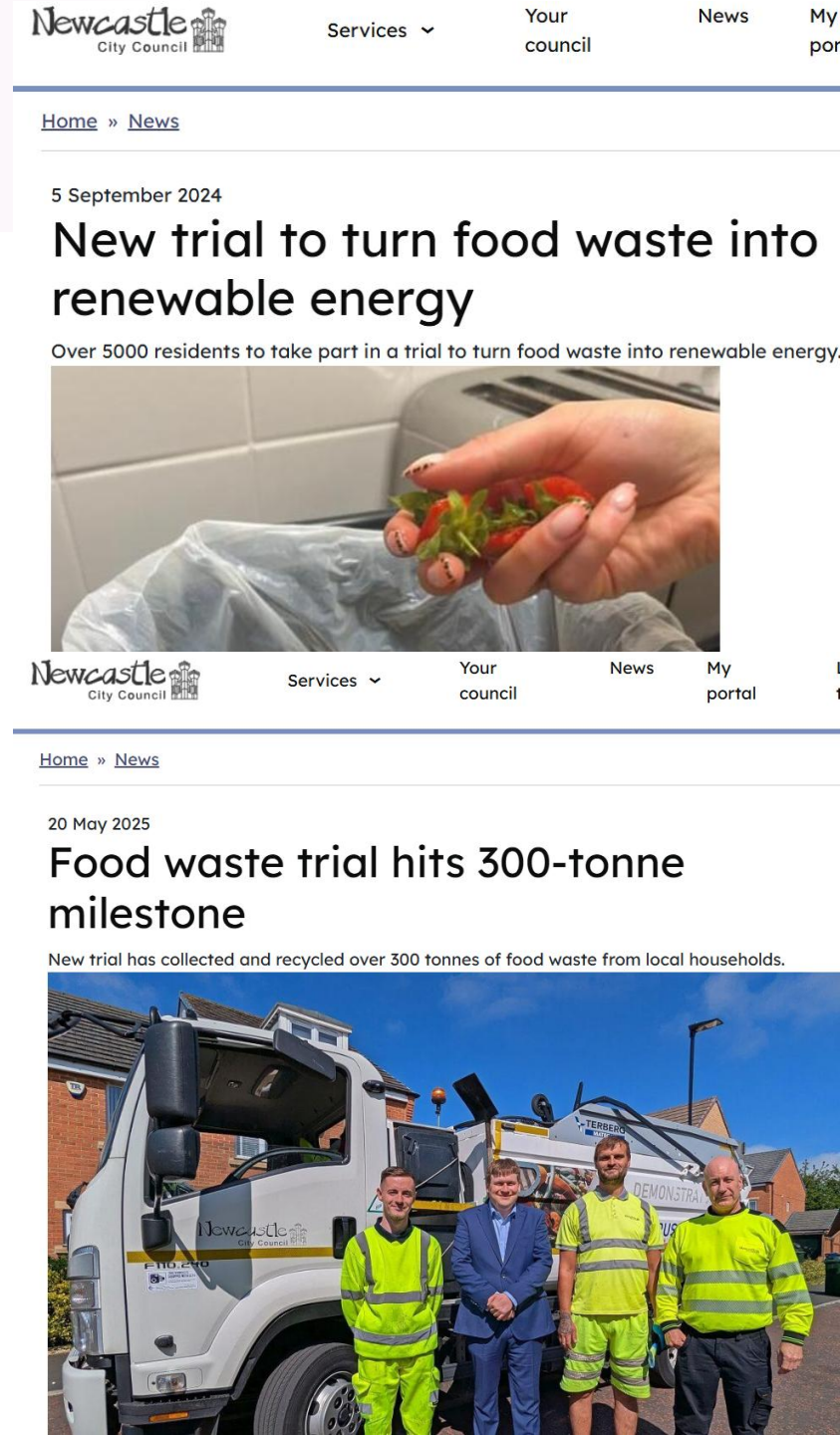
■ Yes ■ No ■ No (Transitional Agreement) ■ No response

Q Select a council



Communicating food recycling

- **Communications... vs budget**
 - Sustainability Comms
 - Get other teams on board
 - Political buy-in
-
- **Newcastle upon Tyne – Food Waste Trial**
 - **“198 tonnes** of nutrient-rich liquid fertiliser, which is distributed to **local** farms”
 - **“This effort has generated an impressive 750,000 kWh of renewable energy, enough to power 281 homes or heat 67 homes for an entire year.”**



South Kesteven: [LinkedIn Comms](#)

 Here's what will happen to your food waste when we start collecting it next spring 🍏 📦 🍓

 News headlines:

✓ **You won't be getting a wheelie bin;** it's a small caddy for the kitchen and a larger (but still small!) one for outside

✓ It'll be collected **WEEKLY** on the same day as your usual bin – **less time to hold on to food waste** is a bonus, especially in summer

✓ The handle on the outside bin acts as a lock so that **wildlife, flies and pets can't get in**

✓ The waste will be collected separately and go to an anaerobic digester near Lincoln to become **gas, electricity and fertiliser for local farms**

✓ **No need to buy special bags,** anything will do (old carrier bags, bread bags, bags from online shopping...) and you'll get a free roll of bags to get started

✓ It'll be **great for the environment, generate clean sources** of energy and reduce waste that can't be recycled

✓ Caddies will start being delivered in late January, with the collections beginning in late March

✓ It's a government requirement that we deliver this for you

 Your food waste recycling caddies are coming early 2026!

🍏 From Spring 2026, all district households will be included in our new weekly food waste collection service.

📦 Residents will receive two caddies — a small 5-litre one for your kitchen, and a larger 23-litre kerbside caddy — along with a roll of liners to get you started.

🍓 If you live in a flat or accommodation with a shared outdoor bin area, you'll receive a 5-litre indoor caddy and your shared outdoor food waste container will be located in your usual bin storage area.

👍 Please take a moment to find out more about it by checking out this page, with some helpful FAQs:

<https://lnkd.in/eWs5sCSV>

[hashtag#LincolnshireRecycles](#) [hashtag#FoodWaste](#) [hashtag#Recycling](#)

[hashtag#RecycleYourFoodWaste](#) [hashtag#EnvironmentAct2021](#) [hashtag#RecycleNow](#)

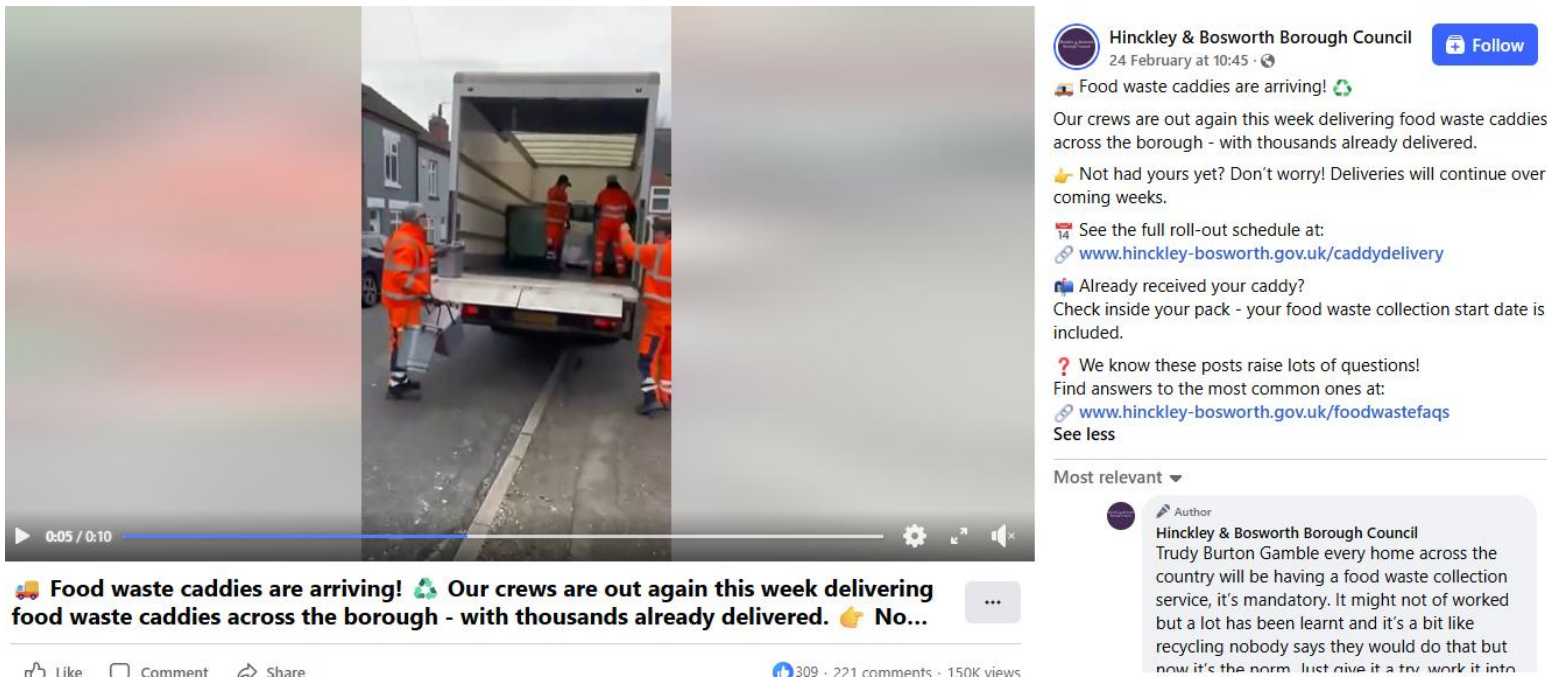
www.apse.org.uk

From your caddy
TO ENERGY

DISCOVER
THE
JOURNEY
OF YOUR
FOOD



Hinckley & Bosworth - Facebook



“My daughter who comes under Daventry council started using a food waste bin in 2018, they don't have problems with theirs.”

www.apse.org.uk

- And dedicated FAQs:
- [Common concerns | Food waste FAQs | Hinckley & Bosworth Borough Council](#)
- 150 comments
- **‘Peer to peer’ replies to the sceptics:**
- “Works perfectly fine here in Northamptonshire for the past 6+ years. No issues.”
- “We're in Cardiff & have had them for quite a few years old. They are great & its amazing how much food waste you acquire in a week! I'm all for recycling - we should all do our bit for future generations”

Bedford

APSE Case study: [Bedford Borough's recipe](#)



Greater Manchester



Already have a food waste collection, but it's going a bit stale?

Let's learn from Scotland

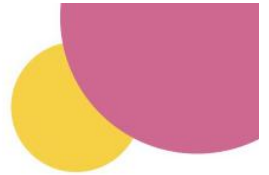
[Jenny Robinson from Zero Waste Scotland](#) presented at our seminar last month

- Residual bin sticker proved most effective in reminding people to use caddy
- Caddy liners and communications helped

The interventions



The interventions



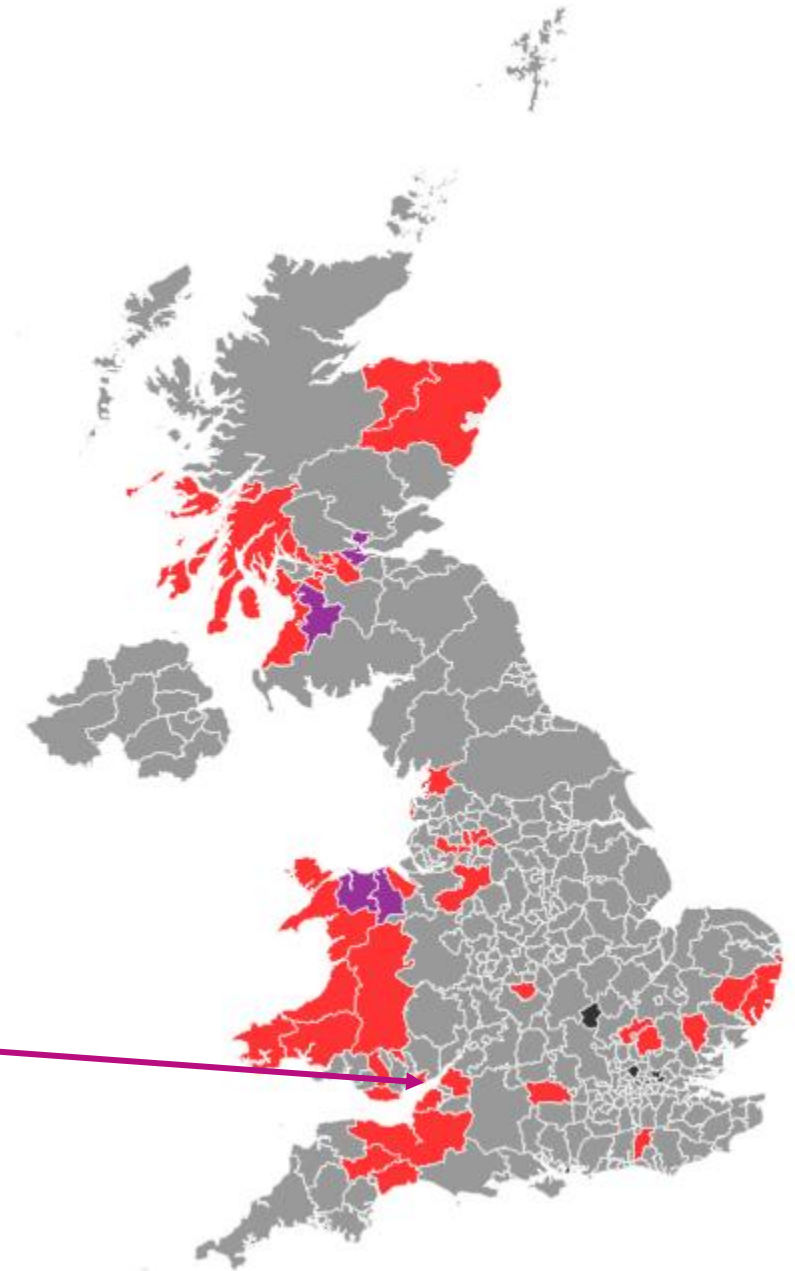


Collection frequency

From 1...2...3...4... weekly?

Most will have food waste collections already

Record: Newport, Wales
 120L every 3 weeks =
 40L/week
 Result? **71%** recycling rate



Digital waste tracking

- **Mandatory tracking from October 2026** will require licensed waste receiving sites to record all waste movements digitally in a centralised system, with the aim to reduce illegal waste activity, improve data tracking accuracy and modernise waste management practices.
- Permitted and licensed waste receiving sites must record all incoming waste movement, including hazardous and non-hazardous waste.
- Regulations apply to any business that produces, handles, or disposes of waste.
- Centralised Defra managed digital platform will track waste movements through digital IDs.
- Waste receivers can **voluntarily** use the public beta service from Spring 2026 as part of the platform testing phase.
- **Catch up with Defra's DWT webinar here (26 minutes):** [LA specific Webinar Digital Waste Tracking – Report Receipt of Waste Public Beta](#)

LGR – piping hot off the press – but nothing new under the sun!

Our survey last year said...

40%

Will **wait and see** what new unitary will look like first

8%

Will operate as existing districts to start with

- Others:
- *“We are also looking at buying the same containers for food waste across [the county] ready for LGR...”*
- *“No formal direction to plan service in new authority”*
- *“We have considered reducing residual frequency but LGR has prevented further discussion.”*

This is where we can help you!

- Best practice from those who have been through the journey
- Interim management/consultancy
- Round tables/fora
- Training

LGR – bringing it all together

even if not from Day 1

... BBC

Three-weekly bin collections signed off by West Northants council

Many people living in the West Northamptonshire Council area will see bin collections for general waste move from fortnightly to every three...



... This is the Coast

North Yorkshire Council Officially Pass Bin Changes

North Yorkshire Council executives have officially adopted a harmonised household recycling and waste collection guidance document to support the provision of...





Westmorland
& Furness
Council

▼ Services News Jobs Ab

[Home](#)

Waste and recycling harmonisation

We've recently completed a public consultation survey to help us shape the future of our waste and recycling collections. Find out what recommendations have been agreed, how we reached a decision and what will happen next.



Thank you

Questions?

Bonni Jee

APSE Principal Advisor

bjee@apse.org.uk

Paddy Knowles

APSE Associate Trainer

training@apse.org.uk