

## **Simpler Recycling for household and business recycling in England.**

### **Briefing Note No. 23-37**

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### **Introduction**

This briefing note is to share a summary of the government's response to its second consultation on achieving consistency in household and business recycling in England. This scheme has also recently been rebranded as "Simpler Recycling".

The Environment Act 2021, under which Simpler Recycling will be delivered, will have a far-reaching impact on all local authorities, including Wiltshire. More details are still to be confirmed by government and additional information will be shared as it becomes available. It is also relevant to note that since these proposals were confirmed, a new Environment Secretary has been appointed so there is potential for further changes.

The full response published by DEFRA on 21 October 2023 can be found here [Government response - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](https://www.gov.uk/government/consultations/simpler-recycling).

### **1. Overview**

- 1.1 The government plans to introduce improved and simplified requirements through the Environment Act 2021.
- 1.2 It is proposed that all local authorities in England must collect the same recyclable waste streams for recycling or composting from households, as detailed in Appendix 1.
- 1.3 These reforms aim to simplify recycling, increase recycling rates, reduce waste, and support the government's Net Zero Strategy.

### **2. Proposed household collections required through Environment Act 2021**

- 2.1 The table below outlines the mandatory collections required under the Environment Act 2021 and the timeline for their implementation.
- 2.2 From 2025 payments will be provided to local authorities via a new Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR) system. Packaging producers will be responsible for the costs of collecting and managing packaging waste through 'efficient and effective services', provided by councils as part of their waste collection, household recycling centre networks and some street cleaning activities. This will also require the addition of

materials such as plastic films and flexible plastics such as bread bags from 2027. Full details of how these payments will be made to local authorities is expected in 2024.

2.3 Additionally, ‘reasonable’ new burdens funding will be made available to local authorities covering the capital and resource costs incurred in providing new weekly separate collections of food waste from households (and possibly businesses).

<b>Waste stream</b>	<b>Timeframe</b>
Dry Recyclables (Glass bottles and jars, metal, paper and card, plastics)	Must be collected from households by 31 March 2026, with exception of plastic film from 31 March 2027.
Food waste	Separate weekly household collection by 31 March 2026.  Authorities, such as Wiltshire, that have waste disposal contracts that would be affected by the removal of food waste will be provided with bespoke transitional arrangements enabling an alternative implementation date to be agreed with DEFRA to take account of these existing contracts.
Residual waste	Current government guidance is an expectation of a minimum of a fortnightly collection from 31 March 2026.
Garden waste (optional)	Councils can continue to apply charges for this collection service. Only required to collect if resident has requested and paid for the service. Should be implemented by 31 March 2026.

### **3. Proposed Commercial waste requirements required through Environment Act 2021**

3.1 Businesses and relevant non-domestic premises are expected to implement dry recyclable and food waste collections by 31 March 2025 and micro-firms are expected to comply by 31 March 2027. Plastic film collections are required to be implemented by 31 March 2027 for both businesses and micro-firms.

### **4. Next steps**

4.1 Two new consultations have been undertaken between 21 October and 20 November 2023:

- Consultation on Exemptions and Statutory Guidance for Simpler Recycling in England (open to local authorities only)
- Consultation on Additional Policies Related to Simpler Recycling in England (expanding the list of non-domestic premises in scope – public consultation)

4.2 As more details are confirmed by government, we will share more specific information for Wiltshire on the implications of what is being proposed.

## Appendix 1.

### List of materials provided by government which can be disposed of in each waste stream

#### Dry recyclables

The following materials will be included in the dry recyclables stream:

##### Glass:

- glass packaging including bottles and jars

##### Metal:

- steel and aluminium tins and cans
- steel and aluminium aerosols
- aluminium foil
- aluminium food trays
- steel and aluminium jars and bottle lids
- aluminium tubes

##### Plastic:

- plastic bottles made of polyethylene terephthalate (PET, including amorphous, recycled PET), polypropylene (PP) and high-density polyethylene (HDPE)
- pots, tubs, and trays made of PET (including amorphous, recycled, and crystalline PET), PP (including expanded PP) and polyethylene (PE)
- PE and PP plastic tubes larger than 50mm x 50mm
- cartons for food, drink, and other liquids, including aseptic and chilled cartons
- plastic film packaging and plastic bags made of mono-polyethylene (mono-PE), mono-polypropylene (mono-PP) and mixed polyolefins PE and PP, including those metallised through vacuum or vapour deposition (to be included from 31 March 2027)

##### Paper and card:

- All paper and card 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 waste

The following materials will be included in the food waste stream:

- all food intended for human or household pet consumption, regardless of whether it has any nutritional value
- biodegradable material resulting from the processing or preparation of food, including inedible food parts such as bones, eggshells, fruit and vegetable skins, tea bags and coffee grounds

#### Garden waste

The following materials will be included in the garden waste stream:  
All organic material from the garden except:

- ash
- full-sized trees
- invasive weeds and species
- soil
- turf cuttings
- waste products of animal origin