



Simpler Recycling:

A FRESH APPROACH TO FOOD WASTE MANAGEMENT

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Is Your Business Ready?

England faces a significant waste management challenge. The current recycling system that many of us face is fragmented and inconsistent, resulting in decreased rates of recycling, high levels of contamination and a rise in greenhouse gas emissions.

To address this issue, the UK government is introducing new legislation that will not only revolutionise the way businesses and households manage their dry recyclables but, more importantly, their organics.

CRACK DOWN ON CONFUSION...

Presently, there is a muddle of recycling regulations in the UK that vary from region to region. This leads to a situation where glass can be recycled in household bins in some parts of the country, but not in others. Local authorities currently have the freedom to determine their recycling methods and materials: a situation that can be confusing for the average person and a headache for individuals trying to improve the environment.

According to the UK government, household recycling rates in England have increased from 11% in the 2000-2001 financial year to 42% in 2021-2022. However, in recent years, recycling rates have plateaued at around 42% to 44%. This is particularly troublesome when it comes to food waste, which poses the greatest environmental concerns.

1 <https://www.gov.uk/government/consultations/consistency-in-household-and-business-recycling-in-england/outcome/government-response#:~:text=We%20have%20seen%20household%20recycling,around%2042%25%20to%2044%25>.

2 https://consult.defra.gov.uk/environmental-quality/improved-reporting-of-food-waste/supporting_documents/Impact%20Assessment_Improved%20Food%20Waste%20Reporting%202022.pdf.

... AND FOOD WASTE

In the UK, approximately 9.5 million tonnes of food are wasted annually after it leaves the farm, with an estimated 70% of it being completely edible. This results in a staggering expense of £19 billion and contributes to approximately 36 million tonnes of carbon dioxide emissions. Although households are responsible for most of this waste, businesses are also accountable for over 2.9 million tonnes of it.

Improperly recycled food ends up being deposited in landfills, where it breaks down and releases methane, a potent greenhouse gas that has 25 times the heat-trapping ability of carbon dioxide. This has been scientifically linked to exacerbating climate change, further jeopardising food security, which is already under threat.

Learn more about food waste's contribution to climate change.

Undoubtedly, addressing food waste is a complex problem influenced by various elements throughout the entire system and not limited to one isolated stage. However, incorporating efficient waste management strategies at the source has the power to greatly contribute to resolving this problem. This is precisely the goal of the latest reforms proposed by the UK government.



A Turning Point for Waste Management



Recognising the country's recycling dilemma, which includes complex systems, stagnant recycling rates and challenges with food waste, the UK government has enacted new legislation.

Led by the Department for Environment Food & Rural Affairs (DEFRA), the "Simpler Recycling" Laws aim to simplify the recycling process and eliminate uncertainty regarding recyclable materials for both households and businesses. This will be achieved by implementing a system that involves only three bins/containers for the collection of Dry Recycling, Organic Recycling, and Residual (general waste).

3 <https://earth.org/how-does-food-waste-affect-the-environment/>

4 <https://www.gov.uk/government/consultations/consistency-in-household-and-business-recycling-in-england/outcome/government-response#:~:text=We%20have%20seen%20household%20recycling,around%2042%25%20to%2044%25>

THE SIMPLER RECYCLING PLAN FOCUSES ON TWO KEY PILLARS:

1 Standardisation of Recyclable Materials:

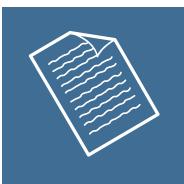
A standardised list of seven core materials will be issued, requiring all local authorities in England to collect the same recyclable waste streams from households for recycling or composting. Non-household municipal premises, such as businesses, schools, and hospitals, are responsible for arranging the collection of their waste streams (excluding garden waste) for recycling or composting.

The Seven Core Materials in Focus Are:

DRY RECYCLABLES



1. Cardboard



2. Paper



3. Plastic



4. Metal



5. Glass

ORGANICS



6. Garden Waste



7. Food Waste

To summarise, all dry recyclable materials (paper, cardboard, plastics, metals, glass) can be collected in one bin. This means that households and businesses will not need several separate bins to dispose of these materials.

Mixed recycling is still a viable and approved alternative for collection within the workplace, made highly effective through a space-efficient recycling station.



2 Universal Separate Food Waste Collections:

Perhaps the biggest change brought about by the new legislation is the emphasis on collecting food waste separately. Currently, approximately half of English councils offer separate food waste collection for households. The new legislation mandates a nationwide rollout of weekly separate food waste collections for most households. For non-household municipal premises, they are once again responsible for arranging collection through licensed waste carriers.

5 <https://www.stgreenpower.co.uk/news-and-insights/separate-food-waste-collections-to-be-required-by-march-2026>

6 <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/new-295m-for-councils-to-introduce-weekly-food-waste-collections>

7 <https://www.businesswaste.co.uk/news/what-are-defras-simpler-recycling-plans/>

When Can We Expect Recycling to Become “Simpler”?

DEFRA is gradually implementing its Simpler Recycling plans, with the three key dates for changing bin collections being:

Businesses:

- By the 31st of March 2025, non-household municipal premises must have recycling practices in place for all core recyclable waste streams, except garden waste and plastic film. This includes organic waste.
- By the 31st of March 2027, micro-firms (defined as businesses with fewer than 10 full-time equivalent employees) must recycle all recyclable waste streams, except garden waste. Retrieval of plastic film from all properties will also commence.

Households:

- Local authorities will be responsible for implementing both weekly food waste collections and all core recycling collections by 31st of March 2026.
- and an ever-expanding product range Glasdon International is gaining success in new and developing markets.

It's important to remember that these deadlines are specifically for England. Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland may have their timelines for implementing similar policies. In fact, Wales has already embraced its own Simpler Recycling approach, streamlining waste collections and making recycling more consistent across the country for [workplaces](#).

You can find the latest updates on the [UK Government website](#).



What Does This Mean for England's Recycling?

Increased Recycling Rates: A standardised recycling system with simpler sorting rules should encourage more people to recycle correctly. This could lead to a significant increase in the national recycling rate, diverting waste from landfills and reducing the environmental impact.

Reduced Greenhouse Gas Emissions By diverting food waste from landfills, we can reduce the over 18 million tonnes of greenhouse gas emissions linked to this waste. Collected separately, it can also be sent to appropriate recycling facilities, such as composting or anaerobic digestion, where sustainable energy can be generated.

Reduced Contamination of Recyclables: The implementation of separate collections for food waste is crucial in preventing the contamination of other recyclable materials. This is because food residues, such as sticky jam or greasy cheese, have the potential to render recyclable materials inert and prevent them from being recycled effectively.

No More Bin Clutter: The purpose of these reforms is to simplify waste management for local councils and ensure the collection of all recyclable materials. This means that businesses will not be overwhelmed with a surplus of bins and will be able to recycle easily with a space-efficient recycling station.

8 <https://www.wrap.ngo/resources/report/household-food-and-drink-waste-united-kingdom-2021-22>



What Does My Business Need to Do?

It is the responsibility of businesses to ensure that they have waste management agreements in place for the collection of dry and organic recyclable waste streams by the 31st of March 2025.

To help you prepare and ensure compliance with the requirements, businesses can follow these certain steps:

Audit

Before deciding on a certain strategy, it is important to identify what types and amounts of waste your organisation produces. A waste audit should provide all the necessary information to help decide on an appropriate action plan and identify areas for improvement.

NEED HELP WITH YOUR AUDIT?

[Request a free waste management audit today.](#)

Educate

Educate employees on proper recycling practices, including identifying each type of recyclable material and appropriate sorting techniques for separating dry recyclables from food waste.

Most crucially, with weekly food waste collections becoming standard practice at work and home, staff should be aware of the importance of food waste separation. Group training sessions can be arranged to educate individuals on proper disposal methods, such as rinsing containers to remove any food residue.

Collaborate

Partner with a waste management company that can offer expert advice on industry best practices. Many waste services offer guidance on implementing sustainable waste management practices. They can recommend ways to reduce waste generation at the source, increase recycling rates, and achieve your sustainability goals.

Invest

With separate food waste collections becoming mandatory, businesses will need to invest in dedicated recycling bins for food waste.

At Glasdon, we offer a variety of indoor and outdoor Food Waste Recycling Bins specifically designed for areas where food is prepared and consumed as well as the hospitality industry, including hotels, restaurants and cafes. Our selection features foot pedals and spacious openings to ensure effortless and sanitary disposal of food waste.

The **Nexus® Shuttle** is a versatile catering bin with three liner options to suit your indoor operational environment. Collect up to 60 litres of waste with the standard sack retention model or utilise the adjustable shelf to limit the waste and collect up to 30 or 40 litres of waste.

To address outdoor food waste, consider the **Nexus® City Wheelie Bin** **Housings**. Large, robust recycling units that accommodate 140 and 240-litre wheeled containers. The unit features a soft-close aperture flap to keep vermin out and odours in. It also includes an optional stainless steel foot pedal for hands-free opening.



Nexus® Shuttle Food Waste Bin



Nexus® City 140 Wheelie Bin Housing

Signage

The objective is to simplify the rules, so let's do it! Effective signage near or on a bin can significantly encourage utilisation and reduce cross-contamination of waste. Incorporate logos, messages and themes to truly make your bin a unique and easily identifiable point for food recycling.

At Glasdon, our personalisation service offers our customers the opportunity to create, design and shape their waste management solutions according to their needs through our personalisation service.

From adding your organisation's logo or crest to full graphic wraparounds, we have the in-house expertise to help you achieve the impact you desire. We also offer a free visualisation service.

If you have any questions or would like to learn more about the service and options available for our wide range of products before placing your order, please contact us or use the live chat feature on our website today.



By embracing DEFRA's Simpler Recycling reforms, businesses can streamline their waste management processes, contribute to a sustainable future, and make a positive impact on the environment. Recycling isn't just a legal obligation; it's an opportunity to protect our planet and conserve valuable resources.

Food Waste Recycling? Glasdon are Here to Help!

Over the years, Glasdon has been a pivotal partner for numerous businesses and councils in addressing the critical challenge of food waste management. Recognising the diverse needs of various sectors, Glasdon has pioneered bespoke solutions that are both efficient and environmentally sustainable. Their innovative approach encompasses the design and implementation of specialised food waste bins, tailored to meet the specific requirements of different environments, including multi-occupancy buildings.

If you are experiencing issues with food waste collections, Glasdon is here to help. Whether you are a business looking to streamline your waste disposal processes or a council aiming to improve community recycling efforts, Glasdon offers the tools and support necessary to achieve your goals.

Nexus® Stack Recycling Bin



Don't let food waste management challenges hold you back - contact Glasdon today to discover how our bespoke solutions can transform your waste collection strategy.

READY TO IMPLEMENT YOUR RECYCLING SCHEME?

Let's Talk

At Glasdon, we offer a variety of multi-stream and single-stream recycling containers. We are confident that our wide range of recycling bins will help you to reduce your environmental and economic impact. So, no matter which recycling programme you decide is the best fit for your organisation, we are sure to help you find the best containers to kickstart your scheme.

Maximise the functionality of your office by utilising our collection of indoor recycling containers, designed to create an attractive recycling station. These containers serve as a great tool for boosting recycling rates and minimising contamination within your company.



Nexus® Evolution Duo Recycling Station



Nexus® Stack Recycling Bin



Nexus® 30 Recycling Bin

We also provide outdoor recycling options suitable for external environments. They require low maintenance and are resistant to corrosion.



NEW Glasdon Jubilee Duo™ 220 Recycling Bin



Nexus® City 140 Recycling Bin



Nexus® Evolution City Quad Recycling Station



IMPLEMENT YOUR RECYCLING PROGRAMME, TODAY

For more assistance and information about how your business can implement a programme, please contact us today and talk to our team of experts.



www.glasdon.com

Click here to watch our product demonstration videos on YouTube.



ANNIVERSARY
1959-2024 **65** YEARS



Nexus® 100 Duo Recycling Station



Modus™ Housing