



DEBATE PACK

Number CDP-2016/0210, 11 November 2016

Circular economy for leftover paint

This Pack has been prepared ahead of the debate on circular economy for leftover paint, to be held in Westminster Hall on Tuesday 15 November 2016 at 2.30pm. The Member in charge of this debate is Angela Smith MP.

The House of Commons Library prepares a briefing in hard copy and/or online for most non-legislative debates in the Chamber and Westminster Hall other than half-hour debates. Debate Packs are produced quickly after the announcement of parliamentary business. They are intended to provide a summary or overview of the issue being debated and identify relevant briefings and useful documents, including press and parliamentary material. More detailed briefing can be prepared for Members on request to the Library.

Sara Priestley
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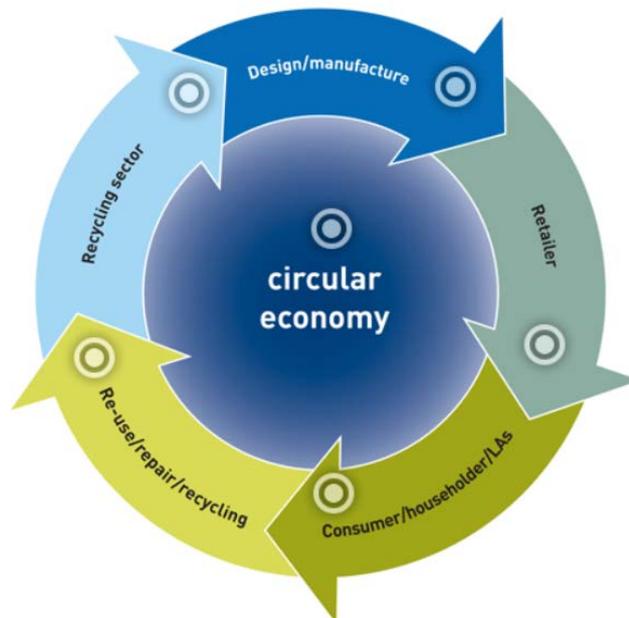
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1. Circular economy for leftover paint

1.1 What is a circular economy?

A circular economy aims to keep products, components and materials in use for as long as possible, extracting the maximum value from them while in use and recovering and regenerating products, components and materials at the end of their service life. It is represented by the simply WRAP (Waste and Resources Action Programme) infographic below:¹



The Ellen Macarthur Foundation (established in 2010 to accelerate the transition to a circular economy) explains the concept of a circular economy in more depth as follows:

A circular economy is restorative and regenerative by design, and aims to keep products, components, and materials at their highest utility and value at all times. The concept distinguishes between technical and biological cycles.

As envisioned by the originators, a circular economy is a continuous positive development cycle that preserves and enhances natural capital, optimises resource yields, and minimises system risks by managing finite stocks and renewable flows. It works effectively at every scale.²

¹ [WRAP and the circular economy webpage](#) [accessed 10 November 2016]

² Ellen Macarthur Foundation, [Circular Economy Overview](#) [accessed 10 November 2016]

Further background information on the circular economy is available:

- Commons Library [Briefing Page on the EU Circular Economy Package](#)
- POSTNote on [Designing an Circular Economy](#)

1.2 Leftover paint

What are the concerns?

According to the British Coatings Federation (the UK trade association for decorative, industrial and powder coatings, printing inks and wallcovering manufacturers) (BCF):

- 55 million litres of leftover decorative paint is generated in the UK each year;
- Only 2% of leftover paint is reused or remanufactured;
- Only one in three Household Waste Recycling Centres accepts paint for re-use or remanufacture; and
- The estimated cost to local government of disposing of waste paint each year is £20.6 million.³

What to do with leftover paint

If unwanted paint is still usable, it can be donated to a local project or to family and friends. [Community re-paint](#) is a nationwide network of paint donation schemes.

The disposal of liquid waste (including liquid paint) to landfill is banned in the UK pursuant to EU requirements.⁴ In England, this is regulated by the Environment Agency through the environmental permits it issues to landfill operators. This means that local councils are unable to accept liquid paint as part of their waste collection / disposal duties.

Appropriate disposal options for leftover paint often depend on what local services are available and may include:

- using a licensed hazardous waste collection and disposal service (for solvent based paint, paint thinner and white spirit);
- contacting the local authority's waste department to organise collection and disposal (which may be free or incur a fee) or

³ British Coatings Federation, [A Circular Economy for Leftover Paint](#) [accessed 10 November 2016]

⁴ Pursuant to the [EU Landfill Directive](#) (1999/31/EC)

checking whether the local household waste recycling centre accepts paint;

- drying out paint residue and disposing in a residual bin and recycling the tin (for water-based paint only).

There are also some dedicated paint remanufacturing companies in the UK, who reprocess waste paint.⁵

WRAP's [Recycle Now campaign](#) provides further information on how to dispose of leftover paint.

1.3 Innovations and proposals

Government action

A recent PQ response summarises the steps the Government is taking to work with industry on making better use of leftover paint:

The Government has been engaging constructively with the British Coatings Federation on making better use of leftover paint, including identifying potential regulatory barriers to its recycling and remanufacture and how these might be overcome.

The Waste and Resources Action Programme (WRAP) encourages consumers to recycle and re-use household paint by providing information through the Recycle Now website. This includes a postcode locator which helps pinpoint local Household Waste Recycling Centres (HWRCs) that accept leftover paint. The Government's Innovation in Waste Prevention Fund has also supported a pilot paint re-use project in Cheshire involving local charities, working with HWRCs and housing associations to increase paint donation and minimise disposal. WRAP will publish a summary of the project, lessons learned and a video case study later in the year.

In terms of public procurement, it is for each Government department to consider sustainability and put this into practice in its own procurement activity. Government Buying Standards do not currently include remanufactured paint. WRAP has recently published a guide on 'How to Include Re-use in Local Authority HWRC Procurement'.⁶

PaintCare proposals

[PaintCare](#) is led by the British Coatings Federation and brings together local and national government, the waste industry, paint companies, retailers and other stakeholders. It aims to create a national scheme for leftover decorative paint in the UK, where it can be reused or remanufactured, thereby creating a 'circular economy' model.

For more information on the PaintCare proposals, please refer to the [BCF/PaintCare briefing on a circular economy for leftover paint](#), which

⁵ For example, [Newlife Paints](#) and [Paintmaster](#)

⁶ [PQ 48913, 48914, 48915](#), 24 October 2016

sets out its recommendations to Government and what it sees as the benefits of a national scheme.

2. News Items

Financial Times (subscription needed)

Sustainable innovation: shaped for the circular economy

26 Aug 2015

<https://www.ft.com/content/0f047330-3f46-11e5-b98b-87c7270955cf>

Environmental and Energy Management News Environmental Leader

Recycling Technology Brings Circular Economy to the Paint Industry

Jessica Lyons

2 August 2016

<http://www.environmentalleader.com/2016/08/02/recycling-technology-brings-circular-economy-to-the-paint-industry/>

Circulate News

Is this a circular economy for paint?

1 August 2016

<http://circulateneews.org/2016/08/circular-economy-paint/>

edie.net

Could Defra paint a circular economy picture for the coatings industry?

10 May 2016

<http://www.edie.net/news/5/Could-Defra-paint-the-path-for-a-circular-economy-in-the-coatings-industry-/>

3. Press releases and related material

British Coatings Federation

BCF launches new PaintCare website

21 September 2016

As part of their PaintCare programme, the British Coatings Federation (BCF) has launched a new website and digital campaign which aims to help the UK public make better use of their leftover paint. On average, each household in the UK has six cans of unwanted paint in their shed or garage, which when disposed, 98% of it ends up landfilled or incinerated. The website, www.paintcare.org.uk centres on three main messages to help get the public involved: buy right, use it up, and recycle the rest.

PaintCare estimates that 30% of people have leftover paint because they bought too much. To help reduce the amount of leftover paint generated in the UK, the new website encourages visitors to 'buy right' and includes links to paint company calculators to help consumers calculate how much paint they need before they buy. To promote the 'buy right' message, BCF have launched a digital campaign promoting advice to consumers. The campaign features two videos that can be viewed at the [buy right page](#) or from the [BCF's YouTube channel](#).

The website also advises consumers on how to 'recycle the rest' with a new [paint recycling locator](#) provided by Recycle Now in partnership with Valpak which allows users to find their nearest Household Waste Recycling Centre (HWRC) to recycle their unwanted paint. For consumers interested in purchasing remanufactured paint, the website features a [dedicated area](#) showcasing the organisations that remanufacture new paint products from leftovers. Finally, the website highlights the ways consumers can '[use it up](#)' and make use of unwanted paint in other household projects.

Tom Bowtell, Chief Executive of the BCF said: "To date, we've largely focused our efforts with PaintCare on working with government and industry to bring down the barriers to paint recycling in the UK. With our new website and buy right digital campaign, we're getting the public involved and are encouraging consumers to do what they can now to help make better use of household leftover paint. We are hopeful that in time there will be a truly circular framework for leftover paint, with a national HWRC network for consumers to recycle their paint, and more remanufactured paint products for consumers to purchase."

For more information about the website or the digital campaign, email tania.morrill@bcf.co.uk

CEO Blog - British Coatings Federation

The Coatings industry and the circular economy

Tom Bowtell

January 2015

I'm sure most of us have heard about the circular economy, a phrase championed by Ellen McArthur, which has now become the latest buzz word in the world of sustainability.

So how do we fit in in the coatings world, and is it possible to have a circular economy for paints, coatings, inks and wallcoverings?

There are two areas I see where the industry can make a major impact. The first is to reduce waste in our manufacturing sites, and increase recycling of the waste we still have. We are doing rather well in this area, as you will see from the [press release](#) we recently issued, which focussed on the record high levels of recycling that is now happening across the UK in our manufacturing sites. The amount of total waste has been halved, and we recycle 65% today, compared to just 17% in 1996. Waste to landfill has been slashed from 50kg per tonne of production in the mid 90's to under 3kg per tonne today. That's an improvement of a factor of 18, which we should be proud of.

Coatings, inks and wallcoverings manufacturing sites that have zero waste to landfill can truly say they are part of the circular economy, and several of these have been recognised in our Coatings Care Awards. If you are not currently measuring your environmental impact, you really should consider joining the Coatings Care programme. For more info please contact wayne.smith@bcbf.co.uk

The other part of the circular economy is the end of life of our products. Currently only 2% of leftover paint that all of us have in our sheds and garages is remanufactured or reused. Each year as a society we create over 50 million litres of leftover paint, enough to fill over 20 Olympic sized swimming pools! The majority of leftover paint, and the packaging, ends up in landfill, so if we are to really claim to be part of the circular economy, we have to solve this collectively. Several BCF members, such as Newlife Paints, Green Farm Paints, Paintmaster and West Lancs Paints are already remanufacturing paint, and I would like to publically recognise their efforts as trailblazers in the circular economy for leftover decorative paints.

Over the coming months we will be working out how to expand the remanufacturing of leftover paint, which isn't without its challenges, but is possible whilst there is a common will amongst decorative coatings manufacturers. The industry has come together to tackle this issue, and earlier this month we had the first steering group meeting of the leftover paint steering group, with all the major decorative coatings players strongly supporting the creation of a sustainable circular economy for leftover decorative paint, showing true leadership on the topic. It won't happen overnight, but we have taken some important first steps.

Kingfisher (Retail)

Tackling leftover paint

It is estimated that the average UK household may have as many as 17 cans of leftover paint languishing in sheds, garages or lofts*. Over time, that paint may dry out and could be taking up valuable storage space.

However, disposing of old paint is not as simple as putting it in the bin.

B&Q is addressing the challenge with a pilot scheme operated in conjunction with community, recycling and packaging experts and household waste recycling centres (HWRCs).

11 B&Q stores in London and Cambridgeshire are part of the pilot. How it works:

- B&Q communicates the scheme in its 11 participating stores
- Customers take leftover paint to their local participating HWRC
- [Community RePaint](#) re-distributes that paint to community projects and charities
- Metal cans are sent for recycling. Plastic pots are sent to plastic packaging manufacturer RPC
- RPC recycles the plastic pots into new ones
- The new pots are sent to Akzo Nobel and filled with new paint

The pilot programme is coordinated by recycling experts Recoup.

*British Coatings Federation (BCF)

4. Parliamentary Material

4.1 Debates

[Circular Economy](#)

03 Mar 2016 | Proceeding contributions – Question for Short Debate | House of Lords | 769 cc987-990

4.2 Parliamentary Questions

[Paint: Recycling](#)

Asked by: Barry Sheerman

To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs, what steps the Government is taking to work with the waste and coatings industries on making better use of leftover paint.

Answering member: Dr Thérèse Coffey | Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs

The Government has been engaging constructively with the British Coatings Federation on making better use of leftover paint, including identifying potential regulatory barriers to its recycling and remanufacture and how these might be overcome.

The Waste and Resources Action Programme (WRAP) encourages consumers to recycle and re-use household paint by providing information through the Recycle Now website. This includes a postcode locator which helps pinpoint local Household Waste Recycling Centres (HWRCs) that accept leftover paint. The Government's Innovation in Waste Prevention Fund has also supported a pilot paint re-use project in Cheshire involving local charities, working with HWRCs and housing associations to increase paint donation and minimise disposal. WRAP will publish a summary of the project, lessons learned and a video case study later in the year.

In terms of public procurement, it is for each Government department to consider sustainability and put this into practice in its own procurement activity. Government Buying Standards do not currently include remanufactured paint. WRAP has recently published a guide on 'How to Include Re-use in Local Authority HWRC Procurement'.

24 Oct 2016 | Written questions | House of Commons | 48913, 48914, 48915

Paint

Asked by: Baroness Redfern

To ask Her Majesty's Government what steps they are taking to encourage innovation in paint products to make better use of resources, and what steps they are taking to reduce the amount of waste going to landfill and to create new markets for paint products.

Answering member: Baroness Neville-Rolfe | Department for Business, Innovation and Skills

I am pleased to highlight a project by Akzo Nobel, Newlife Paints and Seymour Consulting supported through our delivery arm – Innovate UK – to industrialise the process of recycling paint through increased automation which has proved successful and could lead to significant commercial opportunities as well as a better environmental outcome.

Additionally, the Government's Innovation in Waste Prevention Fund is supporting a RePaint project in Cheshire which is working across the local community to minimise the amount of paint going for disposal.

The disposal of liquid waste, including liquid paint, to landfill is banned under the Landfill Directive (Directive 1999/31/EC on the landfill of waste). The ban is implemented in England through the Environmental Permitting (England and Wales) Regulations 2010 (as amended) and is enforced by the Environment Agency through the environmental permits it issues to landfill operators.

The creation of new markets for paint products was one of the recommendations from the British Coatings Federation's "Paintcare" initiative which was launched last year. The Waste and Resources Action Programme (WRAP) is taking steps to encourage consumers to recycle/reuse household paint by providing information through the Recycle Now campaign. This includes a postcode locator to pinpoint local facilities and information on how to deal with paint.

12 Feb 2016 | Written questions | House of Lords | HL5348

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12 Feb 2016 | Written questions | House of Lords | HL5348

[Parliament: Paint](#)

Asked by: Baroness Redfern

To ask the Chairman of Committees what assessment he has made of the case for creating a circular economy for leftover paint in Parliament, in the light of the recommendations made in the British Coatings Federation's interim report published on 19 November 2015.

Answering member: Lord Laming | Department: The Lord Chairman of Committees

No formal assessment has been made of the Report. The House keeps minimal base colours in stock for touch-ups etc. and orders specific quantities as job requirements dictate. Any leftover paint is dealt with in compliance with legal disposal requirements.

04 Feb 2016 | Written questions | House of Lords | HL5347

[Paint](#)

Asked by: Baroness Redfern

To ask Her Majesty's Government what steps they are taking to ensure that departments assist projects such as the British Coatings Federation's PaintCare project.

Answering member: Lord Gardiner of Kimble | Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs

The Government welcomes the PaintCare initiative and is working constructively with the British Coating Federation in relation to several aspects of the project. This includes identifying potential regulatory barriers to the recycling and re-manufacturing of paint and how these might be overcome, as well as providing opportunities to raise

awareness of the potential benefits of PaintCare, for example at the G7 Alliance for Resource Efficiency conference in Berlin last October.

My Hon. Friend the Parliamentary Under Secretary (Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs), spoke at the Parliamentary launch of PaintCare's interim report in November. The Waste and Resources Action Programme has also been working with PaintCare to provide information to consumers on how to recycle and dispose of household paint, through the Recycle Now campaign.

01 Feb 2016 | Written questions | House of Lords | HL5349

4.3 Early Day Motions

REMANUFACTURING OF PAINT

EDM 300 14 July 2015

Primary sponsor: Barry Sheerman

That this House notes that the average UK household harbours over 15 cans of leftover paint; encourages the remanufacturing of paint and seeks to increase the reuse rate of leftover decorative paint from two per cent to 50 per cent, decreasing the use of landfill sites for paint disposal; acknowledges that the All Party Manufacturing Group notes in its report Triple Win that the paint industry is on the cusp of developing a robust reuse remanufacturing market; supports PaintCare, the industry-led project by the British Coatings Federation, to help create a circular economy by recycling at least half of the 50 million litres of leftover decorative paint generated annually in the UK; further acknowledges that PaintCare is supported by decorative paint manufacturers, retailers, trade associations, waste management companies, local and national Government and other third-sector organisations; and further notes that these stakeholders are committed to working together to help create a sustainable circular economy through reuse and remanufacture.

5. Further reading and useful links

PaintCare briefing paper for the Westminster Hall debate, Tuesday 15th November 2016:

A Circular Economy for Leftover Paint

<http://www.paintcare.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2016/11/A-Circular-Economy-for-Leftover-Paint-Briefing-Paper.pdf>

PaintCare resources

PaintCare resources information page

<http://www.paintcare.org.uk/resources/>

Recycle Now

What to do with paint

<https://www.recyclenow.com/what-to-do-with/paint-1>

House of Commons Library Briefing

EU Circular Economy Package

<http://researchbriefings.parliament.uk/ResearchBriefing/Summary/CBP-7416>

POST NOTE (Parliamentary Office of Science and Technology)

Designing a Circular Economy

September 2016

<http://researchbriefings.parliament.uk/ResearchBriefing/Summary/POST-PN-0536>

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