

**Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs**

# **Waste prevention programme for England**

## **“One year on” newsletter**

**December 2014**

### **Contents**

Finance for business.....	2
Behaviour change.....	2
Support for consumers, local authorities and businesses.....	2
Barriers to re-use and repair.....	3
Priority materials.....	3
Evidence.....	4
Government leading by example.....	5



*“Preventing waste before it is even created not only protects the environment but also makes good business sense”.*

**Dan Rogerson**

Minister for Water, Forestry, Rural Affairs and Resource Management

This newsletter provides a summary of progress over the past year on some of the main actions highlighted for government in the Waste Prevention Programme for England (published in December 2013).

## Finance for business

The **£800,000, Innovation in Waste Prevention Fund** was launched in May 2014. It is being run in three phases and will support innovative waste prevention projects in local communities. In December WRAP announced the 10 projects which will receive funding under Phase 1 (see projects [here](#)). Phase 2 is open to applications until 6 February 2015. More information is available at <http://www.wrap.org.uk/iwp2> Details of Phase 3 will be published in 2015.

## Behaviour change

To tackle the blight caused by discarded plastic bags, a minimum **5p charge** will be introduced on **single-use plastic bags** in England in October 2015. Small and medium businesses (fewer than 250 employees) will be exempt from the charge to reduce the administrative burden on start-up and growing businesses in England at a time when we are supporting new growth in our economy. For more information, visit the single use carrier bag [webpage](#).

## Support for consumers, local authorities and businesses

WRAP is developing a web-based **postcode locator** to provide a practical tool to enable householders to find their local re-use and repair services. The recycling aspect of the tool is due to be launched early next year, with re-use services being added by April 2015. Options for including repair services within the tool will be considered in 2015/16.

In early 2015 WRAP will be launching a collection of resources and support (including 'how to' guides, video & written case studies and workshop events) to support businesses and local authorities in addressing waste prevention and re-use. WRAP is also developing a household **Waste Prevention Hub** for local authorities which will include tools to help calculate and monitor the benefits of waste prevention activity.

**Electronic Duty of Care (EDoC)** went live in January 2014. It is an online system to help businesses record the transfer of commercial and industrial waste in the UK. It was developed by the Environment Agency in partnership with the waste industry and UK government bodies. To find out more log onto [www.edoconline.co.uk](http://www.edoconline.co.uk)

## Barriers to re-use and repair

A discussion paper seeking information on where the **definition of waste** may currently present a barrier to re-use and repair has recently been circulated with a deadline for comments on 30<sup>th</sup> January. An action plan to address any barriers identified will be developed, in discussion with stakeholders, in the New Year.

## Priority materials

WRAP manages the Courtauld Commitment, a voluntary agreement with the grocery sector, which has ambitious targets to **reduce food waste** in manufacturing, retail and in households. Over the first two phases of the Commitment 2.9 million tonnes of waste have been prevented with a value of £4 billion; 1 million tonnes less packaging is being used; and UK annual household food waste has decreased by 15% between 2007 and 2012. In 2013, a third phase of the Commitment was launched, aiming to prevent a further 1.1 million tonnes and bring the reduction of household food waste to 20% since 2007. The Love Food Hate Waste campaign provides advice to consumers on how they can waste less food e.g. with recipes and storage tips and earlier this year launched its targeted '10 cities' campaign which will reach a potential 8 million consumers by March 2016. WRAP spoke to over 15,000 people and received more than 3,000 food waste prevention pledges from consumers as part of its 10 city launch events with the liquid greens machine. Food champion networks have now been launched in each of the 10 cities with 'Save More' kitchen skills support and training now available and cookery classes starting early next year.

In June 2012, WRAP also set up an agreement with the **Hospitality and Food Service Sector**, with a target for signatories to reduce their food and packaging waste by 5% by the end of 2015.

The **Built Environment** Commitment was launched on 2 July 2014 at the government Construction Summit. Developed in consultation with industry, this Commitment is a strategic priority of [Construction 2025 – the industrial strategy for construction](#). It is focused on a simple statement of intent – each signatory ([currently 36](#)) commits to take action that

contributes to a more [low carbon, resource efficient](#) built environment, and is underpinned by government funded tools and resources.

By November 2014 over 50 organisations from across the UK electricals sector had signed up to the **Electrical and Electronic Equipment Sustainability Action Plan (esap)**. Esap seeks to catalyse sector action, share evidence and bring together the many different stakeholders to provide tangible economic and environmental benefits. This work is being led by WRAP on behalf of UK governments and will help organisations that design, manufacture, sell, repair, re-use and recycle electrical and electronic products to work collaboratively across the product life-cycle. Esap will take specific actions, by product category, across five themes:

- Extending [product durability](#) through design and customer information
- Minimising [product returns](#)
- Understanding and influencing [consumer behaviour](#) on product durability and reparability
- Implementing profitable, resilient and [resource efficient business models](#)
- Gaining greater value from [re-use](#) and recycling

WRAP is also co-ordinating the **Sustainable Clothing Action Plan (SCAP)** which now has 64 signatories and supporters. The Plan aims to improve the sustainability of clothing sold in the UK. It brings together industry, government and the third sector to reduce resource use. The SCAP 2020 targets, which were launched in February 2014, include commitments on carbon, water and waste. For more information, visit [WRAP's](#) website.

## Evidence

Defra is investing £1.2 million over the period 2013-2015 in the **Action Based Research** Programme. This research is about learning by doing. It's designed to be highly innovative with learnings being captured on an on-going basis and fed back into the project to develop and improve the approach. Projects are collaborative with Defra working with businesses and other partners to test new sustainable, approaches such as product service systems and collaborative consumption models.

Government has been working closely with stakeholders to help us build a better picture of the impact of action to prevent waste. We have identified a suite of **metrics** that will help us see how waste arisings have changed over time, and aim to help us understand how waste prevention activity has impacted on that. We will then use the metrics as indicators of progress with waste prevention by tracking and publishing them annually. The household waste prevention hub developed by WRAP will also provide access to tools to help local authorities track and measure waste prevention activity. We will continue to work with stakeholders on further development of metrics, including measurement of social impacts.

# Government leading by example

The revised **Government Buying Standard** for furniture is one way in which waste prevention principles are being formally embedded in government procurement. It means departments must seek to re-use furniture from elsewhere in government or, if not, purchase refurbished furniture if that is available or buy from a core list of standard items with manufacturers making available technical details e.g. Computer-Aided Design (CAD) diagrams, in order to facilitate subsequent reuse and refurbishment.

**General guidance** is being developed to enable government departments and the wider public sector take into account waste prevention and re-use during the procurement process when considering **whole life costs and wider value for money**. This guidance will also outline the best ways in which the public sector can embed pre-market engagement with suppliers and outcome-based tenders into their procurement processes to achieve these outcomes.

In addition, a government-wide '**swap shop**' is to be piloted to enable the exchange and re-use of goods across departments.

**Defra**

**December 2014**

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For further information on WRAP initiatives in this newsletter, please log on to their website at [www.wrap.org.uk](http://www.wrap.org.uk) . For all other enquiries, please contact Defra's Waste Prevention Team at [wasteprevention@defra.gsi.gov.uk](mailto:wasteprevention@defra.gsi.gov.uk)

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