

UK Government to launch 'Simpler Recycling' policy to streamline waste collection in England

Please contact us:

WKT Travel continues to work closely with its hospitality customers to navigate an increasingly complex legislative landscape in food service packaging. Please feel free to contact us to discuss the 'Simpler Recycling' policy and any new requirements for bins or refuse sacks you may have.

What is the 'Simpler Recycling' policy?

The UK Government has introduced a new policy to simplify and streamline waste collection in England. 'Simpler Recycling' creates a universal standard for waste collection from all households, businesses and relevant non-domestic premises (like schools and hospitals) across England, ensuring that citizens can recycle the same materials in every region.

'Simpler Recycling' timeline:

- **31st March 2025** - businesses and relevant non-domestic premises in England must arrange the collection of glass, metal, plastic, paper and card, and food waste (micro-firms* are temporarily exempt).
- **31st March 2026** - local authorities will be required to collect the core recyclable waste streams from all households in England, including a weekly food waste collection.
- **31st March 2027** - kerbside plastic film collections from businesses, relevant non-domestic premises, and households will be introduced. Micro-firms must now comply with the business requirements for waste separation and collection.

What are the requirements?

Households and workplaces will be required to separate their waste into 4 separate containers:

- Residual (non-recyclable) waste
- Food waste (mixed with garden waste if appropriate)
- Paper and card
- All other dry recyclable materials (plastic, metal, glass)

It is hoped that consistency in waste separation across the country will reduce confusion around recycling.

Actions you should be taking:

- Have a conversation with your recycling and waste collector to make sure they can collect your separated recycling
- Look at where, how and why waste is created on your premises
- Invest in the recycling infrastructure, such as signage and any internal and external bins you might need
- Communicate the incoming changes to employees to ensure they are aware of and educated about the reform

*Businesses with fewer than 10 full-time equivalent employees.