



DEBATE PACK

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E-petition on banning of non-compostable and non-recyclable packaging

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This pack has been prepared ahead of the debate to be held in Westminster Hall on Monday 23 January 2017 at 4.30pm on [e-petition 167596](#) to ban all non-recyclable and non-compostable packaging in the UK. The subject for the debate has been selected by the Petitions Committee and the debate will be opened by David Mackintosh MP.

Commons Library briefings on [Household recycling in the UK](#) and [Food Waste: key facts, policy and trends in the UK](#) may also be of interest.

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.

1. Library summary

1.1 Petition

The following petition will be debated by Parliament on 23 January 2017:

Ban all non-recyclable/non-compostable packaging in the UK

The UK fails to recycle over 1.5 million tonnes of plastic packaging waste each year, which ends up in landfill & waterways instead.

Creating packaging that our society cannot deal with is blatantly unsustainable. We urgently need 100% recyclable/compostable packaging on every product in the UK.

The UK currently recycles 64% of all packaging waste, but only about 32% of plastic packaging waste.

This is unacceptable. We cannot let big business create more packaging that our society cannot deal with - it may be good for profits but it is irresponsible and unsustainable.

We call upon our leaders to take action: to ban all non-sustainable packaging on all products, with a grace period of 5 years to allow manufacturers to integrate viable, sustainable alternatives into their supply chains.

The [petition](#) had 74,027 signatures on 19 January 2017. It will remain open until 21 March 2017.

The Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs responded to the petition on 17 January 2017 as follows:

The Government is committed to increasing recycling rates and recognises more needs to be done. We will continue to encourage the use of recycled materials in products and recycling by consumers.

Almost all packaging materials are technically recyclable. However, not all may actually be recycled for a number of reasons: it may not be economically viable for a local council to collect and recycle some formats; local reprocessing infrastructure may be limited, and there may be a lack of end markets for some types of recycled materials.

We are aware of the interest in compostable packaging, but the composition of packaging remains a decision for individual businesses and their customers and consumers. It is worth noting that biodegradable materials must be properly disposed of if the benefits of such technologies are to be fully realised. While biodegradable material may be able to reduce the impact of waste, it can also be more environmentally damaging than non-biodegradable plastic packaging if disposed of incorrectly. If biodegradable packaging is put in the domestic waste bin it is likely to end up in landfill and break down to release methane, a powerful greenhouse gas. Furthermore, if biodegradable packaging is mistakenly recycled with other plastics, it has the potential (when it biodegrades at a later date) to damage the quality of the new products – such as damp-proof courses for houses – made from the recycled plastic. However, the Government does support the development of sustainable

biodegradable plastics and works with industry and trade organisations on this issue.

It is ultimately for businesses to decide what packaging materials they use to supply products to customers. However, retailers and their suppliers are encouraged to use materials that are widely collected for recycling wherever possible. For example, the Producer Responsibility Obligations (Packaging Waste) Regulations place a legal obligation on UK businesses that make or use packaging to ensure that a proportion of the packaging they place on the market is recovered and recycled. This creates an incentive for companies to use less packaging and to ensure that their packaging can be recycled at end of life as it will reduce their costs in complying with the Regulations. The targets for plastic packaging are set to increase until 2020 and we are currently consulting on possible increases for other materials.

Businesses are also encouraged to reduce waste arising in the first place by using appropriately sized packaging. The Packaging (Essential Requirements) Regulations require businesses to ensure that all packaging does not exceed what is needed to make sure that the products are safe, hygienic and acceptable for both the packed product and for the consumer. These Regulations apply to those responsible for the packing or filling of products into packaging and those importing packed or filled packaging into the UK from elsewhere.

Working through the Waste and Resources Action Programme (WRAP), the Government is developing and delivering activities in support of the use of recycled materials in new products and activities to stimulate its demand. For example, the Plastics Industry Recycling Action Plan has identified key actions that need to take place across the whole supply chain to ensure that recycling plastics packaging can be done sustainably. This includes design for recyclability, collections and sorting, reprocessing and development of sustainable end markets. In September last year, WRAP and an industry advisory group published a framework for greater consistency in recycling. Actions from this framework aim to identify opportunities to rationalise packaging formats (in particular plastic packaging) to those that are recyclable and for which there is a steady market, and to help local authorities to recycle a greater variety of plastics.

The Government is committed to increasing recycling rates. Current policies and regulations have resulted in a significant increase in recycling over the last decade, with recycling of packaging rising from around 46% in 2005 to 59% in 2014, but we recognise that more needs to be done. We will continue to work with businesses, local authorities and waste managers to encourage the use of recycled materials where possible in products and activities to stimulate demand.

1.2 Recycling packaging waste

Waste policy (including recycling) is a devolved issue. As such, UK Government policy applies to England only and it is for the devolved Administrations to develop and implement their own policies and approach, within the framework of the EU requirements.

There is a [Library Briefing Paper on Household recycling in the UK](#) which provides detailed information on the applicable legislation and policy at

both EU and UK level, including for each of the devolved Administrations.

Legal requirements: producer responsibility

Current recycling policy across the UK is predominantly driven by the EU *Waste Framework Directive* (2008/98/EC) which provides the framework under which waste management policy is implemented throughout the EU. It also provides for 'daughter Directives' which deal with particular types of waste, including packaging.

The EU Directive on *Packaging and Packaging Waste* (94/62/EC) is implemented by the [Producer Responsibility Obligations \(Packaging Waste\) Regulation 2007](#) (as amended)¹ and the [Packaging \(Essential Requirements\) Regulations 2015](#).

The UK has a statutory producer responsibility regime for packaging, covering the whole of the supply chain from the raw material to the finished packaging. It places a legal obligation on businesses over a certain size which make or use packaging to ensure that a proportion of the packaging they place on the market is recovered and recycled.

Relevant businesses discharge their responsibilities by collecting evidence of waste packaging recycling and recovery equivalent to the weight of their obligations from accredited reprocessors and exporters. Packaging Recovery Notes (PRNs) or Packaging Export Recovery Notes (PERNs) are issued by accredited businesses and provide the evidence for compliance.

The Coalition Government announced new packaging recovery and recycling targets (including for plastic) in the 2012 Budget which would be applied under these Producer Responsibility Regulations.²

For plastic, the recycling targets were set as follows:

2012 (%)	2013 (%)	2014 (%)	2015 (%)	2016 (%)	2017 (%)
32	37	42	47	52	57

The [Gov.uk guidance](#) explains:

If your business or organisation produces or uses packaging, or sells packaged goods, you may be classed as an obligated packaging producer. Obligated packaging producers must follow rules which help to:

- reduce the amount of packaging produced in the first place
- reduce how much packaging waste goes to landfill
- increase the amount of packaging waste that's recycled and recovered

Full details on the current rules on packaging producer responsibilities is provided on the GOV.UK website [here](#).

¹ Applies to Great Britain only

² Defra, [2010 to 2015 government policy: waste and recycling](#), updated 8 May 2015

In addition, the *Packaging (Essential Requirements) Regulations 2015* place obligations on packers, fillers or imported of packed or filled packaging to ensure packaging meets specific requirements, including:

- Packaging volume and weight must be the minimum amount to maintain the necessary levels of safety, hygiene and acceptance for the packed product and for the consumer.
- Packaging must be manufactured so as to permit reuse or recovery in accordance with specific requirements.
- Noxious or hazardous substances in packaging must be minimised in emissions, ash or leachate from incineration or landfill.

The Government [guidance notes](#) on these requirements provides further information.³

Recycling trends

Producer recycling trends

The most recent data reports rates of recovery and recycling of the obligated businesses under the producer responsibility regime in 2014.

In 2014, the UK disposed of an estimated 11.4 million tonnes of packaging waste, of which around 64% was recovered/recycled. Recovery refers to waste being used for energy recovery.⁴

This compares to about:

- 72.7% of packaging being recovered/recycled in 2013;⁵
- 67% of packaging being recovered/recycled in 2011;⁶ and
- 27% of packaging waste being recovered/recycled in 1998.⁷

The table below shows the breakdown of recovery and recycling data for different types of packaging in 2014. It shows that out of the 2,220,000 tonnes of plastic packaging that was disposed, 842,000 tonnes was recycled. This is equivalent to 37.9%.

³ BIS (since subsumed into BEIS), [Packaging \(Essential Requirements\) Regulations, Government Guidance Notes](#), October 2015

⁴ Defra Statistics, [ENV23 – UK statistics on waste](#), last updated 15 December 2016

⁵ Defra Statistics, [ENV23 – UK statistics on waste](#), last updated 15 December 2016

⁶ Defra, [2010 to 2015 government policy: waste and recycling](#), updated 8 May 2015

⁷ Defra, [2010 to 2015 government policy: waste and recycling](#), updated 8 May 2015

Packaging waste and recycling / recovery, split by material, UK 2014

	Packaging waste arising (thousand tonnes)	Total recovered / recycled (thousand tonnes)	Achieved recovery / recycling rate (%)	EU target recovery / recycling rate (%)
Metal	736	428	58.2%	50.0%
of which: Aluminium	177	73	41.0%	n/a
of which: Steel	559	356	63.7%	n/a
Paper and cardboard	4,749	3,470	73.1%	60.0%
Glass	2,399	1,613	67.2%	60.0%
Plastic	2,220	842	37.9%	22.5%
Wood	1,310	412	31.4%	15.0%
Other materials	23	0	0.0%	n/a
Total (for recycling)	11,436	6,765	59.2%	55.0%
Energy from Waste		566	4.9%	n/a
Total (for recycling and recovery)	11,436	7,331	64.1%	60.0%

Source: Defra Statistics, [ENV23 – UK statistics on waste](#), last updated 15 December 2016

Local authority recycling rates

The Government's last annual release of waste statistics for all local authority managed waste in England (2015/16) included a breakdown of plastic within dry recycling rates, but does not specify how much of that plastic comprised packaging waste.

In 2015, the amount of dry recycling from households in England stood at 5.7 million tonnes (nearly 27% of total waste from households). Of this, plastics made up 8%.⁸

Recyclable packaging

Nearly all packaging is capable of being recycled, but that does not necessarily mean that it is recycled.

There are many [different types of plastic](#) in the waste stream. It is technically possible to recycle most types of plastic but the complexity and cost of doing so impacts on whether or not it happens.

For example, the majority of black plastic uses carbon black pigments and is hard to detect at the automated sorting facilities (known as Material Recovery Facilities or MRFs) as it doesn't reflect light. Most MRFs use optical sorting technology which cannot identify the black plastic. The alternative of manual sorting is not cost-effective. This means that many local authorities will not collect black plastic which results in almost all household black packaging that is thrown away in that area ending up in landfill. See Box 1 below for further information on this example.

Box 1: Black plastic

Black plastic is often chosen for food packaging as it enhances the appearance of the contents. It is also low cost, has good dispersion and masking properties which allows off cuts of other colours to be mixed together and manufactured into black items (see: WRAP Report: [Development of NIR Detectable Black Plastic Packaging](#)).

The WRAP Report goes on to explain that:

It is estimated that there are approximately 1 million tonnes of rigid mixed plastic packaging in the UK waste stream and the black plastic packaging could represent between 3-6% of this volume. Conservative industry estimates indicate that this could be around 26,000 - 30,000 tonnes per annum of black plastic packaging and estimates from other industry sources suggest that the figure could be as high as 60,000 tonnes per annum.

WRAP is encouraging retailers, brand owners and packaging manufacturers to use detectable black colourants which will allow them to be sorted and thus recycled. More information on this initiative (including a number of detailed technical reports) is available on [WRAP's webpages](#).

Alternative black colourants are currently more expensive than carbon black and the colourants can range in price range of £10- £100 per kg. In general the colourants that were successful in WRAP'S NIR detection trials were in the price range of £10-£16 per kg. It should be noted that these costs have not been optimised or based on large volume orders, and in many cases they are also comparable in price to specialised colours manufactured for well-known high street branded packaging.

WRAP worked with Marks & Spencer and Sainsbury to trial using alternative black dye pigments in food trays and found that it is possible to recover, sort and recycle such trays into food grade black trays (i.e. a closed loop process). A [case study](#) was published which explains this project in more detail.

WRAP's project demonstrated that using detectable black plastic is possible and noted that:

The availability and recovery of enough detectable black CPET material is paramount for the closed loop process to work. This requires investment and support to prove its operational and economic viability in full scale commercial conditions.

⁸ Defra, [Statistics on waste managed by local authorities in England in 2015/16](#), 15 December 2016

Recycling at a local level: local authorities and consumers

For detailed information of the differing approaches to recycling in England and each of the devolved Administrations, and a discussion of the common barriers to increasing recycling rates, see the [Library Briefing Paper on Household recycling in the UK](#).

In general, at a local level, the waste collection authority is responsible for the collection and disposal of household waste (and often commercial and industrial waste also).⁹ The approach to recycling is also determined at a local level. As an example of a local initiative, Oxford City Council introduced a ban on non-recyclable takeaway food containers in Oxford as part of its street trading policy.¹⁰ Wales is the only Administration in the UK to have introduced statutory local authority recovery targets for waste recycling.¹¹

As explained above, the services provided by the authority will depend on many factors, including the associated costs, available infrastructure and recycling facilities and relative participation rates (i.e. the role of the consumer and how they dispose of their recyclable waste).

Recycling rates are also measured by weight and as plastic is relatively lightweight, it means a lot more of it needs to be collected to make it economically viable to do so. These factors mean that most recycling collections focus on key packaging types which are most cost efficient and easiest to recycle, such as plastic bottles (because they are heavier, easy to sort and there is a well-developed market for the recycle / end product).

The role of the end consumer and how they dispose of their plastic packaging also plays an important role. A recent piece of research focused on identifying and understanding consumer recycling behaviours and their attitudes towards recycling. The research identified uncertainty about what plastics can be recycled as the biggest barrier to their successful recycling.¹² The full report is available to download via the [Recycling of Used Plastics Limited \(Recoup\) website](#).¹³

1.3 Compostable and biodegradable packaging

Biodegradable plastics (or biopolymers) have been used for some time. Biopolymers are generally designed to be composted rather than recycled, and as such require a different collection / disposal route to conventional plastics. Some, but not all, biopolymers may be suitable for home composting.

Biopolymers have a higher cost compared to conventional plastics (normally made from crude oil derivatives) and as such are less prevalent in the marketplace. However, several retailers and manufacturers do (or

⁹ Pursuant to the *Environmental Protection Act 1990* (as amended)

¹⁰ BBC News, [Oxford bans non-recyclable takeaway boxes](#), 14 April 2015

¹¹ Pursuant to the Waste (Wales) Measure 2010

¹² CIWM, [Uncertainty Remains Biggest Barrier To Plastics Recycling](#), 19 January 2017

¹³ Recoup, in partnership with ICARO for M&S and PlasticsEurope, [Plastics packaging and recycling](#), January 2017

have announced an intention to) use biopolymers in significant volumes of packaging.

WRAP carried out consumer research into the consumer perceptions and impacts of biopolymers in 2006. The [full report](#) on their findings was published in September 2007 and should be consulted for detailed information.¹⁴ The report concluded that consumers did not know much about compostable plastics, and the understanding of biodegradable or compostable plastics was very low. In relation to possible consumer behaviour when faced with compostable plastics, it went on to conclude:

If, however, the public face these decisive moments after being told (and possibly because they are told) that, on the one hand biopolymers can't be recycled, on the other that some are not fully compostable, or that they should be reducing the amount of waste that goes to landfill, the likely response, as reflected in our survey findings, is likely to be one of confusion. And if that happens, consumers are likely to behave according to the facilities they have available and the methods of disposal with which they feel most comfortable.¹⁵

WRAP have since published a [guide for planning and managing the collection and composting of compostable packaging at closed venue events](#) (June 2013) which may be of interest.

1.4 Campaigns and initiatives

In addition to the legislative requirements discussed above, there are a number of ongoing voluntary campaigns and initiatives which aim to address this issue. Some examples of these are included below.

WRAP resources

WRAP published [guidance](#) for retailers, brand owners, packaging manufacturers and designers to help improve the recyclability of plastic packaging, which includes case studies and examples of products sold in the UK which are ideal for recycling.¹⁶

WRAP published a voluntary [national framework for greater consistency in household recycling](#), which includes the following aim relating to packaging as part of its five point plan:

All packaging placed on the market to be sortable and recyclable unless there are strong practical and environmental reasons for it not to be; and this packaging is to be labelled with meaningful consumer information to indicate whether it can or cannot be recycled.

ACTION: An industry-led working group will:

- Identify the opportunities to remove those elements of packaging that hinder the recycling process, taking into account practicalities and total environmental impact;

¹⁴ WRAP, [Consumer research into the consumer perceptions and impacts of biopolymers](#), September 2007

¹⁵ Ibid.

¹⁶ WRAP, [Plastic Packaging – design for recyclability](#)

- Identify opportunities to rationalise packaging formats (in particular plastic packaging) to those that are recyclable and for which there is a steady market; and
- Encourage the implementation of proven measures to improve the sorting of packaging to enable more effective recycling.

Brands and retailers not currently using the widely recognised On Pack Recycling Label labelling scheme are strongly encouraged to adopt this labelling on all packaging placed on the UK market.

WRAP also leads the delivery of the Courtauld Commitment which is a voluntary agreement launched in 2005 aimed at reducing waste (including packaging waste) within the UK grocery sector. More information on this is available in the [Library Briefing Paper on Food Waste](#); and on WRAP's webpages on the [Courtauld Commitment 2025](#).

Company initiatives

A number of organisations already use or intend to use reusable, recyclable and/or compostable packaging already. For example:

- J Sainsbury plc launched compostable packaging on its ready meals and organic food in 2007;¹⁷
- Unilever has just announced that it will ensure all plastic packaging is fully reusable, recyclable or compostable by 2025;¹⁸
- Coca Cola committed to ensuring its own packaging is fully recyclable, using recycled and renewable materials and recycling more packaging than it uses.¹⁹

More examples are provided in the News Items below.

Plastics Industry Recycling Action Plan

In June 2015, the Plastics Industry Recycling Action Plan (PIRAP) was launched. It is led by British Plastics Federation (BPF) and Plastics Europe and supported by the Waste and Resources Action Plan (WRAP).²⁰

Box 2: The Plastics Industry Recycling Action Plan (PIRAP)

WRAP's [webpages on the PIRAP](#) contain the following information:

Who can get involved and what actions can you take?

The entire plastics packaging recycling supply chain is being asked to sign up in order to demonstrate support for PIRAP and its desired outcomes. These organisations are:

- UK central government departments and agencies.
- Local Authorities.
- Waste management companies.
- Plastic reprocessing companies.
- Compliance schemes.
- Businesses obligated under the 'Waste Packaging Regulations' - retailers, brand owners, packaging converters and fillers.

They are being asked to work in partnership towards a shared goal of continued and economically sustainable growth in the rate of waste plastics recycling within the UK.

¹⁷ J Sainsbury plc, [press release](#), 1 January 2007

¹⁸ Unilever press release, [Unilever commits to 100% recyclable plastic packaging by 2025](#), 14 January 2017

¹⁹ Coca Cola, [Sustainable Packaging and Recycling](#)

²⁰ WRAP, [PIRAP Background and UK targets](#)

Their support will help the UK to achieve the required tonnage of plastics recycling necessary for the 2017 targets to be met.

PIRAP presents each sector of the plastics packaging recycling supply chain with specific challenges targeting improvements in delivery, both of quantity and quality, to their partners in the supply chain. No sector alone is expected to deliver success without the full co-operation of the others.

The full plan can be downloaded from [WRAP's website](#).

Pledge4Plastics

A national plastics recycling initiative which aims to boost plastic recycling in the UK. Its vision is that all recyclable plastics are collected for recycling.

More information is available on its [website](#).

Plastics 2020 Challenge

In 2009, the plastics industry launched the Plastics 2020 Challenge to aim to stop sending plastic materials to landfill. Its founding members are the British Plastics Federation, PlasticsEurope and the Packaging & Films Association.

New Plastics Economy initiative

A study by the World Economic Forum and the Ellen MacArthur Foundation, with analytical support from SYSTEMIQ, presented an action plan for plastic packaging. The initiative brings together more than 40 organisations across the supply chain, including manufacturers, retailers and recyclers.

It aims to provide a clear strategy to design better packaging; increase recycling rates; and introduce new models for making better use of packaging. The report found that

20% of plastic packaging could be profitably reused, for example by replacing single-use plastic bags with reusable alternatives, or by designing innovative packaging models based on product refills.

A further 50% of plastic packaging could be profitably recycled if improvements are made to packaging design and systems for managing it after use.

Without fundamental redesign and innovation, the remaining 30% of plastic packaging (by weight) will never be recycled and will continue to destine the equivalent of 10bn garbage bags per year to landfill or incineration. Innovation in packaging design, recyclable and compostable materials, and reprocessing technologies are likely all required to move this challenging segment forward.²¹

²¹ CIWM <http://www.ciwm-journal.co.uk/industry-endorses-plan-recycle-70-plastic-packaging-globally/>

2. News Items

CIWM Journal

Uncertainty Remains Biggest Barrier To Plastics Recycling

Ben Wood 19 January 2017

<http://www.ciwm-journal.co.uk/uncertainty-biggerst-barrier-plastics-recycling/>

Guardian

Swedish supermarkets replace sticky labels with laser marking

Food retailers aiming to cut plastic packaging by ditching stickers on fruits and vegetables, instead using hi-tech 'natural branding'

Nina Pullman 16 January 2017

https://www.theguardian.com/sustainable-business/2017/jan/16/ms-and-swedish-supermarkets-ditch-sticky-labels-for-natural-branding?CMP=share_btn_tw

Guardian

Four ways to tackle our packaging guilt

Recycling rates are getting worse in the UK, but some companies are working on imaginative solutions

Oliver Balch 22 December 2016

<https://www.theguardian.com/sustainable-business/2016/dec/22/packaging-guilt-recycling-solutions>

BBC News Online

Wales 'could become Europe's top recycling nation'

Steffan Messenger BBC 28 October 2016

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-wales-37787961>

Guardian

Compostable and edible packaging: the companies waging war on plastic

A new generation of manufacturers and scientists is working to tackle the global plastic waste crisis head on

Senay Boztas 26 October 2016

<https://www.theguardian.com/sustainable-business/2016/oct/26/plastics-food-packaging-microplastics-waste-ocean-pollution-compost-snact-tipa-nestle-usda>

Guardian

UK's billions of takeaway cups could each take '30 years' to break down

Campaigners call for use of eco-friendly options and tax on paper and plastic takeaway cups as most are not recyclable

Lisa O'Carroll Wednesday 5 October

<https://www.theguardian.com/lifeandstyle/2016/oct/05/uks-billions-of-takeaway-cups-could-each-take-30-years-to-break-down>

Packaging News

Simply Cups urges industry transition from 'able' to 'ed'

By Tony Corbin 28 July 2016

<http://www.packagingnews.co.uk/news/waste-management/simply-cups-urges-industry-transition-from-able-to-ed-28-07-2016>

Telegraph

Ikea plans mushroom-based packaging as eco-friendly replacement for polystyrene

Emily Gosden 24 February 2016

<http://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/earth/businessandecology/recycling/12172439/Ikea-plans-mushroom-based-packaging-as-eco-friendly-replacement-for-polystyrene.html>

BBC News Online

Oxford bans non-recyclable takeaway boxes

14 April 2015

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-england-oxfordshire-32299281>

3. Press releases

Ellen McArthur Foundation

Industry endorses plan to recycle 70% of plastic packaging globally

January 16, 2017

Key highlights:

- More than 40 industry leaders endorse a global action plan on plastics production, use and after-use.
- The action plan, laid out in a new report [The New Plastics Economy: Catalysing action](#) launched by the World Economic Forum and the Ellen MacArthur Foundation today at Davos, would see 70% of plastic packaging reused and recycled globally, up from today's recycling rate of 14%.
- The remaining 30% of plastic packaging, equivalent to 10 billion garbage bags per year, needs fundamental redesign and innovation.
- This new report comes from the organisations that [last year calculated that there could be more plastics than fish in the ocean by 2050](#). Now, they outline how a solution could be reached.

[Download the full report](#)

[Read more on the New Plastics Economy website](#)

[Read endorsements from industry leaders](#)

More than 40 industry leaders have endorsed a new action plan to tackle global plastics issues, and have begun working together to create a more effective global system for plastics. The action plan is presented in [The New Plastics Economy: Catalysing action](#), a new study by the World Economic Forum and the Ellen MacArthur Foundation with analytical support from [SYSTEMIQ](#), which reveals that concerted action by industry could result in reuse and recycling of 70% of all global plastic packaging, up from today's recycling rate of just 14%. The authors last year revealed that there could be more plastics than fish in the ocean by 2050.

The report provides a clear transition strategy for the global plastics industry to design better packaging, increase recycling rates, and introduce new models for making better use of packaging. It finds that 20% of plastic packaging could be profitably re-used, for example by replacing single-use plastic bags with re-usable alternatives, or by designing innovative packaging models based on product refills. A further 50% of plastic packaging could be profitably recycled if improvements are made to packaging design and systems for managing it after use. Without fundamental redesign and innovation, the remaining 30% of plastic packaging (by weight) will never be recycled

and will continue to destine the equivalent of 10 billion garbage bags per year to landfill or incineration. Innovation in packaging design, recyclable and compostable materials, and reprocessing technologies are likely all required to move this challenging segment forward.

The action plan was produced as part of the [New Plastics Economy](#) initiative, which was launched in May 2016 as a direct result of Project MainStream, a multi-industry, CEO-led collaboration led by the World Economic Forum and the Ellen MacArthur Foundation. The New Plastics Economy initiative brings together more than 40 leading organisations representing the entire global plastics industry, from chemical manufacturers to consumer goods producers, retailers, city authorities and recyclers, to work together towards a more effective global system. [Core Partners](#) in the New Plastics Economy initiative include Amcor, The Coca-Cola Company, Danone, MARS, Novamont, Unilever, and Veolia. Wendy Schmidt, through The Eric and Wendy Schmidt Fund for Strategic Innovation, is the Lead Philanthropic Partner of the New Plastics Economy initiative, and Players of People's Postcode Lottery (GB), the MAVA Foundation and the Oak Foundation are Philanthropic Funders.

The New Plastics Economy initiative has attracted widespread support, and across the industry we are seeing strong initial momentum and alignment on the direction to take. The New Plastics Economy: Catalysing action provides a clear plan for redesigning the global plastics system, paving the way for concerted action.

- Dame Ellen MacArthur, Founder, Ellen MacArthur Foundation

This could drive systemic change. The plan puts innovation at the heart of a strategy that could shift the entire system while unlocking a billion dollar business opportunity. Alignment along value chains and between the public and private sector is key to this.

- Dominic Waughray, Head of Public-Private Partnership, Member of the Executive Committee, World Economic Forum

The focus of the New Plastics Economy over the next year will be on bringing about wide scale innovation. The initiative will launch two global innovation challenges to kick-start the redesign of materials and packaging formats, and begin building a set of global common standards (a 'Global Plastics Protocol') for packaging design, concentrating initially on the most impactful changes. It will also improve recycling systems by delivering collaborative projects between participant companies and cities. To support the shift to "circular" design thinking and systems perspectives and to inspire innovators, entrepreneurs and designers, the Ellen MacArthur Foundation and IDEO are launching a new, publicly available 'circular design guide' at Davos in January 2017.

Minor changes in material, format and treatment can – in conjunction – make the economics of recycling viable and take us into a positive spiral of higher yields, lower costs and better design. The result will be plastic that remains a valuable material before and after use.

- Prof. Dr. Martin R. Stuchtey, Professor for Resource Strategy and Management at Innsbruck University; Co-Founder, SYSTEMIQ

Note: Players of People's Postcode Lottery (GB), the MAVA Foundation and the Oak Foundation are philanthropic funders of the New Plastics Economy initiative. Wendy Schmidt, through The Eric and Wendy Schmidt Fund for Strategic Innovation, is the lead philanthropic partner.

Unilever

Unilever commits to 100% recyclable plastic packaging by 2025

14 January 2017

London/Rotterdam - Unilever today committed to ensuring that all of its plastic packaging is fully reusable, recyclable or compostable by 2025 as it called on the entire fast-moving consumer goods industry to accelerate progress towards the circular economy.

[According to the Ellen MacArthur Foundation \(EMF\)](#), just 14% of the plastic packaging used globally makes its way to recycling plants, while 40% ends up in landfill and a third in fragile ecosystems. By 2050, it is estimated there will be more plastic than fish in the world's oceans. While architect and circular economy leader William McDonough says the cradle to cradle redesign of packaging is one of the great global design challenges of our time - similar to scaling renewable energy to address climate change.

Treating plastic packaging as a valuable resource to be managed efficiently and effectively is a key priority in achieving Sustainable Development Goal 12 (Sustainable Consumption & Production) and, in doing so, shifting away from a "take-make-dispose" model of consumption to one which is fully circular.

To help transform global plastic packaging material flows, Unilever has committed to:

- Ensure all of its plastic packaging is designed to be reusable, recyclable or compostable by 2025
- Renew its membership of the Ellen MacArthur Foundation for another three years and endorse and support their New Plastics Economy initiative. As part of this, it will publish the full "palette" of plastics materials used in its packaging by 2020 to help create a plastics protocol for the industry
- Invest in proving, and then sharing with the industry, a technical solution to recycle multi-layered sachets, particularly for coastal areas which are most at risk of plastics leaking into the ocean

Unilever has already committed to reduce the weight of the packaging it uses this decade by one third by 2020, and increase its use of recycled plastic content in its packaging to at least 25% by 2025 against a 2015 baseline, both as part of the [Unilever Sustainable Living Plan](#). In 2015, it

achieved its commitment of sending zero non-hazardous waste to landfill across its manufacturing operations.

Paul Polman, Unilever CEO, said: "Our plastic packaging plays a critical role in making our products appealing, safe and enjoyable for our consumers. Yet it is clear that if we want to continue to reap the benefits of this versatile material, we need to do much more as an industry to help ensure it is managed responsibly and efficiently post consumer-use.

"To address the challenge of ocean plastic waste we need to work on systemic solutions - ones which stop plastics entering our waterways in the first place. We hope these commitments will encourage others in the industry to make collective progress towards ensuring that all of our plastic packaging is fully recyclable and recycled.

"We also need to work in partnership with governments and other stakeholders to support the development and scaling up of collection and reprocessing infrastructure which is so critical in the transition towards a circular economy. Ultimately, we want all of the industry's plastic packaging to be fully circular."

Ellen MacArthur said: "By committing to ambitious circular economy goals for plastic packaging, Unilever is contributing to tangible system change and sends a strong signal to the entire fast-moving consumer goods industry. Combining upstream measures on design and materials with post-use strategies demonstrates the system-wide approach that is required to turn the New Plastics Economy into reality."

William McDonough said: "The optimization of packaging and plastics is so timely and important that all the people, communities and companies involved – suppliers, producers, retailers, customers and consumers – can work together now, with common values and purpose, to create and share beneficial value for generations to come."

As part of its commitment, Unilever will ensure that by 2025, it is technically possible for its plastic packaging to be reused or recycled and there are established, proven examples of it being commercially viable for plastics re-processors to recycle the material.

WRAP

Industry comes together to produce first ever National Recycling Guidelines

12th October 2016

For the first time recyclers, local authorities and waste management companies have come together to produce a definitive list of what can and cannot be accepted for recycling at the kerbside. The Recycling Guidelines, developed by WRAP with industry, will make it easier for households to recycle more – more effectively across the whole of the UK.

WRAP's 2016 Recycling Tracker Survey found that two thirds of UK households (66%) expressed uncertainty about how to correctly dispose of one or more items and almost half (49%) admitted to disposing of one or more items in the residual bin when they are collected for recycling in their area.

As such the guidelines have been designed to help reduce confusion amongst householders across England, Scotland and Wales and help ensure that all items that can be recycled are being collected for recycling. Key information and messages included in the guidelines can be incorporated in targeted and strategic communications to help increase recycling, reduce contamination, and ultimately realise savings across the whole supply chain.

The guidelines cover paper, card, cartons, metal, plastic and glass packaging, and food waste and for each material outline:

1. What items can be included in a collection and what should not;
2. How the materials should be presented for recycling (i.e. rinsing, lids on/off); and
3. Concise reasons why certain items cannot be accepted or should be presented in a particular way.

The guidelines include key findings from consumer research undertaken to inform their development. This research revealed that up to 94% of respondents learned something new with more learning about things that cannot be recycled than items that can be. Key feedback is the difficulty of communicating such comprehensive information. Underlining that to communicate all this information in one go, would be overwhelming for most people and as such is not recommended.

This is the first action that has been delivered in support of greater consistency in household recycling, following the publication of the industry's Framework for England in September. What's more, these guidelines have the benefit of being available across the UK. Linda Crichton, Head of Resource Management at WRAP, said: "For as long as I have been at WRAP there has been a desire to have clarity across the country on what can be recycled and how items should be presented for recycling. We now have that – labels and tops can be left on bottles, envelopes can be recycled, trigger sprays don't need to be removed! We wish to thank all those involved for coming together to enable this ground-breaking work to happen. It has been a truly collaborative effort without which, the guidelines would not have been produced. We all have an interest in increasing recycling and making it less confusing for people. As such we encourage all organisations to consider the guidelines and adopt the information and messages that are relevant to them. WRAP will keep the guidelines under review and incorporate additional materials and advice as practices and technology develops."

Stuart Foster from RECOUP said: "The recycling guidelines project led by WRAP is an ideal opportunity for local authorities to align consumer messages around plastic collections. We urge all local authorities to review their existing messaging and adopt the information within the

guidance document wherever possible. At RECOUP we believe this represents a low cost quick win opportunity to help remove confusion around household plastics recycling, and underpins the ambitions and benefits of the wider consistency programme.”

Lee Marshall from LARAC said: “LARAC has been pleased to be involved in the process of developing the guidelines along with other parts of the industry. The fact that local authorities and reprocessors were able to work constructively to produce these guidelines shows the way forward for increasing recycling levels in the UK. Without a willingness to engage local authorities this couldn’t have happened and we now encourage local authorities to use these guidelines to enhance their communications and give the public the consistent messages they say they want.”

The guidelines, as well as the findings from the consumer testing, will be embedded in Recycle Now resources, with new communications materials being made available to local authorities and other partners to download and localise. Recycle Now’s plastics platform, which runs throughout October and November, will feature digital resources which capture information from the guidelines. This follows on from the hugely successful ‘Unusual Suspects’ campaign launched during Recycle Week.

To find out more you can visit:

<http://www.wrap.org.uk/consistentrecycling>

Notes to editors:

WRAP consulted with the following organisations and trade bodies during the development of The Recycling Guidelines:

- Resource Association
- British Glass
- Environmental Services Association (ESA)
- RECOUP
- British Plastics Federation (BPF)
- PlasRecycle
- Confederation of Paper Industries (CPI)
- ACE UK
- Metal Packaging Manufacturers Association (MPMA)
- Alupro
- Local Authorities Recycling Advisory Committee (LARAC)

WRAP’s Framework for Greater Consistency

These guidelines support WRAP’s industry framework for greater consistency in household recycling in England, which was published in September. This includes a joint vision whereby every household is able to recycle a common set of materials and food waste collected in one of three ways by 2025. It is hoped that these guidelines can help to bring about consistency not just in terms of the materials collected but also provide clarification on the specific items that can be recycled.

About WRAP

1. WRAP’s vision is a world where resources are used sustainably. We work with businesses, individuals and communities to help

them reap the benefits of reducing waste, developing sustainable products and using resources in an efficient way.

2. Established as a not-for-profit company in 2000, WRAP is backed by government funding from England, Wales and Northern Ireland.
3. Recycle Now is a campaign to encourage people to recycle more things more often from all around the home.
4. More information on all of WRAP's programmes can be found on www.wrap.org.uk and for more information on the Recycle Now campaign visit www.recyclenow.com

Scottish Government

New dawn for recycling in Scotland

9 December 2015

Scottish Government and COSLA announce agreement on new consistent recycling systems across Scotland.

Scotland's Environment Secretary Richard Lochhead was joined by COSLA spokesperson for Development, Economy and Sustainability, Councillor Stephen Hagan, today to announce a new consistent approach to recycling in Scotland.

The Cabinet Secretary announced that the new system will make it easier for people to recycle, improve the quality of recycling and help local communities reap the benefits of a more circular economy.

The new Household Recycling Charter and associated Code of Practice was developed and agreed on by the Scottish Government-COSLA Zero Waste Taskforce. It includes a new three-stream recycling system, which will include one container for glass, one for paper and card, and one for metals and plastics, together with existing food waste and residual collections. Over time, the intention is to move to a common colour system.

Richard Lochhead said:

"This new consistent approach will sweep away the confusion that we all face every time we come across yet another difficult recycling system. It will maximise the quantity and quality of materials captured, and allow us to give consistent national messages about what people should do with their recycling, wherever they are in Scotland.

"This work has been undertaken in collaboration with COSLA, and I congratulate local authorities in taking the initiative with the development of this charter, and working together to deliver a good outcome for all Councils and, ultimately, for Scotland.

"This is a huge opportunity for Scotland, and as I set out in my circular economy consultation, I intend to align Scottish Government and Zero

Waste Scotland support for recycling with the Scottish Household Recycling Charter.”

Councils can sign up to the voluntary Charter from January. After signing the charter they will receive support from Zero Waste Scotland in developing plans to introduce the new system.

The initiative is also supported the by waste management sector, packaging companies, drinks companies, retailers and the third sector.

Councillor Hagan said:

“COSLA Leaders, by agreeing the principles of a more consistent approach to recycling across Scotland, have taken a step towards developing a hugely significant opportunity that will unlock the value in household waste, allowing councils to fully benefit from the economic opportunities associated with the recycling industry, creating jobs and delivering value for money services.

I believe that this proposed approach will make it even easier for people to recycle and would encourage everyone to support us in this by using the systems correctly and to their maximum to get the best value for money. Doing this is in all our interests.

I welcome the Cabinet Secretary’s support for joint leadership on this matter and I would also like to recognise the input from experts and officers across local government who have provided significant technical and operational input and expertise throughout the development of this framework.”

John Mundell, Chief Executive , Inverclyde Council and Solace Strategic Lead on environmental issues in Scotland said:

“The Charter and Code of Practice will help the public and Councils further improve recycling of domestic waste and help create much needed additional employment across Scotland. Our household waste recycling in Inverclyde was just under 57% in 2014 and I believe that the Charter will help us achieve the challenging national target of 70%. The Code is flexible and characterises good practice because it reflects the combined expertise and experience of local government waste professionals across Scotland and over time, it should deliver a consistent national system with all the associated benefits.”

Notes to editors

A circular economy is one in which we keep valuable materials in as high value use for as long as possible.

The Scottish Government-COSLA Zero Waste Taskforce met four times between March 2014 and June 2015. The Taskforce membership also included SOLACE, Zero Waste Scotland, SEPA, Scottish Enterprise, Highlands and Islands Enterprise and Scotland Excel.

In June 2015 the Taskforce recommended that a Charter be developed for more consistent collections, to support local authorities in delivering the benefits of a more circular economy. In August COSLA agreed to recommend that member councils consider signing up to the Charter,

subject to further scrutiny of the Code of Practice. In November, COSLA Leaders approved the core principles and content of the Code of Practice, specifically the three-stream system for paper/card, glass and metals/plastics.

The Society of Local Authority Chief Executives (SOLACE) and waste managers from all councils have been involved in the development of the Charter and Code of Practice over the last 18 months, with support from Zero Waste Scotland. The Charter is voluntary.

4. Parliamentary material

Debates

Lords Question for Short Debate: Circular Economy

HL Deb 03 March 2016 | Vol 769 cc977-

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/ld201516/ldhansrd/text/160303-0002.htm#16030339001108>

Producer Responsibility Obligations (Packaging Waste) (Miscellaneous Amendments) Regulations 2016 Lords motion to consider

08 Feb 2016 | 768 cc116-9GC

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/ld201516/ldhansrd/text/160208-gc0001.htm#1602084000232>

PQs

[Packaging: *Recycling*](#)

Asked by: Brock, Deidre

To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs, what steps her Department is taking to increase the proportion of packaging that is (a) recyclable or (b) compostable.

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

The Packaging (Essential Requirements) Regulations require businesses to ensure that all packaging does not exceed what is needed to make sure that the products are safe, hygienic and acceptable for both the packed product and for the consumer. They are also required to ensure that it is recyclable (which includes compostable under specific conditions) or recoverable at end of life. These Regulations apply to those responsible for the packing or filling products into packaging and those importing packed or filled packaging into the UK from elsewhere.

The Government is committed to increasing recycling rates. Current policies and regulations have resulted in a significant increase in recycling over the last decade, with recycling of packaging rising from around 46% in 2005 to 59% in 2014, but we recognise that more needs to be done. The targets for plastic and glass packaging are set to increase up to 2020 and we recently consulted on possible increases for other materials.

Working through the Waste and Resources Action Programme (WRAP), the Government is developing and delivering activities in support of the use of recycled materials in new products and activities to stimulate its

demand. In September last year, WRAP and an industry advisory group published a framework for greater consistency in recycling. Actions from this framework aim to identify opportunities to rationalise packaging formats (in particular plastic packaging) to those that are recyclable and for which there is a steady market, and to help local authorities to recycle a greater variety of plastics.

HC Deb 16 January 2017 | PQ 59108

[Packaging: Waste](#)

Asked by: Maskell, Rachael

To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs, pursuant to the Answer of 12 September 2016 to Question 56277, what the evidential basis is for the target figures for 2018 and 2019; and if she will make a statement.

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

The evidential base for the estimated packaging target recycling and recovery rates for 2018 and 2019 forms part of the Impact Assessments for consultations on packaging recycling and recovery targets, which can be found at: consult.defra.gov.uk/waste/packagingtargets2018-20.

HC Deb 10 January 2017 | PQ 58201

[Packaging: Waste](#)

Asked by: Maskell, Rachael

To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs, what proportion of packaging waste was recycled or recovered in each year since 2010.

To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs, what estimate she has made of the proportion of packaging waste which will be recycled or recovered in each of the next three years.

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

The proportion of packaging waste that was recycled or recovered in each year since 2010 was:

%	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015
% recycled	60.7	60.8	61.4	64.6	59.2	59.1
% recovered	67.3	67.1	69.1	72.7	64.1	65.1

The proportion of packaging waste that will be recycled or recovered in each of the next three years is:

%	2017	2018	2019
% recycled	62	58-60	58-62
% recovered	67	63-65	63-67

HC Deb 12 December 2016 | PQ 56277, PQ 56278 [corrected]

[Waste](#)

Asked by: Maskell, Rachael

To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs, how many million tonnes of total waste the UK generated in each year from 2010.

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

The amount of total waste generated in the UK for 2010, 2012 and 2014 was 201.5, 193.8 and 202.8 million tonnes respectively. These figures relate to all waste produced by the economy and not just to household waste.

These data are only compiled on a biannual basis so estimates are only available for these years with those for 2014 being the latest available data. These are published in 'UK Waste Statistics' which are available at : <https://www.gov.uk/government/statistics/uk-waste-data>.

HC Deb 15 December 2016 | PQ 57061

[Packaging: Waste](#)

Asked by: Mathias, Dr Tania

To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs, what steps she is taking to encourage businesses to reduce waste by using appropriately-sized packaging for their products.

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

Under the Packaging (Essential Requirements) Regulations, businesses are required to ensure that all packaging shall not exceed what is needed to make sure that the products are safe, hygienic and acceptable for both the packed product and for the consumer. These Regulations apply to those responsible for packing or filling products into packaging and those importing packed or filled packaging into the UK from elsewhere.

HC Deb 07 December 2016 | PQ 55985

[Packaging: Recycling](#)

Asked by: Smith, Nick

To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs, what meetings her Department has had with supermarkets to discuss ensuring their packaging for produce and goods is recyclable.

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

The Department has regular meetings and conversations with retailer stakeholder groups and representatives from the packaging industry, including representatives of supermarkets. The Department also works through the Waste and Resources Action Programme (WRAP) on wide-ranging initiatives aimed at increasing recycling. Many of these initiatives, including the Courtauld Commitment, involve supermarkets.

HC Deb 27 October 2016 | PQ 49792

[Packaging](#)

Asked by: Cadbury, Ruth

To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs, if she will bring forward measures to incentivise businesses to use recyclable materials in their packaging; and if she will give consideration to whether businesses which choose to use non-recyclable materials when a recyclable alternative is viable should be subject to financial penalties.

Answering member: Rory Stewart | Department: Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs

Developing and securing sustainable end markets for recycled materials is key to delivering a circular economy.

Working through the Waste and Resources Action Programme we have developed and delivered a number of activities in support of both the use of recycled materials in new products, and on activities to stimulate its demand.

For example, the Plastics Industry Recycling Action Plan has identified key actions that need to take place across the whole supply chain to ensure that recycling plastics packaging can be done sustainably. This includes design for recyclability, collections and sorting, reprocessing and development of sustainable end markets.

Another example is the Courtauld Commitment, a voluntary agreement aimed at improving resource efficiency and reducing the carbon and wider environmental impact of the grocery sector. Phase 3 ran from 2013 until 2015. Specifically on packaging, it looked to improve packaging design through the supply chain to maximise recycled content as appropriate, improve recyclability and deliver product protection to reduce food waste, while ensuring there was no increase in the carbon impact of packaging by 2015, from a 2012 baseline. The interim results released in January 2015, showed an approximate 4.5%

reduction in carbon impacts of packaging – well ahead of the 2015 target of zero increase.

However, while we can encourage design for recyclability, it is ultimately the decision of the business that make the product to decide what packaging materials they use based on a number of functionality requirements. We are making it easier for businesses to adopt eco-design principles by ensuring access to a range of free advice and guidance on packaging design and issues which should be considered when designing packaging.

HC Deb 11 March 2016 | PQ 29994

[Plastics: Waste](#)

Asked by: Sheerman, Mr Barry

To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs, what steps the Government has taken to reduce plastic waste; and what assessment she has made of the contribution of the circular economy to reducing that waste.

Answering member: Rory Stewart | Department: Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs

The Government has taken a number of steps to reduce plastic waste.

These include the introduction of a 5p charge on single use carrier bags, which is expected to deliver a reduction of 70-80% in bag usage.

The UK Producer Responsibility (Packaging Waste) Regulations require producers of packaging to ensure that a proportion of the packaging they handle is recovered and recycled. As recycling targets become more challenging, the incentive on businesses to minimise the packaging they use increases.

We encourage packaging producers to use a minimum level of packaging through the implementation of the Packaging (Essential Requirements) Regulations which require that packaging should not exceed what is needed to ensure that products are safe, hygienic and acceptable to the consumer.

The third phase of the Courtauld Commitment aims to further optimise packaging, reduce packaging waste and improve recyclability. It aims to deliver a 3% relative reduction to the amount of packaging generated by signatories.

Working through the Waste and Resources Action Programme we have developed and delivered a number of activities in support of both the use of recycled materials in new products, and on activities to stimulate its demand.

For example, the Plastics Industry Recycling Action Plan has identified key actions that need to take place across the whole supply chain to ensure that recycling plastics packaging can be done sustainably. This includes design for recyclability, collections and sorting, reprocessing and development of sustainable end markets.

Developing and securing sustainable end markets for recycled materials is key to delivering a circular economy.

HC Deb 09 February 2016 | PQ 25243

Asked by: Kerry McCarthy (Bristol East) (Lab)

One less well-publicised deal the UK has been negotiating with our European partners recently is the circular economy package, which could not only bring about significant environmental benefits, but create jobs and growth. The Government, however, do not seem to have a strategy for achieving the ambitious waste targets set out there or for unlocking the economic opportunities that would come from greater resource efficiency. When are we going to have a proper waste resources strategy from the Secretary of State?

Answered by: The Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (Rory Stewart) | Department: Environment, Food and Rural Affairs

The circular economy package is absolutely central, and we are looking closely at it. We sat down with a number of different people last week specifically to address it. The key is in getting the right balance between preventing the resources from being wasted in the first place and the targets that the European Union is setting, but I absolutely agree that this is vital and I am very happy to include the shadow Secretary of State in these discussions going forward.

HC Deb 04 February 2016 | Vol 605 c1074

Committee report

House of Commons Environmental Audit Committee *Growing a circular economy: Ending the throwaway society* HC214 2014-15 July 2014

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm201415/cmselect/cmenvaud/214/214.pdf>

Government Response HC699 2014-15 November 2014

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm201415/cmselect/cmenvaud/699/699.pdf>

5. Useful links and further reading

Garden Organic *Compostable packaging confusion? Compostable / biodegradable / degradable materials & what to do with them*

<https://www.gardenorganic.org.uk/compostable-packaging-confusion>

WWF *Biodegradable and Non-biodegradable materials*

http://wwf.panda.org/about_our_earth/teacher_resources/webfieldtrips/bio_nonbio_materials/

Zerowaste Europe *Good plastics, bioplastics and greenwashing*

<https://www.zerowasteurope.eu/2013/06/good-plastics-bioplastics-and-greenwashing/>

Government guidance *Packaging waste: producer responsibilities*
updated December 15 2016

<https://www.gov.uk/guidance/packaging-producer-responsibilities>

Zero Waste Scotland *Code of Practice: Household Recycling in Scotland*
March 2016

<http://www.zerowastescotland.org.uk/sites/default/files/Household%20Recycling%20COP%20v2.pdf>

Recycle for Wales

<http://www.recycleforwales.org.uk/>

Local Authority Recycling Advisory Committee *Northern Ireland Waste Law*

http://www.larac.org.uk/national-legislation-waste-law/northern_ireland#.WH-TPMpXXcs

Northern Ireland Department of Agriculture, Environment and Rural Affairs *Waste prevention and recycling*

<https://www.daera-ni.gov.uk/articles/waste-prevention-and-recycling>

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