

Appendix 2 Summary of Defra Consultation



Resource and Waste consultations and Plastic Packaging Tax consultation announced

Today DEFRA have published three consultations on reforms proposed in their Resource and Waste Strategy and a consultation on Plastic Packaging Tax.

DEFRA are very interested in your views and welcome your responses to one or more of the consultations. **Please note the three Resource and Waste consultations will close on 13th May 2019 and the Plastic Packaging Tax consultation will close on 12th May 2019.** In the meantime, if you have any questions please get in touch using the email addresses below.

You can respond to these consultations and view the complete consultation documents via the following links:

All four consultations can be found here:

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

Consistency in Household and Business Recycling Collections in England:

<https://consult.defra.gov.uk/environmental-quality/consultation-on-consistency-in-household-and-busin>

Reforming the Packaging Producer Responsibility System:

<https://consult.defra.gov.uk/environmental-quality/consultation-on-reforming-the-uk-packaging-produce>

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

<https://consult.defra.gov.uk/environment/introducing-a-deposit-return-scheme>

Plastic Packaging Tax:

<https://consult.defra.gov.uk/environmental-quality/plastic-packaging-tax>

All consultations will close at 23:59 on the specified closing date.

Below is a short overview of each consultation:

Consistency in Household and Business Recycling Collections

Government is committed to meeting a future municipal recycling target of 65% by 2035. However, over the last 5 years recycling rates in England have stalled at around 45%. Many local authorities continue to make improvements and have introduced new services but some have seen a drop in their recycling rate and others do not collect a full range of recycling materials. We support frequent and comprehensive waste collections and want to make it easier for householders, businesses and local authorities to recycle. We believe that one way of making recycling easier for everyone is for local authorities and other waste

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operators to collect a core set of materials for recycling. So this consultation seeks views on the core set of materials to be collected. The consultation also seeks views on other measures to increase recycling including free garden waste collections, separate food waste collections, developing non-binding performance indicators for local authorities and alternatives to weight based metrics. We estimate that at the moment around 35% of waste from businesses is recycled but this could potentially increase to 74% with the right measures so we're keen to have your views on the best ways of increasing the amount of recycling from businesses. If you have any questions on this consultation, please email recycling@defra.gov.uk

Reforming the UK Packaging Producer Responsibility System

We have had a system of producer responsibility for packaging in place since 1997, and like any system that is over 20 years old it is in need of reform. This consultation seeks views on measures to reduce the amount of unnecessary and difficult to recycle packaging and increase the amount of packaging that can and is recycled through reforms to the packaging producer responsibility regulations. It also proposes that the full net costs of managing packaging waste are placed on those businesses who use packaging and who are best placed to influence its design, consistent with the polluter pays principle and the concept of extended producer responsibility. In addition, the consultation asks for views on the Government's proposals for recycling targets to 2030 and presents options for the future governance arrangements of a reformed system. If you have any questions on this consultation, please email packaging@defra.gov.uk

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

UK consumers go through an estimated 14 billion plastic drinks bottles, 9 billion drinks cans and 5 billion glass bottles a year. The reported recycling rates are significantly lower than many other major developed economies at around 70%, leaving around 4 billion plastic bottles, 2.7 billion cans and 1.5 billion glass bottles not recycled every year. This tells us that valuable recyclable material is being lost to landfill or incineration - or, worse, ends up in the open environment where it can have a serious impact on ecosystems and local people. This consultation seeks views on proposals to introduce a DRS for drinks containers in England, Wales and Northern Ireland (Scotland has consulted separately, but we are keen that our approach can form part of a coherent UK-wide system). A DRS would see a deposit added to the price of in-scope drinks containers at the point of purchase, which would be redeemed when consumers return their empty drinks containers to designated return points. It is anticipated that a DRS will help reduce the amount of littering in England,

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Wales and Northern Ireland, boost recycling levels for relevant material, offer the enhanced possibility to collect high quality materials in greater quantities and promote recycling through clear labelling and consumer messaging. If you have any questions on this consultation, please email DRS@defra.gov.uk

Plastic Packaging Tax

At Budget 2018, government announced that from April 2022 it would introduce a world-leading new tax on the production and import of plastic packaging with less than 30% recycled content, subject to consultation. Plastic packaging accounts for 44% of plastic used in the UK , but 67% of plastic waste, and over 2 million tonnes of plastic packaging is used each year. The vast majority of this is made from new, rather than recycled plastic. The government's call for evidence last year, which received a record 162,000 responses, highlighted that using recycled plastic is often more expensive than using new plastic, despite its lower environmental impacts. The government wants to shift the economic incentives involved in the production of more sustainable plastic packaging, encouraging greater use of recycled plastic and helping to reduce plastic waste. This complements the government's proposals for reformed Packaging Producer Responsibility regulations. The consultation outlines the government's proposal for how the tax will work and contains a number of questions relating to this. For example, which packaging should be in scope of the tax, how to assess recycled content, and which businesses will be liable for the tax. The government is open to views on the best design options. If you have any questions on this consultation, please email ETTanswers@hmtreasury.gov.uk

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