



Department
for Environment
Food & Rural Affairs

Simpler Recycling (SR)

Resource and Waste Webinar – 4 December 2024



Latest Policy Position

- The primary legislation for Simpler Recycling in the Environment Act 2021 has now come into force, which means **core requirements and dates** are set in legislation.
- In May 2024, regulations were made that set descriptions of the **recyclable waste streams** (materials in scope of Simpler Recycling collections) and confirmed additional **relevant non-domestic premises** in scope. These regulations are now in force.
- **Ministers have reviewed final decisions on Simpler Recycling implementation, and we published a policy update on 29 November.**



Simpler Recycling at a glance


What?

- Reforms to recycling collections in England
- Household and workplaces in England to collect the same core set of recyclable materials: plastic, metal, glass, paper/card, food and garden* waste

Why?



Contribute towards reaching:
65% municipal recycling rate by 2035

- Reduced landfill and incineration and associated carbon emissions 
- Reduced carbon emissions as a result of reduced production from virgin materials
- Support growth of UK recycling industry

Who?

All households in England including flats 

Workplaces in England:

Number of full-time equivalent employees:

MICRO	SMALL	MEDIUM	LARGE
<10	<50	<250	≥250



Businesses

Relevant non-domestic premises:


- Residential homes
- Educational establishments
- Hospitals or nursing homes
- Places of worship
- Penal institutes
- Charity shops
- Hostels
- Public meeting places



When?


31 March 2025

2025

Small, medium, and large workplaces recycle all waste streams, except plastic film and garden 


31 March 2026

2026

Households recycle all waste streams, except plastic film (and food where transitional arrangements apply) 

31 March 2027

2027

Micro-firms recycle all waste streams except garden 

Plastic film collections from all properties 

*Garden waste requirement only applies to households and only where specifically requested by the householder

What is the latest announcement?

On Friday 29 November, we confirmed:

Implementation timing:

- **Micro-firms** (<10 full-time equivalent employees) will have a **two-year exemption** (until 31 March 2027) to comply with Simpler Recycling

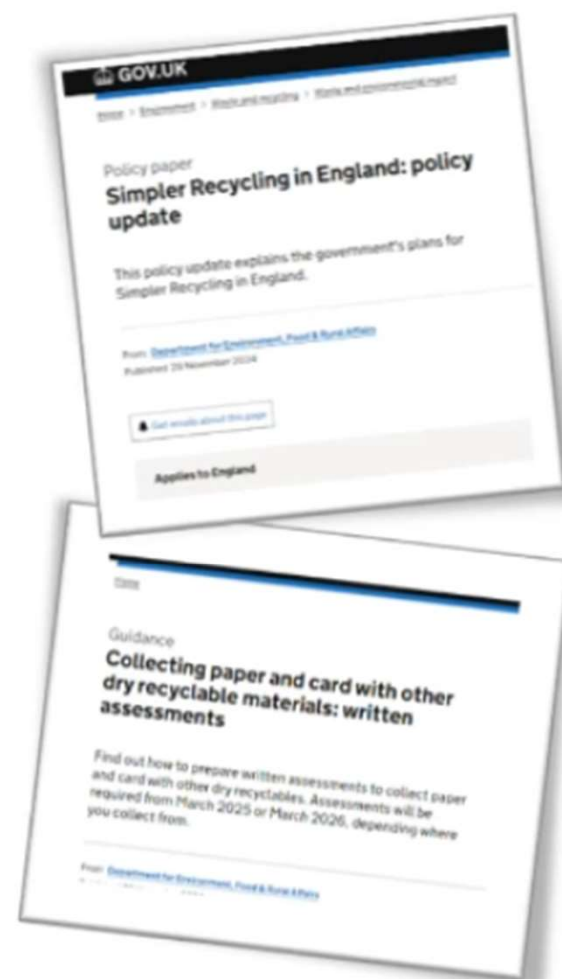
Co-collection:

- **Food waste** and **garden waste** can be co-collected under any circumstances*
- **Plastic, glass** and **metal** can be co-collected under any circumstances
- **Paper and card** should be collected separately from the other dry recycling by default, unless it is not technically or economically practicable or there is no significant environmental benefit – we have published guidance to support this consideration

This means that 4 containers will be the default requirement for households and businesses, but waste collectors may choose to separate further if this suits local need.

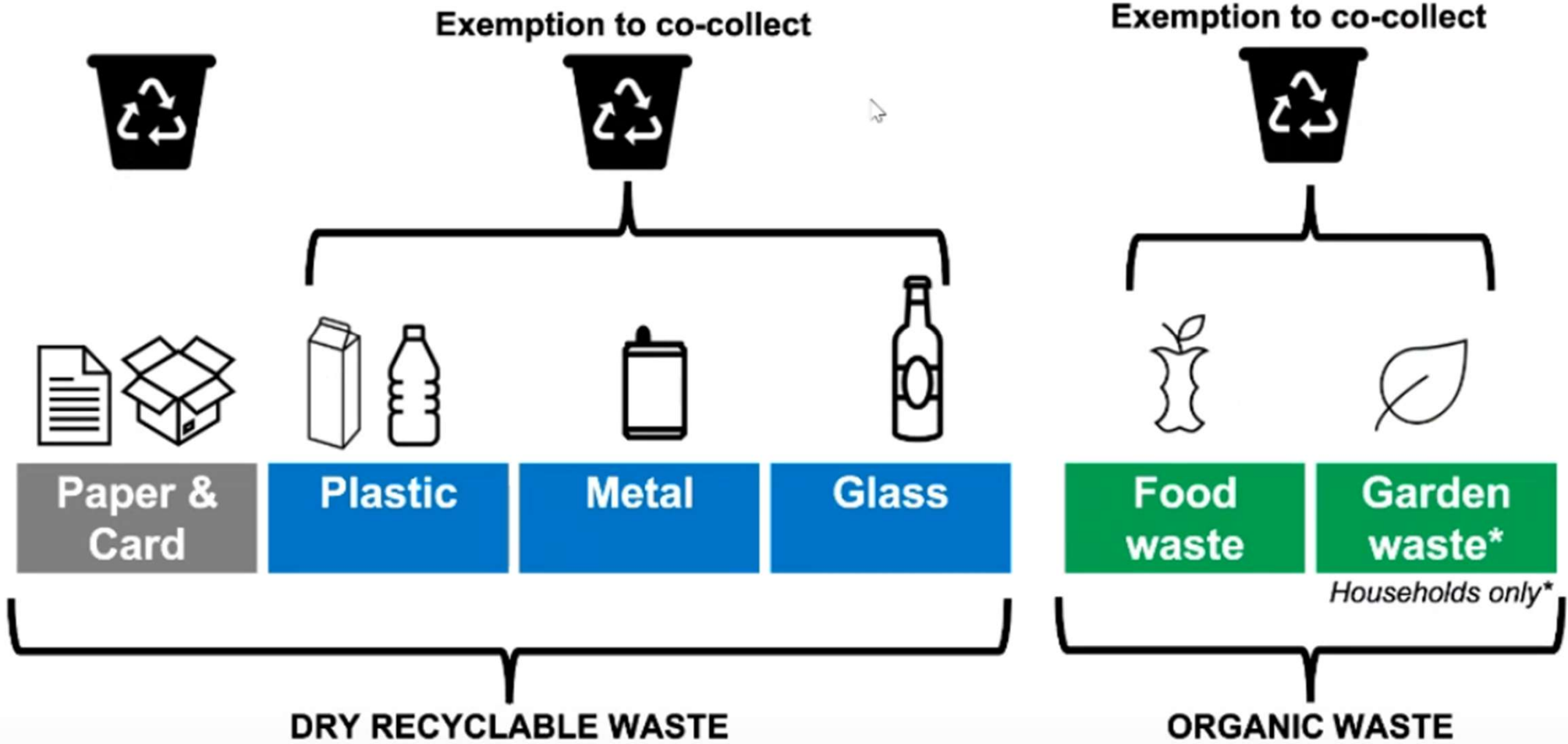
We also published:

- Guidance on household waste collections to support local authorities to ensure that good standards are maintained
- Guidance to help workplaces understand their new requirements



*Garden waste collection requirement only applies to households and only where requested by the householder

Default collection for Simpler Recycling



Exceptions for co-collection of dry recyclables

Waste collectors that wish to collect paper & card with other dry mixed recyclables will be required to complete a written assessment. We have published a template and guidance on gov.uk.



Technically Practicable

Factors such as appropriate waste management space (e.g. depot space, storage) may mean that co-collection is more appropriate.



Economically Practicable

If the cost of collecting paper and card separately causes excessive costs compared to collecting with other dry recyclables, it may mean co-collection is more appropriate.



Environmental Benefit

Waste collectors should use environmental data available to them to demonstrate that separate collection would have no significant environmental benefit. This could include relevant vehicle emissions and carbon impacts.

Written assessments to co-collect paper and card with other dry recyclables

- Default position applies for both households and workplaces
- Guidance on gov.uk to help waste collectors understand the circumstances where it may be appropriate to co-collect paper and card with other dry recyclables, and a suggested template written assessment
- WRAP planning to publish a tool to help local authorities complete a written assessment
- No requirement to **submit** written assessments but should retain on record in case asked to demonstrate reasons for service decisions

Template written assessment: collecting paper and card with plastic, metal and glass

Waste collection authorities and other waste collectors can use this template to create a written assessment to collect paper and card with other dry recyclable waste (plastic, metal and glass). You do not have to use this template and can choose to use a different format. You should retain a record of your written assessment and any supporting evidence.

You should read the [guidance on collecting paper and card with other dry recyclable waste](#) before you fill in this template.

Information about your organisation

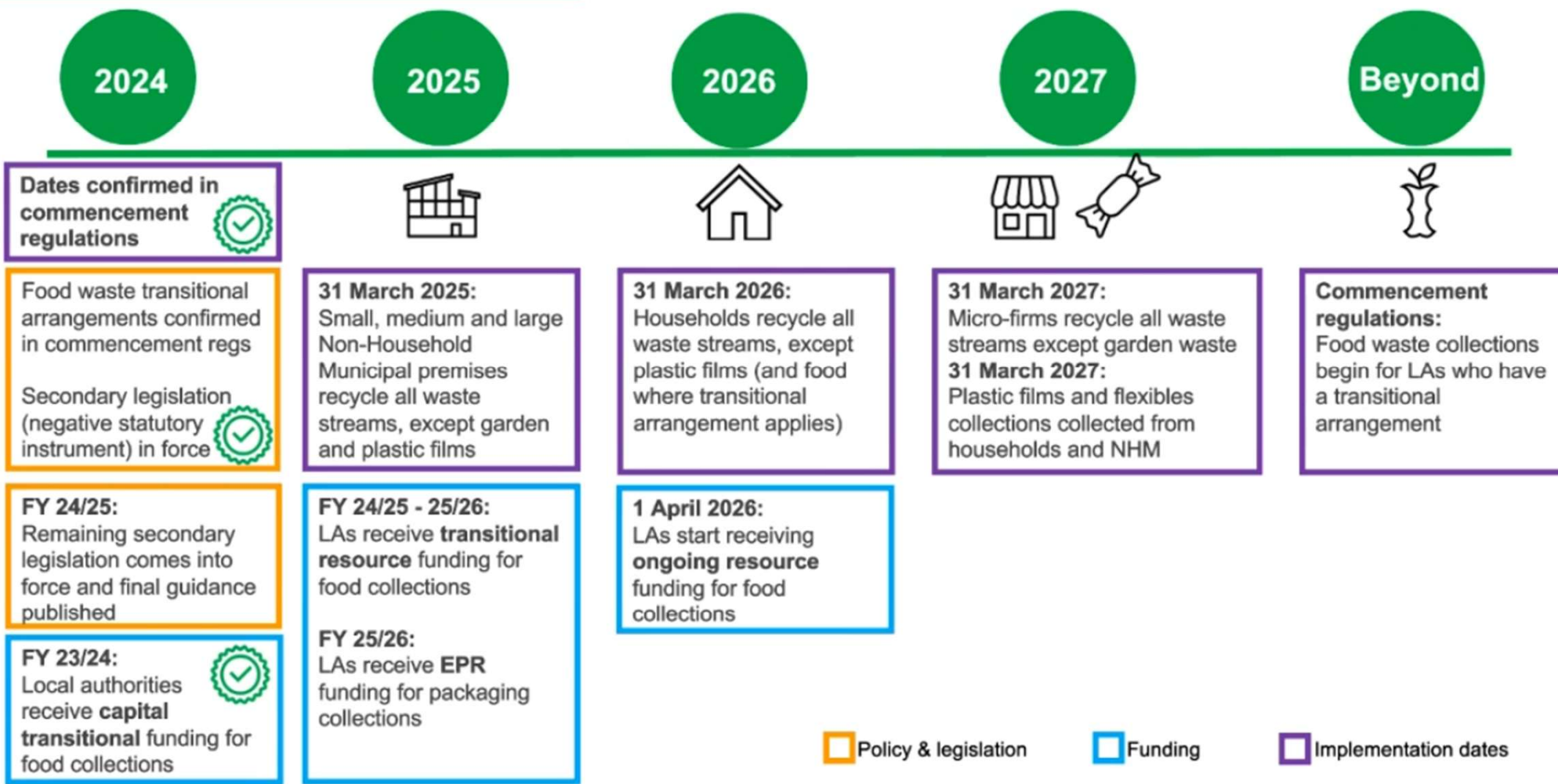
Name of waste collector or waste collection authority

Waste carrier number

Information about the assessment



Delivery timeline for Simpler Recycling



 Policy & legislation
 Funding
 Implementation dates

Support for waste collectors & workplaces

Defra officials will be undertaking a programme of engagement in the lead up to, and following, the 31 March implementation date. This will ensure that we promote awareness of Simpler Recycling to both collectors and waste producers.

This programme will include:

- social media messaging
- webinars
- attendance at conferences
- publication of a toolkit of resources

This will also be an opportunity for us to continue to understand the barriers to compliance and identify opportunities for further support from Defra.

WRAP have developed the Business of Recycling website which hosts a range of guidance, tools and materials to support workplaces. The sector specific guidance continues to be refined and tested through advisory group workshops with key stakeholders.



Step by Step Guidance
Frequently Asked Questions
Business Waste Calculator



Material Specific posters
“Getting started” poster



Waste Audit Template
Waste Action Plan Template

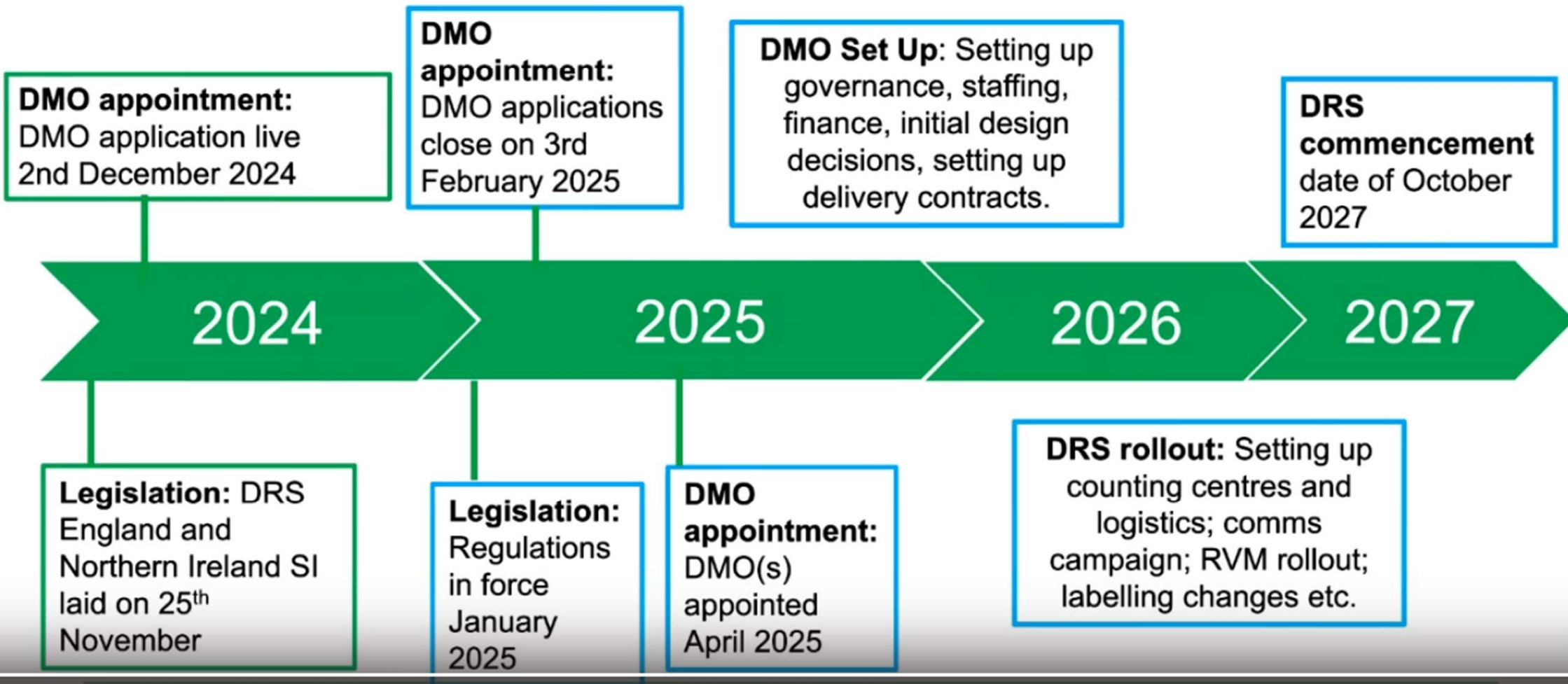
Next steps and further engagement

- **Thursday 12 December 11:30-12:30** – Follow-up webinar on with particular focus on Simpler Recycling for local authorities and other waste collectors – details to follow
- **Regulations confirming final policy positions** were laid 3 December 2024 and will come into force by 31 March 2025, subject to parliamentary procedure
- We will continue to engage with stakeholders to support successful delivery of the reforms - further updates will be shared at the Defra Resources & Waste forums and via sector representative networks. This will include:
 - Developing further advice and resources based on feedback from partners, industry and local government
 - Publishing further communications resources ('toolkits') for waste collectors to use when communicating new requirements for workplaces
 - Working with WRAP to produce additional non-statutory guidance across a range of topics to support local authorities and other waste collectors
- **Funding for local authorities:** We will confirm remaining transitional resource allocations for FY24/25 in early 2025, and for FY25/26, early in the next financial year

UK Government DRS Update

- **UK Government Position:** We are committed to delivering a DRS in England, Scotland, and Northern Ireland in October 2027. We will continue to work closely with industry partners, the Scottish Government and the Department for Agriculture, Environment and Rural Affairs (DAERA) in Northern Ireland to launch the scheme.
 - **Welsh Government** have withdrawn from the four-nation DRS approach. We will remain in close working partnership with Welsh Government as they take decisions regarding a DRS in Wales. We will ensure the door is left open to providing as much interoperability of schemes across the UK as possible.
 - **Industry Engagement:** We will also continue our strong working relationship with industry and will engage through various channels, including through the Resources and Waste forums, the DRS Industry Forum, and 1:1 discussions.
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Upcoming Milestones



SI Overview

The Deposit Scheme for Drinks Containers (England and Northern Ireland) Regulations 2024 were laid Monday 25th November.

The Regulations

- sets the framework within which the scheme will operate in England and Northern Ireland
- establishes the scope, including types of drinks containers and definition of drinks producers, importers and retailers

Places obligations on

- drinks **producers** to label products, charge a deposit when they supply in scope drinks, pay fees
- **retailers** to participate, charge a deposit, take back in-scope drinks containers, refund the deposit, pass containers to the Deposit Management Organisation (DMO) and display necessary consumer information
- the **DMO** to meet collection targets, pay retailers, recycle collected containers and pay national enforcement authorities

Provides powers for

- the DMO to set the deposit level, prescribe labels, interact with other schemes, set producer fees, calculate handing fees for return points and exempt some return points
- the national enforcement authorities

DMO Opportunity

- **Applications for the Deposit Management Organisations (DMOs) for England and Northern Ireland, and Scotland are now open.**
- A DMO must be an independent, not for profit, private body responsible for running the overall operation of the relevant DRSs, including management and oversight of material and financial flows for each scheme.
- The successful applicant(s) will be appointed as the DMO for the relevant scheme(s), and conferred functions, obligations, and powers under the relevant DRS Regulations.
- Applications will be assessed on their merits. Questions will be evaluated fairly and scored numerically based on a standardised scoring system to allow comparability if we receive several applications. This score will support a recommendation to Ministers about the appointment of a DMO.

DMO Opportunity: How to Apply

- To apply for one or multiple DMO positions, please contact DRS@defra.gov.uk and key documents will be shared within 3 working days. Candidates must use these documents to structure and complete their application:
 - **Application form.** Outlines required questions the applicant must answer to demonstrate they can fulfil the obligations regulations. Consists of 4 mandatory parts: (i) essential information; (ii) operational plan; (iii) financial management, and (iv) cross-cutting issues.
 - **Accompanying guidance document.** Provides additional detail on expectations for each part of the application and will support governments in assessing each applicant.
- Completed applications should be returned to DRS@defra.gov.uk by 3rd February 2025. UKG, DAERA and Scottish Government reserve the right to request further information from an applicant after submission.