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India to block imports of plastic scrap

On the 6th March India's Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change announced a ban on all plastic waste imports. This will have a significant affection plastic waste streams such as LDPE film and bottles. In order to ensure the transition goes smoothly 6 months will be allowed to businesses operating within SEZ (Special Economic Zones) and EOU (Export Orientated Units).

<https://www.letsrecycle.com/news/latest-news/indias-plastics-import-restriction-begins/>

Treasury to launch infrastructure funding review

The government will be reviewing its support of private infrastructure across the UK including waste management. This will look at the government's tools for supporting private investment, signifying a move away from the PFI model and ties with the European Investment Bank (EIB). PFI support has not been available to waste management projects since 2010, and as of 2018 the model will not be used in any future schemes due to concerns over value for money.

<https://www.letsrecycle.com/news/latest-news/treasury-launches-infrastructure-funding-review/>

Consultation on WEEE PBS options

The government have launched a consultation on two methodologies for running the Waste Electrical and Electronic Equipment (WEEE) Producer Compliance Scheme (PCS) Balancing System (PBS). The consultation closes on the 15th April 2019. They're looking for statements of preference and an evaluation of the proposed methodologies and administrators. As part of the 2013 WEEE regulations this methodology will be reviewed every three years.

<https://www.gov.uk/government/consultations/weee-producer-compliance-scheme-pcs-balancing-system-pbs>

Packaging targets met for 2018

The final release of packaging recycling data has confirmed that the targets for 2018 have been met, with the largest proportion of packaging being paper. Concerns have been raised that meeting the 2019 targets will not be as easy, higher prices for materials like such as glass, aluminium and wood means the facilities available have vastly improved. However cheaper materials such as paper steel and plastic still remain a problem.

<https://www.letsrecycle.com/news/latest-news/2018-packaging-targets-met-but-challenge-ahead/>

OPRL and WRAP form partnership

Resources charity WRAP and the On-Pack Recycling Label (OPRL), have announced a strategic partnership in order to ensure the UK meets future recycling targets. The UK currently has a target of 70% packaging recycling and 70% plastic packaging by 2030 under the EU's Circular Economy Package. The partnership aims to reduce some of the confusion over what can be recycled, improve the quality and quantity of domestic recycling and improve the availability of on-the-go recycling options. For more information click

<https://www.letsrecycle.com/news/latest-news/oprl-and-wrap-announce-strategic-partnership/>

DRS options considered in both Scotland and England

The UK launched consultations on the 18th February concerning DRS in the UK, lasting approximately 12 weeks. The four key areas under consideration are; the differing types of DRS available (kerbside or on-the-go), how this fits in with extended producer responsibility, how it can be consistently applied across the UK, and the recycled content threshold tax due in 2022. More details can be found [here](#). In addition Scotland have announced the results of their consultation stating a preference for DRS to accept a wide range of materials with 45% of respondents backing a combination of PET, metal cans, glass, HDPE, cartons and disposable cups. Scotland is looking to emulate other successful DRS schemes across the world, which in some cases have achieved a return rate of 90%.

<https://www.letsrecycle.com/news/latest-news/wide-set-materials-favoured-scottish-deposit-scheme/>

Options set out for packaging waste reform

The full details of the options for a reformed producer responsibility system for packaging were published by the government on the 18th February. The aim of the proposals is to ensure that the full lifecycle cost of any packaging is picked up by the producer. The suggested improvements to the system suggest that packaging producers could be expected to pick up an increased collective cost of £629m. Recent studies suggest that producers typically only pay between 7-10% of the overall lifecycle costs of the packaging they produce. The four models suggested are as follows; Member schemes levy fees from members, single not-for-profit producer scheme, and separate schemes for commercial and domestic producers and a deposit based government managed scheme.

<https://www.letsrecycle.com/news/latest-news/options-set-out-for-packaging-waste-reform/>

Defra confirms WEEE charging methodology

The JTA-proposed methodology for WEEE compliance fees has been approved for the second year in a row. Income from the scheme in 2017 hit £8 million and the funds will be used to improve WEEE collection systems in the UK. The JTA represents approximately 90% of the company's obligation under the WEEE producer obligation in the UK. For more information click [here](#). Gove shares details for waste in case of "no-deal". As part of "no-deal" planning Environmental Secretary Michael Gove has laid out a number of measures that may come into force. The most significant is that some waste storage sites may be allowed to temporarily exceed their maximum permitted tonnage as laid out in their environmental permits. Other news includes that regulators have agreed that up to 92% of the expected tonnage export will be accepted by the EU as notifications for export will be rolled over in the case of no deal. With the largest waste stream for export being RDF.

<https://www.letsrecycle.com/news/latest-news/gove-details-no-deal-brexit-waste-planning/>

Funding confirmed for food redistribution

DEFRA has announced £5m in funding for the redistribution of food that currently ends up as waste. It's estimated that approximately 100,000 tonnes of edible food ends up in anaerobic digestion plants each year, with only 43,000 tonnes of surplus food being redistributed. This is the first part of an expected £15m funding pot being made available to address the food waste problems in the UK.

<https://www.letsrecycle.com/news/latest-news/defra-offers-funding-to-food-redistribution-schemes/>

EU bans single-use plastic products

The European parliament has agreed a ban on single-use plastics such as plates, cutlery, straws and cotton buds. In attempt to reduce the number that end up as beach litter. This is part of a continued drive to hit recycling targets for EU member states which include 80% of all plastic bottles by 2029, with a minimum 30% recycled content by 2030. In total 560 MEPs voted in favour, with 35 against and 28 abstaining.

<http://www.recyclingwasteworld.co.uk/news/european-parliament-bans-single-use-plastic-products/213665/>