



DEBATE PACK

Number CDP 2018/0245, 8 November 2018

Debate on an e-petition on plastic-free packaging for fruit and vegetables

This pack has been prepared ahead of the debate to be held in Westminster Hall on Monday 12 November 2018 at 4.30 pm on e-petition 222715 relating to plastic-free packaging for fruit and vegetables. The subject for the debate has been selected by the Petitions Committee and it will be opened by Steve Double MP.

The pack includes a general Library briefing on plastics and news items, press releases and statements relating specifically to plastic-free packaging for fruit and vegetables.

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.

By Louise Smith
Nikki Sutherland

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1. Library briefing on plastics

1.1 Summary

The [e-petition](#) for debate calls for supermarkets to be required to offer a plastic-free packaging option for all fruit and vegetables.

There are no official estimates on the amount of plastic packaging used by supermarkets. While supermarkets have to report on the amount of plastic packaging used, this information is not publicly available and is deemed to be commercially sensitive. Estimates made by the Guardian have suggested a figure of around 800,000 tonnes of plastic packaging waste could be created each year from supermarkets use.¹

Current legislation and incentives to reduce packaging and recycle stems from EU law. The EU Waste Framework Directive ([2008/98/EC](#)) provides for a “waste hierarchy” which sets an order of priority to apply to products and waste and requires that prevention and re-use options should be considered before recycling. Businesses over a certain size (such as the main UK supermarkets), which make or use packaging also have obligations to ensure that a proportion of the packaging they place on the market is recovered and recycled. This system has been criticised by the House of Commons Environmental Audit Committee and the National Audit Office for its lack of evidence to prove that it encourages increased recycling. The Government has said that it will seek to reform this producer responsibility system.

The Government has a number of policies in place aimed at encouraging a reduction in plastics in England. Most recently, at Budget 2018 it announced a tax on the production and import of plastic packaging, from April 2022. Other proposals from Government have included a ban specific single use plastic items, a deposit return scheme for plastic bottles and an extension of the carrier bag charge to all retailers. In its 25-year environment plan, the Government said that it would work with retailers and the Waste and Resources Action Programme (WRAP) to explore introducing plastic-free supermarket aisles in which all the food is loose. Devolved nation Governments are responsible for their own waste policies and have also made similar announcements. The EU Commission has also put forward proposals for a ban on single use plastic items.

There are also many voluntary initiatives to reduce plastics consumption. The WRAP has launched a “plastics pact” with a number of large retailers which sets a target to eliminate unnecessary single-use plastic packaging, for all plastic packaging to be re-usable, recyclable or compostable and for 70% to be recycled or composted by 2025. Many supermarkets have also announced individual initiatives, such as allowing personal containers to be used in store and for ensuring that plastic used in recyclable.

¹ “Nearly 1m tonnes every year: supermarkets shamed for plastic packaging” [The Guardian](#), 17 January 2018

The British Plastics Federation has called for reform of the PRN system but has also argued that single use plastics have an important role to play in “modern life”, particularly in regard to safety and hygiene.²

1.2 Petition

[E-petition 222715](#) relating to plastic-free packaging for fruit and vegetables will be debated in Westminster Hall on Monday 12 November at 4.30pm. The petition reads as follows:

Require supermarkets to offer a plastic-free option for all their fruit & veg.

In response to the problem of an ever-increasing amount of plastic waste polluting our environment, we need to make supermarkets offer an option of no packaging or eco-friendly packaging for each item of fresh fruit and vegetables they sell.

Currently there is evidence of an intolerable level of plastic loose in the ocean. In order to back up the work being done to reduce this waste, it is necessary to reduce our use of packaging in an individual level, and among the most difficult to avoid is the packaging of fresh fruit and vegetables in supermarkets. Forcing supermarkets to provide us with the choice of buying cucumbers, cabbages, broccoli etc in eco-friendly packaging will enable people on their journey to zero waste.

As of 8 November 2018 the petition had 123,067 signatures. The petition remains open to sign until 21 December 2018. The Government responded on 7 November 2018:

We are working with retailers and the Waste and Resources Action Programme to explore the potential for the introduction of plastic-free initiatives in supermarkets in which fresh food is sold loose.

The Government shares concerns about plastic waste polluting our environment.

Our 25 Year Environment Plan published in January sets out measures to eliminate all avoidable plastic waste. We will do this through a four-point plan that takes action at each stage of the product lifecycle – production, consumption and end of life. At the production stage, this includes encouraging producers to take more responsibility for the environmental impact of their products and making sure plastic items are more carefully designed. At the consumer stage we want to reduce demand for single-use plastic. At the end of life stage, we will make it easier for people to recycle and increase the amount of plastic being recycled.

The Government is currently working with retailers to encourage their efforts to reduce waste and to explore the introduction of plastic-free supermarket initiatives in which fresh food is sold loose, giving consumers the choice. Packaging has an important and positive role to play in reducing product damage, increasing shelf-life, and reducing food waste. Keeping food fresher for longer through innovations such as vacuum packing and re-sealable packs has a significant impact on extending the life of products and reducing waste. If a product is wasted due to

² British Plastic Federation website, [Plastic Packaging and the Environment](#) [downloaded on 8 August 2018]

insufficient packaging then its disposal can have a greater environmental impact than the packaging itself.

There are opportunities where offering food loose may help to reduce plastic waste whilst not impacting on shelf life. We are currently working with retailers and the Waste and Resources Action Programme (WRAP) exploring the potential for the introduction of plastic-free initiatives in supermarkets in which all food is loose.

Further to this work, WRAP and the Ellen MacArthur Foundation have published their Plastics Pact with support from the government and 80 businesses, NGOs, government organisations and service providers. The Pact aims to make all plastic packaging reusable, recyclable or compostable by 2025. Participants will also work together to recycle or compost 70% of plastic packaging by 2025 while striving to eliminate single-use plastics in that timeframe.

Industry has also committed to implementing solutions that will enable the sustainable recycling of all black plastic packaging - bottles, pots, tubs and trays – by the end of 2018.

The government is also looking at further ways to reduce avoidable waste and recycle more as part of its Resources and Waste Strategy to be published later this year.

Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs

The petition follows campaigns from environmental groups, such as Greenpeace, calling for supermarkets to heavily reduce plastic packaging, in order to help reduce the amount of plastic found in the oceans.³

1.3 Supermarket plastic packaging waste

In a recent report, the National Audit Office also highlighted how there is no reliable data on the recycling rate for plastic packaging (from all producers, not just supermarkets):

We are concerned that the reported recycling rate for plastic packaging could be overstated, although not by enough to undermine achievement of the overall target. Government figures assume that collections from the commercial sector increased by 150% between 2012 and 2016, but the Department has no reliable data to check whether commercial waste collections have in fact increased so quickly. The financial incentive for companies to fraudulently claim they have recycled plastic packaging is higher than for any other material, with recovery notes representing around 60% of the price of waste plastic bottles over the first six months of 2018. However, the actual plastics recycling rate would have to be zero to undermine achievement of the overall target, and be overstated by 24 percentage points to undermine achievement against the plastic-specific target. In April 2018, the Department asked WRAP to carry out a review of the amount of plastic packaging used in the UK, which has not yet concluded.⁴

³ Greenpeace, [Can we reduce plastic packaging and reduce food waste?](#), 30 April 2018

⁴ National Audit Office, [The packaging recycling obligations](#), 23 July 2018

An article from the Guardian sets out that there are no officially published statistics on the amount of plastic packaging waste generated by supermarkets:

The chains have to declare the amount of plastic they put on the market annually under an EU directive. But the information is kept secret, and Tesco, Sainsbury's, Morrisons, Waitrose, Asda and Lidl all refused the Guardian's request, with most saying the information was "commercially sensitive".

None committed to setting up plastic-free aisles – something the prime minister called for last week. Only two supermarkets, Aldi and the Co-op, were open about the amount of plastic packaging they put on to the market.⁵

The article does however, attempt to estimate the amount created, using other sources:

Using their data, and other publicly available market share information, environmental consultants Eunomia estimated that the top supermarkets are creating a plastic waste problem of more than 800,000 tonnes each year - well over half of all annual UK household plastic waste of 1.5m tonnes.⁶

1.4 Competency for packaging waste policy

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.

1.5 Existing mechanisms to reduce packaging

EU Waste Framework Directive

Current UK recycling policy 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.

Although the Waste Framework Directive applies to the UK as a whole, waste is a devolved matter so the requirements are transposed into law in each UK national authority separately.

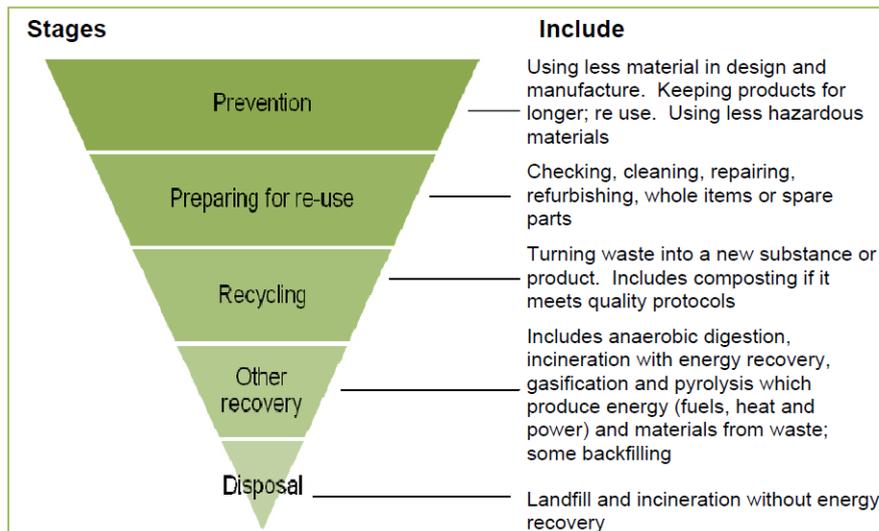
Waste management hierarchy

An overarching requirement of the EU Waste Framework Directive is that the UK applies the waste management hierarchy. This sets out the order of priority to apply to products and waste and shows that

⁵ "Nearly 1m tonnes every year: supermarkets shamed for plastic packaging" [The Guardian](#), 17 January 2018

⁶ "Nearly 1m tonnes every year: supermarkets shamed for plastic packaging" [The Guardian](#), 17 January 2018

prevention and re-use options should be considered before recycling.⁷ This is in line with moving towards the aims of a circular economy. The waste hierarchy is depicted by Defra as follows:⁸



Prevention

The EU Waste Framework Directive ([2008/98/EC](#)) required Member States to have established waste prevention programmes not later than 12 December 2013, and to review such programmes at least every 6 years.

Defra published a waste prevention strategy, [Prevention is better than cure: the role of waste prevention in moving to a more resource efficient, circular economy](#), in December 2013 which sets out the Waste Prevention Programme for England in accordance with the requirements of the EU Waste Framework Directive ([2008/98/EC](#)).

Waste prevention focuses on actions taken before something becomes waste that reduces:

- the quantity of waste produced;
- the adverse impacts of waste produced on the environment and human health; or
- the content of harmful substances in materials and products.

Re-use

The Waste Framework Directive defines 'Reuse' as

any operation by which products or components that are not waste are used again for the same purposes for which they were conceived.

Reuse occurs at the end of a product's 'first life' through a free exchange, a direct sale or via collection or disposal at a local household waste recycling centre in order to be used in a 'second life'. Direct exchange between individuals or via a third party (for example, through a charity shop or eBay) falls within the definition of reuse. Examples of

⁷ EU Waste Framework Directive, Article 4

⁸ Defra, [Guidance on applying the Waste Hierarchy](#), June 2011

items commonly reused include: furniture, clothing, books, electrical items, CDs and DVDs.

Recycling

The definition of recycling is set out in the EU Waste Framework Directive as:

any recovery operation by which waste materials are reprocessed into products, materials or substances whether for the original or other purposes. It includes the reprocessing of organic material but does not include energy recovery and the reprocessing into materials that are to be used as fuels or for backfilling operations.⁹

EU Packaging Directive

Under the EU Waste Framework Directive, the UK also has a statutory producer responsibility regime for packaging, covering the whole of the supply chain from the raw material to the finished packaging. Packaging is any material used to hold, protect, handle, deliver or present goods.

The EU Directive on Packaging and Packaging Waste ([94/62/EC](#)) is implemented in Great Britain by the [Producer Responsibility Obligations \(Packaging Waste\) Regulation 2007](#) (as amended) and the [Packaging \(Essential Requirements\) \(Amendment\) Regulations 2013](#).

The regime places a legal obligation on businesses over a certain size, (which includes the main UK supermarkets), 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.

Full details on the current rules on packaging producer responsibilities is provided on the GOV.UK website [Packaging waste: producer responsibilities](#), and is not reproduced here.

Criticisms of the scheme

The [British Plastics Federation](#) (BPF) has expressed concern that the way the market for PRNs works has stagnated the UK plastics recycling industry and caused more incentive for companies to seek PERNs where plastic is exported overseas for recycling. This is because plastic waste is increasingly collected as comingled with other forms of waste. The costs faced by the overseas exporter/reprocessors for disposing of non-target contamination are apparently negligible compared to those experienced in the UK. There is concern that eventually even the cost of overseas recycling will rise as recycling levels continue to increase on a global scale and that the UK industry won't be able to pick up the shortfall. This would result in increased costs to businesses and consumers.¹⁰

⁹ Article 3(17)

¹⁰ British Plastics Federation Recycling Group, [Proposals for Growth of the UK Plastics Recycling Sector in a Circular Economy](#), March 2017

To skew the market back in favour of domestic recycling the BPF has called for either a reform of the existing system to require more evidence of waste packing recycling to come from PRNs, rather than PERNs. Or, as its preferred option, a more radical reform to create a fund to ensure that money from producer responsibility goes towards developing the plastic recycling industry.

Environmental Audit Committee recommendation

The Environmental Audit Committee examined the producer responsibility scheme as part of its inquiry and report on Plastic bottles: Turning Back the Plastic Tide, 22 December 2017. The Committee concluded that reform was needed and recommended that:

47. Currently, taxpayers cover around 90% of the costs of packaging waste disposal, indicating that the producer responsibility scheme is not working as it should. The Government's commitment to explore potential reforms to the UK's current producer responsibility schemes is long overdue. Industry has been calling for reform for years. In order to make packaging producers more responsible for the type of products they are putting on the market, we recommend that the Government adapts a producer responsibility compliance fee structure that stimulates the use of recycled plastic, rewards design for recyclability, and increases costs for packaging that is difficult to recycle or reuse. This would incentivise producers to use more sustainable packaging, whilst reducing the costs on taxpayers. Additionally we recommend that the Government lower the de minimis packaging handling threshold from 50 tonnes to 1 tonne. This would ensure that all businesses who handle a significant amount of packaging are obligated to recycle.

48. The Environment Agency, which regulates Packaging Recovery Notes, told us they have no regulatory control over how the revenue from Packaging Recovery Notes is spent. Figures show that there is low investment in UK reprocessing facilities compared with waste exportation. This is grossly inefficient. We support industry calls for greater transparency over how recovery note revenue is spent and recommend the Government to require all waste reprocessors to report detailed information on actions funded by recovery notes. Waste reprocessors should be held accountable to the Environment Agency for exactly how they spend packaging recovery revenue, especially if they fund export considerably more than domestic reprocessing. This would provide sustainable investment to boost the UK's domestic recycling capabilities, as well as greater financial assistance to local authorities. Given the recent Chinese ban on mixed plastic waste from the UK, this investment is both urgent, to avoid a huge increase in landfill, and will save money and create jobs in the long run.¹¹

The [Government's response](#), published on 26 February 2018 outlined the commitments made to examine this issue as set out in the 25 Year Environment Plan. It also stated that the Government "...will also look at how the tax system could further reduce the amount of waste we

¹¹ House of Commons Environmental Audit Committee, [Plastic bottles: Turning Back the Plastic Tide](#), First Report of Session 2017–19, 22 December 2017

create through a call for evidence on single-use plastics to be published shortly.”¹²

The Government’s [25 year environment plan](#), published on 11 January 2018, sets out an aim to reform producer responsibility systems for packaging. This was also confirmed at Budget 2018 where the Government said it would consult in “the coming months.”¹³

The National Audit Office (NAO) also examined the packaging recycling obligations, in response to a request from the Environmental Audit Committee and published a report on 23 July 2018, [The packaging recycling obligations](#). It concluded:

While there are questions about the exact scale of packaging recycling, it is clear that rates have increased over the lifetime of the packaging obligation system, and the system itself is likely to have made a contribution to this change. However, the system appears to have evolved into a comfortable way for government to meet targets without facing up to the underlying recycling issues. The government has no evidence that the system has encouraged companies to minimise packaging or make it easy to recycle. And it relies on exporting materials to other parts of the world without adequate checks to ensure this material is actually recycled, and without consideration of whether other countries will continue to accept it in the long-term. Despite it now being 20 years since the system was established, the Department does not know what value the system has added nor whether the Agency’s approach to tackling the risks of fraud and error is proportionate. Our overall sense is that over a long period government has allowed the obligations to keep rolling forward without asking the important questions.¹⁴

1.6 Government announcements and forthcoming policies on plastics

Budget 2018 announcement on a “plastics tax”

On 13 March 2018 the UK Government published a call for evidence, [Tackling the plastic problem: using the tax system or charges to address single-use plastic waste. A summary of responses to the call for evidence](#) was published in August 2018.

At Budget 2018, in October 2018, the Government set out that it would introduce a tax, in England, on the production and import of plastic packaging, from April 2022, as follows:

3.56 Plastic packaging – To reduce the problem of excessive and environmentally harmful plastic packaging, and incentivise manufacturers to use recycled plastic, the government will:

- introduce a tax on the production and import of plastic packaging from April 2022. Subject to consultation, this tax will apply to plastic packaging which does not contain at

¹² House of Commons Environmental Audit Committee, [Plastic bottles: Turning Back the Plastic Tide: Government Response to the Committee’s First Report, Fourth Special Report of Session 2017–19](#), 26 February 2018, p6

¹³ HM Treasury, [Budget 2018](#), 29 October 2018, paras 3.56-3.57

¹⁴ National Audit Office (NAO), [The packaging recycling obligations](#), 23 July 2018, p11

least 30% recycled plastic, to transform financial incentives for manufacturers to produce more sustainable packaging

- reform the Packaging Producer Responsibility System, which will aim to increase producer responsibility for the costs of their packaging waste, including plastic. This system will provide an incentive for producers to design packaging that is easier to recycle and penalise the use of difficult to recycle packaging, such as black plastics

3.57 To ensure a coherent approach, the government will consult on both of these together in the coming months. Future revenues raised from these measures will enable investment to address single-use plastics, waste and litter to meet the government's ambitions for resources and waste.¹⁵

Further context and information is provided in an HM Treasury budget briefing on [Single Use Plastics](#).

The Government ruled out a levy on disposable cups for the time being:

3.59 Disposable cups – The government recognises the problems caused by disposable cups, which are difficult to recycle and often littered. The government has concluded that a levy on all cups would not at this time be effective in encouraging widespread reuse. Businesses are already taking steps to limit their environmental impact, but the government expects industry to go further and will return to the issue if sufficient progress is not made. In the meantime, the government will look in the Resources and Waste Strategy at the best way to tackle the environmental impact of cups.¹⁶

Proposed ban on single use plastic

At the Commonwealth Heads of Government Summit in April 2018 the UK Government announced its intention to ban the sale of plastic straws, drink stirrers and plastic-stemmed cotton buds in England.¹⁷ The Government has said that in order to eliminate these items from use, it will work with industry to develop alternatives and to ensure there is sufficient time to adapt. Proposals about how the ban of these products might work in practice are expected to be put forward for consultation later this year.¹⁸

A BBC News article following this announcement reported that the Welsh Government said it would "welcome collaboration with the UK government" on the idea.¹⁹

On 27 April 2018 the Scottish Government published a consultation on [a proposal to ban the manufacture and sale of plastic-stemmed cotton buds in Scotland](#). Press reports have indicated that the Scottish Government may also consider a ban of plastic straws by the end of

¹⁵ HM Treasury, [Budget 2018](#), 29 October 2018, paras 3.56-3.57

¹⁶ HM Treasury, [Budget 2018](#), 29 October 2018, paras 3.56-3.57

¹⁷ HM Government press release, [UK Government rallies Commonwealth to unite on marine waste](#), 18 April 2018

¹⁸ HM Government press release, [UK Government rallies Commonwealth to unite on marine waste](#), 18 April 2018

¹⁹ BBC News "[Plastic straws: Welsh Government would 'welcome collaboration' on ban](#)" 19 April 2018

2019.²⁰ Further information about the Scottish Government's position was set out on 7 February 2018 in Cabinet Secretary for the Environment, Roseanna Cunningham's [address to the Scottish Parliament on the use and waste of plastic](#).

25 year environment plan policies

The UK Government's 25 Year Environment Plan, [A Green Future: Our 25 Year Plan to Improve the Environment](#), published on 11 January 2018, sets out the Government's intention to achieve "zero avoidable plastic waste by the end of 2042." The term "avoidable" is defined as what is technically, environmentally and economically practicable.²¹

In order to stem the flow of plastics into the natural environment, including into the seas, the Government set out a four point plan (to apply to England) aimed at taking action at each stage of the product lifecycle – production, consumption and end of life.

In the Plan the Government said that it would work with retailers and the Waste and Resources Action Programme (WRAP) to explore introducing plastic-free supermarket aisles in which all the food is loose. Some of the other key policies from the four point plan included:

- Creating a better market for recycled plastic;
- Launching a call for evidence in 2018 seeking views on how the tax system or charges could reduce the amount of single use plastics waste;
- Extending uptake of the 5p plastic bag charge to small retailers, initially through voluntary agreement;
- Consideration of advice from the Voluntary & Economic Incentives Working group (set up under the Litter Strategy), which is currently looking at measures to reduce littering and promote recycling of drinks containers;
- More to help developing nations tackle pollution and reduce plastic waste.
- Work through the UN, G7 and G20 to tackle marine plastics pollution at an international level.

The commitment to plastics reduction sits alongside the Government's ambition, which was framed in the October 2017 [Clean Growth Strategy](#), for "zero avoidable waste by 2050".²² The Plan also reiterated the Government's intention to publish a new Resources and Waste strategy later in 2018.²³

Deposit return scheme for drinks containers

England

In April 2017 the UK Government published a [Litter Strategy for England](#), which included a commitment to establish a working group to

²⁰ See for example, [Resouce.co](#), "Scotland proposes plastic straw ban by end of 2019" 14 February 2018

²¹ HM Government, [A Green Future: Our 25 Year Plan to Improve the Environment](#), January 2018, page 29

²² HM Government, [The Clean Growth Strategy](#), October 2017, page 16

²³ HM Government, [The Clean Growth Strategy](#), October 2017, page 16

consider the advantages and disadvantages of different types of deposit and reward and return schemes for drinks containers. On 2 October 2017 the government [invited views](#) on how reward and return schemes for drinks containers could work in England by issuing a call for evidence.

On 28 March 2018 the Government [confirmed](#) it will introduce a deposit return scheme in England for single use drinks containers (including plastic, glass and metal), subject to consultation later this year. The consultation will look at the details of how such a scheme would work. Alongside this announcement the Government published the report of the Voluntary & Economics Incentives Working Group: [Voluntary and economic incentives to reduce littering of drinks containers and promote recycling](#).

Wales

In March 2018 BBC News reported comments from Wales' Environment Minister Hannah Blythyn who said that consultants were considering deposit-return systems in Wales.²⁴ On 5 July 2018 the Welsh Government reported on discussions with UK and devolved government counterparts to on a potential UK-wide scheme.²⁵

Scotland

The Scottish Government asked Zero Waste Scotland to explore the feasibility of a deposit return scheme. In May 2015, it published a feasibility study (carried out by environmental consultancy, Eunomia), looking at the benefits and challenges of a deposit return system in Scotland, and in the same year carried out a call for evidence on the issue from stakeholders. The relevant documents are available here: <http://www.zerowastescotland.org.uk/content/deposit-return-system-feasibility-study>

The Scottish Government stated in its [2017-18 Programme for Government](#) that it will develop a deposit return scheme:

We will also develop a deposit return scheme designed to increase recycling rates and reduce littering and implement it across Scotland. This represents a step change in our level of ambition and over the next year we will build on detailed work already being carried out by Zero Waste Scotland, ahead of roll-out across Scotland. We will ensure the scheme is tailored to meet Scotland's specific needs and we will work closely with the business community during its design and implementation. The question of whether this scheme should extend to small retailers – who have specific difficulties that would need to be overcome – will be addressed as part of this process.²⁶

On 27 June 2018 the Scottish Government published a consultation on a [Deposit Return Scheme for Scotland](#). The consultation seeks views on the options for distinct elements of a deposit return scheme on

²⁴ "Bottle deposit scheme: Welsh ministers 'already working' on plan" [BBC News](#), 28 March 2018

²⁵ Welsh Government, [Discussions on UK-wide principles for recycling drinks containers](#), 5 July 2018

²⁶ Scottish Government, [A Nation With Ambition: The Government's Programme for Scotland 2017-18](#), September 2017, p41

beverage containers, seeking views on “which options will deliver the best results for Scotland.”²⁷ The basic idea is that people would pay a small deposit when they buy a drink in a single-use container and get that money back when it is returned empty. The consultation seeks views on questions including:

- how much the deposit should be;
- where people could return items; and
- what sort of materials and products should be included.

The Scottish Government has not yet issued a response.

Single use carrier bags charge

A five pence charge came into effect on single use carrier bags in England on 5 October 2015. The charge in England, which is paid by customers to retailers, follows the introduction of similar levies in other parts of the UK. Wales, Northern Ireland and Scotland introduced a 5p levy on single use carrier bags in 2011, 2013 and 2014 respectively. The purpose of each single use carrier bag charge is to reduce the number of bags given out, increase their re-use and reduce litter. The *Climate Change Act 2008* and the *Climate Change (Scotland) Act 2009* provide the legislative framework for the single use carrier bag charge.

Government analysis of the scheme in July 2017 indicated that since the introduction of the scheme, the number of bags used has gone down by more than 80 percent in England. This means that more than nine billion fewer plastic bags have been used since the scheme was introduced.²⁸ In the 25 Year Environment Plan the Government said that it would consider extending uptake of the 5p plastic bag charge in England to small retailers, initially through voluntary agreement.²⁹

For further information about the scheme see Library briefing paper, [Plastic bags – the single use carrier bag charge](#).

1.7 EU Circular Economy Package

On 2 December 2015, the European Commission adopted a new [Circular Economy Package](#) to stimulate Europe’s transition towards a circular economy. A circular economy means re-using, repairing, refurbishing and recycling existing materials and products and regarding waste as something that can be turned into a resource. It maximises the value of resources in order to benefit both the economy and the environment. This is in contrast to a linear “take-make-consume-dispose” model which assumes that resources are abundant, available and cheap to dispose.

The Circular Economy Package consisted of:

- an EU Action Plan for the Circular Economy

²⁷ Scottish Government website, [A Deposit Return Scheme for Scotland](#) [downloaded on 10 October 2018]

²⁸ Gov.uk website, [Carrier bags: why there's a charge](#), Updated 31 July 2017

²⁹ HM Government, [A Green Future: Our 25 Year Plan to Improve the Environment](#), January 2018, page 29

- a timetable setting out when the actions will be completed (set out in an Annex to the Action Plan); and
- adoption of a number of interconnected legislative proposals which relate to waste legislation, including a:
 - Proposed Directive on Waste
 - Proposed Directive on Packaging Waste
 - Proposed Directive on Landfill
 - Proposed Directive on Electrical and Electronic Waste

The EU Circular Economy Package was formally agreed by the European Council on 22 May 2018, the final stage that it needed to pass.³⁰ The package includes targets for recycling of municipal waste and of packaging waste, as follows:³¹

Recycling targets for municipal waste:

By 2025	By 2030	By 2035
55%	60%	65%

New recycling targets for packaging waste:

	By 2025	By 2030
All packaging	65%	70%
Plastic	50%	55%
Wood	25%	30%
Ferrous metals	70%	80%
Aluminium	50%	60%
Glass	70%	75%
Paper and cardboard	75%	85%

For further information and links to the new Directives see EU Commission press release, "[Circular Economy: New rules will make EU the global front-runner in waste management and recycling](#)" 22 May 2018.

A European Strategy for Plastics in a Circular Economy

Action on Plastics was identified as a priority in the 2015 Circular Economy Action Plan. A [European Strategy for Plastics in a Circular Economy](#) was adopted by the European Commission on 16 January, 2018. A press release to accompany its adoption set out the ambition that "all plastic packaging on the EU market will be recyclable by 2030, the consumption of single-use plastics will be reduced and the intentional use of microplastics will be restricted."³²

The EU strategy examines ways to stimulate secondary markets for recycled plastic, alongside possible legislative and fiscal measures to

³⁰ EU Commission press release, "[Circular Economy: New rules will make EU the global front-runner in waste management and recycling](#)" 22 May 2018

³¹ EU Commission press release, "[Circular Economy: New rules will make EU the global front-runner in waste management and recycling](#)" 22 May 2018

³² EU Commission, [Plastic Waste: a European strategy to protect the planet, defend our citizens and empower our industries](#), 16 January 2018

make all plastic packaging recyclable by 2030. A full list of measures proposed in the Strategy and their proposed timelines are provided in [Annexes](#) to the Plastics Strategy. These are also summarised in the Commission's brochure, [A European Strategy for plastics in a circular economy](#).

As part of the Strategy, in May 2018, the Commission published a [Proposal for a Directive on the reduction of the impact of certain plastic products on the environment & Annex](#). The new rules will introduce [bold retained from press release source]:

- **Plastic ban in certain products:** Where alternatives are readily available and affordable, single-use plastic products will be banned from the market. The ban will apply to ***plastic cotton buds, cutlery, plates, straws, drink stirrers and sticks for balloons*** which will all have to be made exclusively from more sustainable materials instead. Single-use ***drinks containers*** made with plastic will only be allowed on the market if their caps and lids remain attached;
- **Consumption reduction targets:** Member States will have to reduce the use of plastic ***food containers and drinks cups***. They can do so by setting national reduction targets, making alternative products available at the point of sale, or ensuring that single-use plastic products cannot be provided free of charge;
- **Obligations for producers:** Producers will help cover the costs of waste management and clean-up, as well as awareness raising measures for ***food containers, packets and wrappers (such as for crisps and sweets), drinks containers and cups, tobacco products with filters (such as cigarette butts), wet wipes, balloons, and lightweight plastic bags***. The industry will also be given incentives to develop less polluting alternatives for these products;
- **Collection targets:** Member States will be obliged to collect 90% of single-use ***plastic drinks bottles*** by 2025, for example through deposit refund schemes;
- **Labelling Requirements:** Certain products will require a clear and standardised labelling which indicates how waste should be disposed, the negative environmental impact of the product, and the presence of plastics in the products. This will apply to ***sanitary towels, wet wipes and balloons***;
- **Awareness-raising measures:** Member States will be obliged to raise consumers' awareness about the negative impact of littering of single-use plastics and fishing gear as well as about the available re-use systems and waste management options for all these products.³³

The Commission's proposals will now go to the European Parliament and Council for formal adoption. The Commission has urged the other

³³ European Commission Press Release, [Single-use plastics: New EU rules to reduce marine litter](#), 28 May 2018

institutions to treat this as a priority, and to “deliver tangible results for Europeans before the elections in May 2019.”³⁴

The implications of this for the UK will depend on the speed at which the strategy progresses through the European institutions and the outcome of the Brexit negotiations.

1.8 Other initiatives

The Plastics Pact

There are also a number of initiatives aimed at changing the way that plastics are designed, produced, used, re-used, disposed of and reprocessed. For example, The Waste and Resources Action Programme (WRAP) WRAP coordinates something called the “Plastics Pact” which is a collaboration which brings together businesses from across the plastics value chain, including a number of supermarkets, retailers and manufacturers. This has set a target to eliminate unnecessary single-use plastic packaging, for all plastic packaging to be re-usable, recyclable or compostable and for 70% to be recycled or composted by 2025. Further information about the pact and pledges taken by different companies are available from the [WRAP website](#).

Plastics Industry Recycling Action Plan

Another initiative is the [Plastics Industry Recycling Action Plan](#) (PIRAP), established in June 2015. It is an industry action plan to increase the recycling of plastics to help meet a 57% plastic packaging recycling target by 2017. Initiatives in the plan include: increased collection of recyclable plastics; improve sorting; and developing end markets for recycled plastics This target has now been extended to 2020. PIRAP is implemented by the British Plastics Federation, PlasticsEurope and Recoup with the support of WRAP.

Personal food containers

An increasing number of businesses have started to provide for customers to be able to bring their own containers for food products. For examples, see the zero waste blog “[Shop Zero Waste: UK-Wide Stores](#)”. The Supermarket Morrisons also has a blog about how customers can bring their own containers to use at meat and fish counters: “[Bring your own container to Market Street](#)”.

Many coffee chains now actively offer a discount on takeaway hot drinks when people bring in their own reusable cups. See for example:

- [How can Pret encourage more customers to bring a reusable cup?](#), Blog by Clive Schlee, CEO of Pret, 6 December 2017;
- Costa website, [Our cups](#) [accessed 5 November 2018];
- Starbucks website, [Get Recycling! And Get Rewarded](#) [accessed 5 November 2018].

³⁴ European Commission Press Release, [Single-use plastics: New EU rules to reduce marine litter](#), 28 May 2018

Changing plastic packaging

Rather than allowing customers to bring in their own containers, some supermarkets are focussing their efforts on reducing packaging and ensuring that packaging that cannot be reduced is more easily and widely recyclable. For example, Waitrose, states:

In July we announced a commitment that will make a major impact on the use of plastic in our packaging. By 2025 all our own-label packaging will be widely recyclable (using the widely recycled logo), reusable, or home compostable.

We believe there is a role that recyclable plastic can play with some products - to protect during transportation and to prevent food waste, which is why we are not planning to remove it entirely from our ranges.

Our commitment is a stretching target, but we are determined to achieve it through a mix of innovation and working with suppliers to change how we package the products we sell.³⁵

The supermarket Iceland has also announced that it will remove plastic packaging from its own label products by 2023.³⁶

An article from the Metro.co.uk, [We grilled the major UK supermarkets on what they're doing to reduce plastic waste](#), 5 July 2018, lists some of the initiatives for changing and reducing plastic packaging announced by a number of different supermarkets.

1.9 Other plastics issues

Unrecyclable plastics

Black plastic

As a briefing from the Waste and Resources Action Programme (WRAP) sets out, black plastic packaging has carbon black pigments which absorb infra-red light and cannot be optically sorted by equipment using near infra-red detection technology. As a result, black plastic packaging commonly ends up as residue and is disposed of in landfill or recycled into lower value materials where polymer sorting is not required. See WRAP website, [Recyclability of black plastic packaging](#).

The WRAP website sets out the work being done to improve the recyclability of black plastics and prevent these materials from going to landfill. Technical solutions have been found to solve the problem with the black plastic, but this requires further investment and support to prove its operational and economic viability in full scale commercial conditions.

Black plastic is commonly used because the colour is often considered the most visually appealing for the presentation of many food items. Some retailers however have recognised black plastic as a problem and have made pledges to reduce it. Waitrose for example, has pledged to stop using black plastic trays by the end of 2019. For further information about this and commitments made by other retailers see

³⁵ Waitrose website, [Innovating in packaging](#) [accessed 11 September 2018]

³⁶ [Iceland](#) website "It's time to put a freeze on plastics", 16 January 2018

“Why black plastic is hard to recycle and why Waitrose has pledged to stop using it” [I News](#), 19 January 2018.

In September 2017, it was reported in the specialist packaging press that a voluntary commitment had been made by packaging manufacturers, packers, retailers and brands, material reprocessors and trade associations to enable the sustainable recycling of all black plastic packaging bottles, pots, tubs and trays by the end of 2018. For further information see “Industry sets deadline for recycling of black plastic packaging” [Packaging News](#), 27 September 2017.

Low grade/ mixed plastics

Packaging for food can be made from a variety of polymers – molecules which make up plastic – which need to be separated out to remove “low grade” and non-recyclable polymers such as polystyrene. This can either make it very difficult and expensive to recycle or can render an item unrecyclable. Local Government Association (LGA) analysis published on 4 August 2018 highlighted that:

LGA analysis suggests that only a third of plastic used by households is able to be recycled. It found 525,000 tonnes of plastic pots, tubs and trays are used by households a year but just 169,145 tonnes of this waste is able to be recycled.

The LGA is calling for manufacturers to work with councils and develop a plan to stop unrecyclable packaging from entering the environment in the first place.

(...)

In addition to developing a plan that ensures recyclable packaging is used where possible, councils are calling on the Government to consider a ban on low-grade plastics, and for producers and manufacturers to contribute to the cost of collection or disposal.

Councils have done all they can to tackle this issue, with 99 per cent of councils collecting plastic bottles for recycling and 77 per cent collecting pots, tubs and trays, but the inclusion of these challenging polymers in so much packaging is making it extremely difficult for councils.

In order to increase recycling rates, it’s essential that manufacturers prevent materials entering the environment which hamper recycling efforts. Alternatives to the packaging saturated in polymers which are challenging to recycle could include cardboard, paper or a recyclable version of pots. For instance, if margarine tubs were made out of the same material as plastic water bottles, they would be recyclable. ³⁷

³⁷ LGA, [Two-thirds of plastic in packaging pots and trays is unrecyclable](#), 4 August 2018

Terminology: bioplastics, biodegradable and compostable

In July 2018 Wrap published a guide, [Understanding plastic packaging and the language we use to describe it](#). The guide sets out the way a plastic is designed to behave alongside what material it's made from, affects what it can be used for as well as how it can be recycled and disposed of at the end of its life. It sets out, for example that use of the term "bio-plastic" does not automatically mean that a product will biodegrade:

Plastic can be made from fossil-based or bio-based materials. Both can be used to make highly durable, nonbiodegradable plastics, or plastics which either biodegrade or compost. The nature of the material used to make a plastic or the term used to describe it does not necessarily dictate the way it will behave at the end of its life e.g. a bio-based plastic or bioplastic does not automatically mean it will biodegrade.

It also makes clear that the fact that a plastic is described as "biodegradable" does not mean that it should be freely released into the environment in an uncontrolled manner. The speed, method and nature of biodegradation differs between materials. Currently biodegradable plastics cannot be recycled in the same way as non-biodegradable plastic. It must be separated from nonbiodegradable plastic streams and dealt with separately. If not, it causes problems during the recycling process.³⁸

In terms of environmental impact of biodegradable and compostable packaging, the WRAP guide states:

There is a lack of clarity concerning standards that define the biodegradability of biodegradable or compostable plastics in any environment. There is a particular lack of evidence on the behaviour of these materials in water, and there is a need to understand biodegradation at lower temperatures. Therefore, it is very difficult to accurately assess environmental impact of biodegradable and compostable plastic packaging.³⁹

The need for plastic packaging

The British Plastics Federation has argued that single use plastics have an important role to play in "modern life":

Do we need single-use packaging?

Firstly, there is no such thing as single use packaging all plastic packaging can be recovered for recycling or the generation of energy.

"Single-use" plastic packaging has an important part to play in modern life, especially where safety and hygiene is concerned. For example, a plastic water bottle allows hygienic access to clean drinking water and is less resource intensive to produce than alternative materials. It's easy to forget this as plastic packaging does such a good job protecting us from harmful germs. For example, the Food Standards Agency recently explained that raw

³⁸ WRAP, [Understanding plastic packaging and the language we use to describe it](#), July 2018, p5

³⁹ WRAP, [Understanding plastic packaging and the language we use to describe it](#), July 2018, p7

chicken, must be placed in a plastic bag separately to other food to prevent food poisoning.

"Single-use" plastic packaging has also considerably reduced packaging weight in transit and in many cases, has reduced the number of lorries needed to transport goods on our roads. Without "single use" plastic packaging food waste would increase, more energy would be used and more carbon emissions would result.⁴⁰

An article on the Foodmanufacture.co.uk website cited comments from David McDowell, professor of food studies at Ulster University and Chairman of the UK advisory committee on the microbiological safety of food expressing concern that proposals by the EU to restrict packaging and other items for serving food would lead to the spread of a number of foodborne virus and bacteria, such as salmonella and campylobacter. In particular, concern was highlighted about whether consumers' personal packaging would be kept clean enough to limit bacteria growth and about the potential for cross contamination between products.⁴¹

An article from the PackagingEurope website set out further views on plans to reduce plastic packaging. In particular, comments from Veolia expressed concern that banning plastic packaging would lead to alternative types of packing being used which may also be a "challenge" to recycle.⁴²

⁴⁰ British Plastic Federation website, [Plastic Packaging and the Environment](#) [downloaded on 8 August 2018]

⁴¹ [FoodManufacture.co.uk](#) "Food safety expert criticises EU packaging proposal" 2 October 2018

⁴² Packaging Europe, [Mixed Reception to UK Government Plan](#), 12 January 2018

2. News items

Telegraph

Britain's first plastic-free supermarket zones open

7 November 2018

<https://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/2018/11/07/britains-first-plastic-free-supermarket-zones-open/>

The Grocer

13 July 2018

Iceland named worst offender in fresh produce plastic use

<https://www.thegrocer.co.uk/home/topics/environment/iceland-named-worst-offender-in-fresh-produce-plastic-use/569363.article>

Guardian

World's first plastic-free aisle opens in Netherlands supermarket

28 February 2018

<https://www.theguardian.com/environment/2018/feb/28/worlds-first-plastic-free-aisle-opens-in-netherlands-supermarket>

Guardian

Theresa May proposes plastic-free supermarket aisles in green strategy

11 January 2018

<https://www.theguardian.com/environment/2018/jan/10/theresa-may-proposes-plastic-free-supermarket-aisles-in-green-strategy>

Independent

Nine out of 10 people call for 'plastic-free aisle' in supermarkets, finds survey

25 July 2017

<https://www.independent.co.uk/environment/plastic-free-aisle-supermarkets-products-packages-survey-groceries-nine-ten-people-uk-a7859066.html>

3. Press releases

Greenpeace

This Earth Day We Asked Supermarkets to Reduce Their Plastic Footprint

24th April 2018

As part of our campaign for supermarkets to get rid of throwaway plastic packaging, we celebrated this year's 'End Plastic Pollution' themed Earth Day by taking action in stores around the country. With a truckload of plastic entering our oceans every minute, up to 12.7 million tonnes of plastic is currently being added to the ocean every year. Once plastic is in the ocean, it becomes a hazard for marine wildlife. They can become entangled in it or mistake it for food and choke on it. Larger pieces of plastic break down into microplastics which many marine animals have accidentally ingested. It's estimated that 1 in 3 sea turtles and 90% of seabirds have eaten plastic.

But it doesn't stop there. Plastic has started to make its way back up the food chain and has been found in everything from seafood to beer, salt and even our drinking water. We simply use too much plastic. And supermarkets have a role to play. In the UK, supermarkets produce almost 1 million tonnes of plastic every year. They also use loads of excess plastic packaging – so even if you want to reduce your own personal plastic footprint, the moment you do your daily food shop you are inundated with fruit and veg wrapped in plastic. And even if loose fruit and vegetable are available, supermarkets generally only provide plastic bags to put them in!

So for this Earth Day, Greenpeace volunteers took action to highlight supermarkets' plastic packaging problem. Up and down the country, local Greenpeace groups visited supermarkets and replaced the plastic fruit and vegetable bags with FSC certified paper ones (which had the added bonus of explaining the campaign for anyone who picked one up!). They also re-labelled the shelves of overly-packaged fruit and veg to highlight the problem.

Whilst switching all packaging to paper products can lead to its own unintended consequences (like deforestation), we wanted to highlight that there are really easy changes that supermarkets can make right now to reduce their plastic footprint. It wasn't too long ago that all fruit and vegetables were available for purchase loose! And whilst food waste is a concern, there is no evidence that plastic packaging has actually led to less food waste. In fact, a [report](#) from Friends of the Earth Europe and Zero Waste Europe shows that an increase in plastic packaging has had no effect on food waste – both have just increased over time.

A Plastic Planet

A Plastic Free Aisle

February 2018

Our supermarkets are very powerful. They can demand alternative packaging from the food and drink brands, and even show the way with their own label ranges. Our first public campaign, launched early 2017, taps into this power and asks supermarkets to give us, the shopper, *a Plastic Free Aisle so we actually have the choice to buy food without plastic.*

We need a new future of food retailing that is multi-sensory, scalable, commercially viable, safe and totally convenient. We need a seismic change in how our food is wrapped. And let's remember plastic-free does not mean packaging-free. We still want convenience. It means accelerating towards an exciting new generation of natural, food-safe materials.

In February 2018 we are proud to partner with Ekoplaza in Amsterdam to launch our first viable, scalable and, of course, highly convenient Plastic Free Aisle. Carrying the *A Plastic Planet Plastic Free trustmark*, this aisle will be an evolving example to all supermarkets and industry to show how a plastic-free future can look.

Ekoplaza have over 80 supermarkets and have worked tirelessly to show the world how we can all change – not in 25 years, not even in 5 years but NOW.

Our evaluation criteria on packaging materials

If you visit our Ekoplaza Lab Plastic Free Aisle you will see some materials that look and feel like conventional plastic. They are in fact biomaterials (see our language of plastic). Unlike conventional plastics, which will exist for centuries on our planet, biomaterials are designed to be composted - either in your home compost or in industrial composting facilities. They should be put in the same bin as your food waste, not your plastic recycling bin. All the biomaterial packaging in Ekoplaza Lab is certified as OK Home Compostable or BS EN13432, the key standard for industrial composting across Europe and the UK. APP also ask many questions of all materials on the Plastic Free Aisle to ensure the materials used are the best possible choice.

Populus

The Plastic Backlash

July 2017

The tide, it appears, is beginning to turn when it comes to plastic. First came the [Environmental Secretary Michael Gove's announcement of the move to ban microbeads in the UK](#). Now, market research by Populus finds an overwhelming majority of the UK public support Plastic Free Aisles.

Populus research commissioned by Higginson PR on behalf of A Plastic Planet, shows that 91% of the UK public support the idea of having an entire aisle dedicated to the sale of products free of plastic packaging.

Support was highest in the North East, where 96% of survey respondents backed the move.

Separately, four-in-five (81%) of those asked said that they were concerned 'about the amount of plastic packaging that is thrown away in the UK'. Respondents in Wales reported the most concern (86%) about the amount of packaging thrown away.

A Plastic Planet Co-Founder Sian Sutherland said:

It's becoming increasingly clear that the Great British Public wants a fresh alternative to goods laden with plastic packaging. Too much of our plastic waste ends up in oceans and landfill.

Consumer demand for products that generate less plastic waste is higher than ever. A Plastic Free Aisle would help supermarkets meet the needs of shoppers who are fed up of buying products covered with layer after layer of throwaway plastic. For years we've been able to buy gluten-free, dairy-free, and fat-free, so why no plastic free?

There is mounting evidence of environmental harm caused by plastic waste. Professor Hilary Kennedy of Bangor University's School of Ocean Sciences said:

There is a growing body of evidence that plastic waste poses a global challenge, directly affecting marine life and ecosystems. A Plastic Free Aisle in supermarkets would help encourage a reduction in the amount of plastic waste being dumped in our environment.

[A Plastic Planet](#) is a grassroots campaign group which launched in March this year. The campaign aims to highlight the growing plastic crisis that threatens both the environment and human health.

British Plastics Federation

Industry response to survey about plastic-free aisles

July 2017

A survey conducted by Populus and commissioned by the campaign group A Plastic Planet found that nine out of ten people would like supermarkets to introduce a "plastic-free aisle".

The British Plastics Federation has issued the following response:

A decade ago, a major retailer trialled selling cucumbers without plastic packaging but the scheme was abandoned due to the huge amount of food that was wasted. Typically, food waste in stores increases by a third without packaging, so cutting out plastic packaging in areas within supermarkets would actually cause harm to the environment because the energy used to produce food is much greater than in the packaging protecting it. Plastic packaging uses less energy to produce than alternatives, reduces transport costs and CO2 emissions because it is lightweight, and significantly reduces the amount of food wasted

by protecting it in a hygienic environment and extending its shelf life. Avoiding the protection of plastic packaging would also increase food waste during transit and once it reached the home. Plastics are a reusable resource that needs to be disposed of responsibly and recycled whenever possible — and focussing efforts on improving public understanding, reducing littering and enhancing the UK's recycling infrastructure would be a better way of achieving a sustainable future.

4. Useful links and corporate statements

Rethink Europe/Friends of the Earth Europe/Greenpeace Europe
Unwrapped: How throwaway plastic is failing to solve Europe's food waste problem (and what we need to do instead) 2018

http://zerowasteurope.eu/wp-content/uploads/2018/04/Unwrapped_How-throwaway-plastic-is-failing-to-solve-Europes-food-waste-problem-and-what-we-need-to-do-instead_FoEE-ZWE-April-2018_final.pdf

The Packaging Federation *Factsheets*

<http://www.packagingfedn.co.uk/factsheets.html>

British Plastics Federation *Plastics and Flexible Packaging Group*

<http://www.bpf.co.uk/packaging/default.aspx>

Foodservice Packaging Association

<http://foodservicepackaging.org.uk/>

Waitrose *Commitment to eliminating unnecessary plastic*

<https://www.waitrose.com/content/dam/waitrose/Inspiration/About%20Us%20New/Waitrose%20Way/Waitrose%20Plastics%20Plan%20v2.pdf>

Sainsburys *Packaging*

<https://www.about.sainsburys.co.uk/making-a-difference/sourcing/packaging>

Morrisons *Packaging*

<https://www.morrisons-corporate.com/cr/policy/packaging/>

Co-op *Packaging and Recycling*

<https://food.coop.co.uk/food-ethics/environmental-impacts/packaging-and-recycling/>

Aldi *How we're tackling packaging and plastic waste*

<https://www.aldi.co.uk/about-aldi/corporate-responsibility/resources-for-our-products/product-packaging-and-waste>

Lidl *Packaging and plastic*

<https://www.lidl.co.uk/en/Packaging-and-plastic-12985.htm>

Iceland *Plastic Free By 2023*

<http://about.iceland.co.uk/plastic-free-by-2023/>

Tesco *Our position on packaging*

<https://www.tescopl.com/little-helps-plan/products-packaging/>

Marks and Spencer *Acting on Plastic*

<https://corporate.marksandspencer.com/blog/acting-on-plastic>

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