

Simpler Recycling - Waste Collectors

NEW Simpler Recycling requirements

On the 31 March 2025, new Simpler Recycling requirements came into force requiring separate collection of waste in the following waste streams:

- **Dry recycling** – Plastic, metal, glass
- **Paper and cardboard** - By default, paper and card should be collected separately from plastic, metal and glass unless the waste collector can show (by conducting a [co-collection written assessment](#)) that it is not technically or economically practicable, or that there is no significant environmental benefit.
- **Food waste** – including leftovers and waste from food preparation
- **Residual waste** – non-recyclable materials

The Environment Agency is the regulator for Simpler Recycling for Non-Household waste, and we are committed to supporting businesses – both waste producers and collectors – in understanding their duties.

As a Regulator we are required to have regard to the Regulator's Code which requires us to: support growth, engage with business, take a risk-based and proportionate approach to regulation, and to help those we regulate get it right.

We use advice-led regulation to secure compliance (particularly when legislation is new or changed), with the first stage being educating and raising awareness of legislative requirements, followed by providing advice and guidance on how to comply and eventually risk based interventions where non-compliance is discovered.

We are aware that some stakeholders may find the introduction of the reforms more challenging than others. We will take a pragmatic approach, prioritising helping stakeholders understand new requirements and working with them to support them in overcoming any difficulties they might face in relation to compliance.

It is important that businesses are actively taking steps and making arrangements to comply with the Simpler Recycling requirements.

Information and Support

Further information for businesses and waste collectors can be found on the [Gov.uk Simpler Recycling guidance page](#), and WRAP's [Business of Recycling website](#) with sector specific advice.

Waste collectors are encouraged to:

Familiarise themselves with the in-scope materials to be captured within each stream within [The Separation of Waste \(England\) Regulations 2024](#)

Follow the '[Checklist for Waste Collectors](#)' alongside supporting documents to communicate the new requirements and collection services to customers

The Environment Agency will be working across sectors with membership bodies and trade associations to aid the implementation of the new requirements, by sharing information to support compliance and understanding common challenges.

If you have any specific queries regarding the regulation of Simpler Recycling, please email SRfB@environment-agency.gov.uk.