



Department  
for Environment  
Food & Rural Affairs

# The Resources and Waste Strategy: Responding to the Consultations

Consistency in collections, packaging EPR and DRS for  
drinks containers

LGA 4<sup>th</sup> April 2019



Forestry Commission  
England



Environment  
Agency

# Three Defra consultations

**More consistent  
collections**



**Packaging EPR**



**DRS for drinks  
containers**



**Also, HMT consultation on tax on plastic packaging**

# Consistency in Household and Business Recycling Collections in England



# Proposal: Household recycling

- Household waste recycling rates in England **have risen** from around 11% in 2000/1 to about 45%
- Rates have stagnated in last 5/6 years
- We have **ambitious recycling targets** (65%)
- Current **drivers insufficient** to meet targets
- **Core set of materials** from all households, including flats
- We propose: paper + card; glass; plastic bottles + plastic pots, tubs and trays; metal packaging
- **Weekly separate** food waste collections
- **Free garden waste collections** for households with gardens
- Accompanied by minimum service standards



**Collection of a core set of materials and clarity over what can and can't be recycled should help improve quality.**

# Proposal: Businesses recycling

- We estimate about **2 million** businesses and other organisations produce municipal waste
- We want to **increase recycling rates** from business waste – currently estimated at 34 – 40% could increase to 74%+
- We want all businesses to **segregate dry recyclables** from residual waste:
  - 1) mixed dry recycling + separate glass (no food waste)
  - 2) mixed dry recycling + separate food waste (no glass)
  - 3) mixed dry recycling + separate glass + separate food waste



# Key Themes from Consistency Consultation

## Local decision making

- Frequency of residual waste collections
- TEEP and collection models
- Space constraints for recycling from flats

## Food and garden Waste collections

- Mixed or separate collection?
- Benefits of free garden waste collection?

## New Burdens/Contractual implications

- assessment of new burdens - costs
- Contracts and timing of change
- Interaction with EPR/DRS
- Infrastructure implications



- Difference in collection models between household and businesses
- Application of duties eg food waste collection
- Options for reducing costs
- Role of local authority



# Reforming the UK packaging producer responsibility system

# Packaging producer responsibility

- UK-wide consultation – supported by all governments and DAERA
- Part A:
  - Proposed definition of full net cost
  - How to incentivise good design
  - Which businesses are obligated
  - How producer fees can support improvements to collections and recycling infrastructure
  - Proposals for recycling communications and labelling



- Part B:
  - Proposed packaging waste recycling targets for 2025 and 2030
  - Interim packaging waste recycling targets for 2021 and 2022
- Part C:
  - Four governance models, including competitive compliance schemes and single management organisation options
  - How packaging waste can be managed responsibly domestically and globally
  - How a reformed system can be more transparent
  - Arrangements for monitoring compliance and enforcing a revised system



# Key Themes from Packaging Consultation

## Summary of Key Themes

- Level of control / say producers will have over how their fees are spent
- Apportionment of costs by different packaging materials – to avoid one material ‘subsidising’ another
- Payments structure for LAs and how LAs can be incentivised to achieve higher recycling, implications for contractual arrangements (current and new)
- Are there sufficient incentives in the system to increase investment in UK reprocessing capacity
- No clear indication yet on a ‘preferred’ governance approach and mixed views on changing the point of producer compliance
- Operational and practical issues related to the interface with a potential DRS



# Introducing a Deposit Return Scheme (DRS) for England, Wales and Northern Ireland



# Deposit Return Scheme

- What is a deposit return scheme (DRS)?
- Aim: - Reduce littering and increase recycling  
- Easy for consumers to return drinks containers
- Joint consultation
  - the UK and Welsh Governments and the Department for Agriculture, Environment and Rural Affairs in NI
- Our preference is to adopt a UK-wide approach to DRS if it is introduced



# Deposit Return Scheme

Consultation seeks views on:

- 2 proposed options:
  - **All-in:** No restriction on the size of drinks containers in-scope
  - **On-the-go:** Restricts drinks containers in-scope to those less than 750ml in size (and excludes multipacks)
  - **Same set of materials and drinks proposed for both models**
- Materials and drinks in scope:
  - Plastic bottles (PET and HDPE); steel and aluminium cans; glass
  - Excluding milk and plant-based alternatives (essential product)
  - Seeking views on practicality of including disposable cups, cartons, pouches
- Proposed model for a DRS
  - Scheme set up and run by a Deposit Management Organisation
  - Network of return points through RVMs and manual return points hosted by retailers

# Key Themes from DRS Consultation

## Summary of Key Themes

- What materials should be included (should this include glass)
- 'All-in' vs 'on-the-go'
- What should the deposit be set at to provide the right incentives?
- The role of retailers and ensuring sufficient access to return points
- Who should be represented on the Deposit Management Organisation
- The impact on kerbside collections and litter collection costs
- How the system can account for DRS material ending up in kerbside collections (material and deposit would fall to the local authority)
- Overlap with packaging producer responsibility system and consistent household collections



# Next steps: Defra consultations

- YOU – respond to the consultations via Citizen Space!
- WE will-
  - analyse all the responses received and publish a summary of responses to each consultation
  - develop more detailed proposals and draft regulations for consultation in 2020
- Indicative timescales are for regulations to be in place in 2021 and new measures implemented from 2023

# Thank you

Consultations available at:

- <https://consult.defra.gov.uk/>
- <https://consult.defra.gov.uk/environmental-quality/resource-and-waste-and-plastic-packaging-tax-consu-1/>

Closing dates:

- 12 May (23:59) for HMT Plastic Packaging Tax
- 13 May (23:59) for Defra consultations
- Please respond via the Citizen Space questionnaire