

# A Food Waste Recycling Action Plan for England



Working together to improve the capture, supply and quality of household and commercial food waste

# Ministerial foreword



**Rory Stewart**

Parliamentary Under Secretary of State  
for Environment and Rural Affairs

A staggering 10 million tonnes of food waste is thrown out every year. Instead of being redistributed or recycled, a significant proportion (over 3.5 million tonnes) goes to landfill, contributing to greenhouse gas emissions.

The average family wastes £60 of food a month, and there is waste across the whole of the food chain from farm to fork. We desperately need to reduce food waste – environmentally, economically, and morally. This is something that needs to change, and the recycling sector has a vital role to play in taking on this challenge.

In acting to cut food waste to landfill, the priority must be to reduce the amount of food wasted in the first place. There is waste in farming when fruits or vegetables are not sold just because they are the wrong shape. There is waste in shops – perfectly edible food thrown into bins up and down the country. There is waste in disposal – food thrown away that could have gone to people or to animals. But above all there is waste in each one of our homes. Most of the food waste in Britain comes just from families throwing away food they could have eaten. Things are changing fast, and the public and industry are taking action, from local communities saving vegetables from fields for redistribution, or campaigners taking on food waste.

Government has helped to broker agreements between supermarkets and food businesses. These agreements have produced a dramatic drop in the amount of food waste in supermarkets, and new ways of helping families not to throw away food before they need to (getting rid of ‘display-by’ dates, for example, and introducing individual packaging).

Food waste prevention and redistribution are obviously our first priorities, but not all food waste is suitable for human consumption, or even for animal feed. This is where the food waste recycling sector and this Action Plan comes in to play.

The recycling sector is tasked with diverting unavoidable food waste from landfill and ensuring it is used to generate energy and make digestate to return nutrients to the soil. Over the last 10 years the industry has gone from a niche provider to one that sits firmly in the waste management mainstream. It recycles over 1.3 million tonnes of food waste nation-wide every year, is worth over £220 million to the UK’s economy

and generates enough sustainable energy to power 200,000 homes every year. Composting is also another valuable resource that can be obtained from food waste. In Scotland, for example, waste food used to make compost is reducing exploitation of rare peat bogs.

The growth of the food waste recycling sector is a success story. But only 12% of the food waste collected each year is recycled. We simply need to do better. I therefore welcome this Action Plan. It shows how, by working together, industry, government, businesses and local authorities can achieve shared objectives to maximise the amount of unavoidable, inedible food waste that is recycled.

The 16 actions in this Action Plan detail practical steps industry can take to make food waste recycling easier and more cost effective. This is a practical plan and with the help of the industry’s trade bodies and WRAP, I believe it will help food waste recycling to become established as the choice for when food waste cannot be prevented or redistributed.

# Foreword by the steering group chairman



**Ray Georgeson**

Chief Executive, Resource Association

In recent years the spotlight that's been shone on the nation's dustbins has highlighted, among other things, the shocking waste of food taking place across the UK. The statistics can be hard to swallow but here are a few to digest for starters:

- Almost 20% of the food that UK households purchase is thrown away;<sup>1</sup>
- The cost of food waste to the UK's hospitality and food services industry is estimated at £3 billion a year; and<sup>2</sup>
- Of the 4.6 million tonnes of food waste collected each year by local authorities only 12% is currently recycled.<sup>3</sup>

Preventing food waste in the first place should remain the priority, but a huge amount of food waste is still unavoidable – 4 million tonnes a year from households alone. Recycling this unavoidable food waste, either by anaerobic digestion or by composting, represents the most sustainable way of extracting value and turning this waste into a resource. In so doing, the food waste recycling industry delivers significant economic and environmental benefits to UK plc, and with the right actions in place so much more could be achieved.

In 2015 the UK food waste recycling industry recycled approximately 1.3 million tonnes of food waste, but there is capacity to do so much more. That we're not recycling more food waste in England is due to a complex mix of barriers that conspire to make the widespread recycling of food waste a particular challenge.

The Food Waste Recycling Action Plan represents the food waste recycling industry's collective response to meeting that challenge head on and help overcome those barriers. We have achieved this by bringing together, for the first time, local authorities and the food waste recycling industry to deliver what I believe is a pioneering and innovative set of actions, calling on all players in the sector to take action and deliver tangible change.

The Action Plan details a range of practical and achievable actions that, when taken together as a whole, will, we believe, greatly improve the quality and quantity of food waste collected.

It will also, crucially, secure the continued supply of food waste as a feedstock to the industry.

The Action Plan is not a panacea. Action to support the food waste recycling industry will be required from others, including government. But we believe that by acting collaboratively, the industry can harness the opportunities that currently exist and help itself to secure and expand food waste recycling in England. It's the first step on a journey that we believe will benefit all those involved in food waste recycling. I commend it to you.

1 <http://www.wrap.org.uk/content/solutions-prevent-household-food-waste>

2 <http://www.wrap.org.uk/content/hospitality-and-food-service-wraps-work-0>

3 <http://www.wrap.org.uk/sites/files/wrap/hhfdw-synthesis-food-waste-composition-data.pdf>

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# A Food Waste Recycling Action Plan for England

This comprehensive Action Plan sets out a series of **actions** intended to:

- **Increase the amount of food waste collected** from households and the commercial and industrial sector;
- **Provide long term sustainable feedstocks** for the operators of food waste processing plants, both anaerobic digestion (AD) and in vessel composting (IVC); and
- **Share the costs and benefits** of collecting and recycling food waste across the food waste supply chain.

In so doing, the Action Plan:

- Provides a road map for the food waste recycling industry, thereby helping the sector to realise its full potential and maximise the amount of food waste that is recycled;
- Establishes a supportive landscape for those local authorities already active in food waste recycling, and for those considering introducing new food waste collections;
- Highlights the benefits of food waste recycling to food waste producers; and
- Promotes greater collaboration across the food waste supply chain to secure the long term supply of food waste to the AD and IVC sector.

Delivery of the Action Plan will help create the optimum conditions for food waste recycling in England.

## How to use this report:

The Food Waste Recycling Action Plan has been designed to be viewed online, and there are a number of pages that incorporate interactive elements.

Where you see this symbol  it indicates that the content is interactive.

# Introduction and background

Despite the estimated 10 million tonnes of 'post-farm gate' food waste thrown out across the UK every year, only 1.8 million tonnes is currently recycled<sup>4</sup>. However, by working together, all of those involved in recycling food waste, from producers to collectors and processors, have an important role to play in making sure that the maximum value possible is extracted from food that would otherwise be wasted.

The Food Waste Recycling Action Plan is the food waste recycling industry's response to this challenge.

The Action Plan has been designed to help increase both the supply and quality of household and commercial food waste available for recycling. The collaborative, industry-led Action Plan will help operators of food waste processing plants secure the future growth of feedstock. What's more, it will enable food waste collectors to maximise the amount of food waste collected, so that collections can be delivered as cost-effectively as possible.

The development of the Action Plan has been overseen by a steering group. Membership of the steering group comprises representatives from the food waste processing industry, as well as local authorities and private sector food waste collectors and industry bodies<sup>5</sup>.

<sup>4</sup> <http://www.wrap.org.uk/content/uk-handy-waste-facts-and-figures-retail-sector> (includes 0.5 million tonnes composted at home)

<sup>5</sup> The members of the steering group are listed in [Appendix C](#).

# Food waste in the UK

In the UK an estimated 10 million tonnes of food is wasted every year, with 7 million tonnes originating from households<sup>6</sup>. The economic and environmental costs are significant. Food waste costs the average UK household a staggering 14% of the £66 that they spend per week on food<sup>7</sup>.

In terms of environmental impact, the greenhouse gas emissions associated with avoidable food and drink waste in the UK are equivalent to the emissions from one in four cars on the road today<sup>8</sup>.

The UK Government has a long-term goal of moving to a 'zero waste economy' in which material resources are re-used, recycled or recovered where possible, and only disposed of as a last resort<sup>9</sup>.

Whilst waste prevention and redistribution remain the best approaches to tackling food waste, an estimated 40% of the 10 million tonnes is classed as 'unavoidable' food waste<sup>10</sup>. Where prevention, reduction or redistribution isn't an option, the UK's food waste recycling industry performs an integral role in collecting, recycling and recovering value from food that

would otherwise be wasted. In terms of dedicated food waste processing capacity, the UK has experienced significant growth in AD capacity over the last five years. 76 dedicated food waste digesters were in operation in 2015<sup>11</sup>, up from 52 in 2011. This upward trend is expected to continue, albeit at a slower pace, whilst barriers to recycling are overcome. The IVC sector also remains an important treatment route for mixed food and green waste, with 87 IVC plants currently operating in the UK<sup>12</sup>.

6 *Household food and drink waste in the UK* (2012) <http://www.wrap.org.uk/content/household-food-and-drink-waste-uk-2012>

7 *The Food Statistics Pocketbook*, Defra 2015: [https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment\\_data/file/461296/foodpocketbook-2015report-17sep15.pdf](https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/461296/foodpocketbook-2015report-17sep15.pdf)

8 <http://www.wrap.org.uk/sites/files/wrap/hhfdw-2012-main.pdf.pdf>

9 [https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment\\_data/file/69401/pb13540-waste-policy-review110614.pdf](https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/69401/pb13540-waste-policy-review110614.pdf)

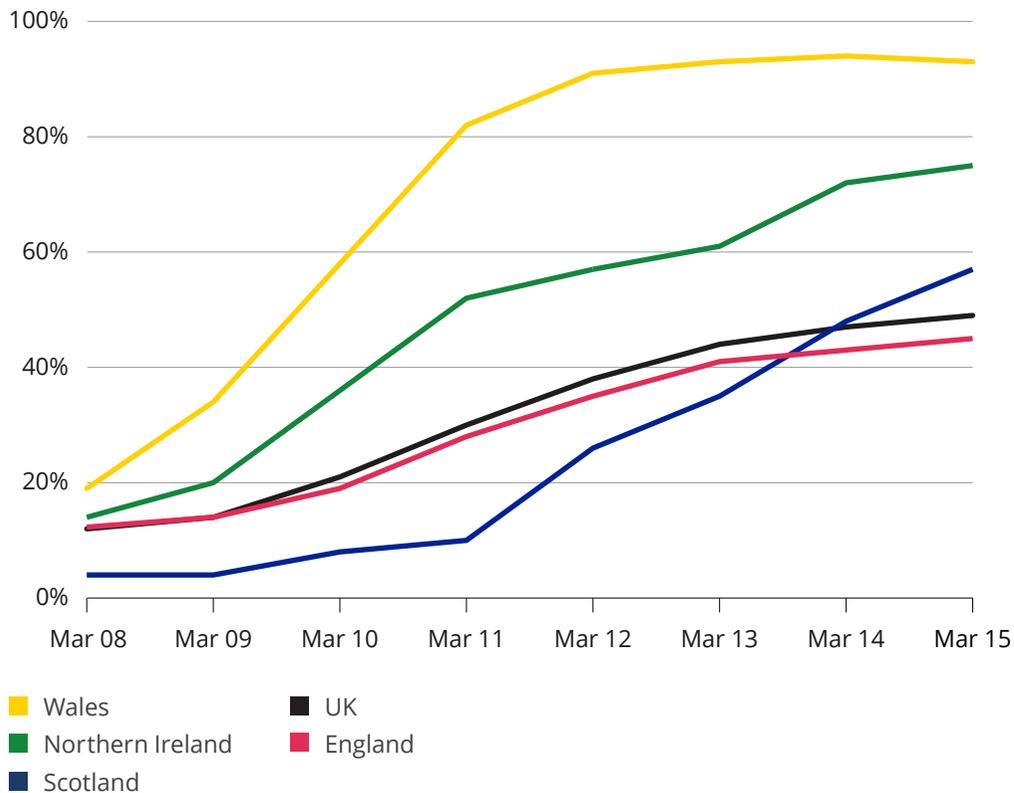
10 <http://www.wrap.org.uk/content/uk-handly-waste-facts-and-figures-retail-sector>

11 [https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment\\_data/file/505924/abp-eu-sanco-approv-plant-report.pdf](https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/505924/abp-eu-sanco-approv-plant-report.pdf)

12 [https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment\\_data/file/505924/abp-eu-sanco-approv-plant-report.pdf](https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/505924/abp-eu-sanco-approv-plant-report.pdf)

# Food waste in the UK

Figure 1: Percentage of households with a food waste collection (separate or mixed with garden), 2007/08 to 2014/15 (source: WRAP)



This increase in processing capacity has been matched by an overall increase in food waste recycling in the UK.

Figure 1 illustrates how the provision of household food waste collections across the UK has changed since 2008. It can be seen that a significantly lower percentage of households in England (45%) are provided with a food waste collection than in the other UK nations.

The provision of food waste collections for businesses is also variable. For example, 19 councils in England provided a dedicated commercial food waste collection service in 2015, even though the vast majority offer some form of refuse or recycling option for businesses<sup>13</sup>. Commercial waste management contractors also offer food waste collections.

Although the amount of food waste being diverted to AD or IVC has increased in recent years, there remains a significant disparity between the amount of food waste arising across the UK supply chain and that which is being collected and sent for recycling.

Of the 10 million tonnes of food waste arising annually in the UK, only 1.8 million tonnes is currently recycled (either by composting or AD)<sup>14</sup>. Only 12% of household food waste collected by local authorities is recycled, with the remaining 88% ending up in the residual waste stream<sup>15</sup>. At the same time, operators of food waste processing plants consistently report a lack of feedstock as a major barrier threatening the financial viability of plants and the significant investment associated with them.

Capturing this key feedstock by extending the provision of food waste collections, alongside optimising the performance of existing services, is therefore considered vital for the future of the food waste recycling industry.

13 [http://adbioresources.org/docs/July\\_2015\\_Market\\_Report.pdf](http://adbioresources.org/docs/July_2015_Market_Report.pdf)

14 <http://www.wrap.org.uk/content/uk-handly-waste-facts-and-figures-retail-sector> (includes 0.5 million tonnes composted at home).

15 <http://www.wrap.org.uk/sites/files/wrap/hhfdw-synthesis-food-waste-composition-data.pdf>

# Barriers to food waste collection and recycling in England

For food waste recycling to reach its full potential in England, a wide range of barriers need to be addressed<sup>16</sup>. Many stakeholders have a role to play in helping to overcome these.

## At the national level:

- The provision of household food waste collections across England is inconsistent, with less than half of all households currently receiving a service.

## At the local authority level:

- Those local authorities that provide a food waste collection use a number of different collection methodologies, with varying levels of performance<sup>17</sup>;
- The perceived cost of introducing and/or maintaining a household food waste collection service, at a time when authority revenue budgets are constrained, means that fewer new collections are being introduced and some existing services have been withdrawn;
- Within 'two-tier' local authority areas, the absence of a mechanism to appropriately allocate the costs and benefits of food waste collections between authorities can be a very real barrier for some waste collection authorities; and

- Existing contractual arrangements often restrict local authorities' ability to separately collect food waste. In addition the cost-benefit of separately collecting and treating food waste is often unknown, making informed decisions difficult.

## At the food waste processing level:

- A lack of feedstock in the form of food waste has resulted in unsustainably low gate fees, which is not in the long term interest of food waste collectors and processors;
- The quality of feedstock can affect digestate quality and is therefore an issue for food waste processors; and
- End markets for digestate demand consistent, high quality products from food waste recyclers.

## At the food waste producer level:

- Some householders have a negative perception of food waste recycling;
- There is often inconsistent provision of the infrastructure needed to participate in a food waste recycling collection (e.g. caddy liners and communications); and
- Many commercial food waste producers view a food waste collection service as simply an additional cost, with no subsequent benefit.

<sup>16</sup> A full list of barriers identified by the steering group is provided in [Appendix B](#).

<sup>17</sup> <http://www.wrap.org.uk/content/household-food-waste-collections-guide>

# The 5 Point Plan to boost food waste recycling in England



# Actions

The actions to boost food waste recycling in England are presented as a **5 Point Plan**. Each point represents a distinct theme:

- 1 Developing the business case 
- 2 Optimising food waste collections 
- 3 Communicating with householders and commercial food waste producers 
- 4 Ensuring quality as well as quantity 
- 5 Making contracts work 

These five themes are supported by a total of 16 specific actions. Each action is assigned a single body who will be responsible for coordinating its delivery (highlighted in **bold**). There are also a number of supporting bodies listed who are committed to providing additional support (see [Appendix C](#) for the complete list).

A timeframe for each action is listed. To aid understanding of the Action Plan, an 'at a glance' version is presented on the following page summarising the five themes and the related outcomes, impacts and objectives.

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Themes

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Outputs

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Impacts

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Objectives



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Final objective

For a static version of the 5 Point Plan 'at a glance' please see [Appendix D](#).

## Theme 1

# Developing the business case

Evaluating the financial implications of increased food waste recycling in England will show the level of opportunity available to government, local authorities and the waste management industry.

Understanding the 'whole system costs' of food waste recycling can inform the decisions and choices of those involved with food waste recycling.

### Action 1a

#### Action 1a

Provide local authorities in England with technical support to assess whether the provision of a collection service that includes the separate weekly collection of food waste can be provided cost effectively.

#### Impact

Increased evidence base regarding the costs to local authorities of introducing food waste collections. This leads to positive decisions on dedicated food waste collections in previously unserved areas.

#### Performance indicator(s)

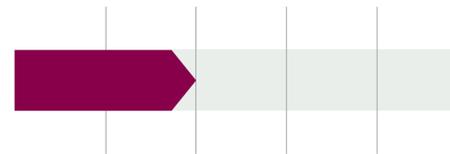
At least 40 local authorities working with WRAP to test the business case for separate food waste collections.

#### Responsible and supporting bodies

WRAP

#### Timescale

Medium term 1-2 years



## Theme 1

# Developing the business case

Evaluating the financial implications of increased food waste recycling in England will show the level of opportunity available to government, local authorities and the waste management industry.

Understanding the 'whole system costs' of food waste recycling can inform the decisions and choices of those involved with food waste recycling.

### Action 1b

#### Action 1b

Industry to publish information highlighting the economic benefits of separate food waste collections. Where the opportunities indicate a positive business case, food waste processors to engage with local authorities and business to find ways to maximise these opportunities.

#### Impact

Promotes discussion of the economic impacts of food waste recycling between stakeholders and the need to properly understand the 'whole system costs' of household and commercial food waste collections.

#### Performance indicator(s)

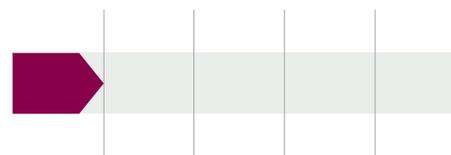
Number of document downloads.  
Number of times information is referenced in other communications.

#### Responsible and supporting bodies

REA  
CIWM  
ADBA

#### Timescale

Short term <1 year



## Theme 1

# Developing the business case

Evaluating the financial implications of increased food waste recycling in England will show the level of opportunity available to government, local authorities and the waste management industry.

Understanding the 'whole system costs' of food waste recycling can inform the decisions and choices of those involved with food waste recycling.

### Action 1c

#### Action 1c

Local authorities to use WRAP's Kerbside Costing Tool<sup>18</sup> to help evaluate the costs of introducing separate weekly food waste collections.

#### Impact

Local authorities are made more aware of the opportunities to include the collection of food waste when considering changes to their household waste collection service.

#### Performance indicator(s)

At least 40 local authorities who have:

- Directly used the tool; and
- Been influenced by the case studies.

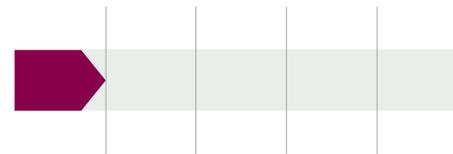
Number of authorities who include the collection of food waste in service changes.

#### Responsible and supporting bodies

WRAP  
CIWM  
WNC  
NAWDO  
LARAC

#### Timescale

Short term <1 year



<sup>18</sup> <http://laportal.wrap.org.uk/>



## Theme 1

# Developing the business case

Evaluating the financial implications of increased food waste recycling in England will show the level of opportunity available to government, local authorities and the waste management industry.

Understanding the 'whole system costs' of food waste recycling can inform the decisions and choices of those involved with food waste recycling.

### Action 1d

#### Action 1d

Local authorities, waste management companies and food waste processors use WRAP's Cost-Benefit tool for the food waste recycling industry and implement measures that boost the amount of food waste collected for recycling.

#### Impact

Local authorities, waste management companies and food waste processors collaborate locally to fund a range of proven measures that increase householder participation and the capture of household food waste for recycling.

#### Performance indicator(s)

At least 30 local authorities, waste management companies and food waste processors who have:

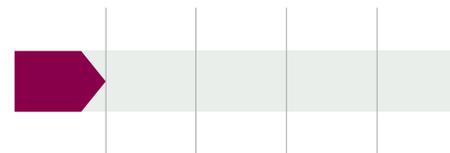
- Directly used the tool; and
- Adopted the measures and seen an uplift in food waste volumes recycled.

#### Responsible and supporting bodies

WRAP	LARAC
CIWM	ADBA
WNC	ESA
NAWDO	REA

#### Timescale

Short term <1 year



## Theme 1

# Developing the business case

Evaluating the financial implications of increased food waste recycling in England will show the level of opportunity available to government, local authorities and the waste management industry.

Understanding the 'whole system costs' of food waste recycling can inform the decisions and choices of those involved with food waste recycling.

### Action 1e

Food waste recycling industry to develop a dissemination strategy to actively promote and support the industry's use of 'cost benefit analysis' tools such as those provided by WRAP.

### Impact

Use of the 'cost benefit analysis' tools and wider FWRAP outputs help the recycling industry to increase the amount of food waste collected for recycling.

### Performance indicator(s)

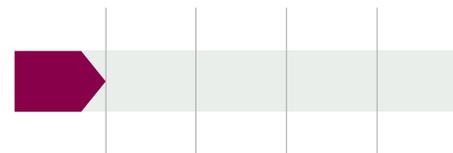
At least 100 cross-industry users of the 'cost benefit analysis' tools.  
Level of awareness for those resources increased. Evidence by the number of downloads.

### Responsible and supporting bodies

ADBA  
AADO  
REA  
ESA

### Timescale

Short term <1 year



Action 1e



## Theme 2

# Optimising food waste collections

Food waste collectors to know how to design and deliver services that are efficient and maximise the amount of food waste collected for recycling.

### Action 2a

#### Action 2a

Food waste collectors use WRAP's suite of food waste collections guidance.<sup>19</sup>

#### Impact

Better designed, implemented and delivered food waste collections leads to an increase in scheme participation and volume of food waste captured for recycling.

#### Performance indicator(s)

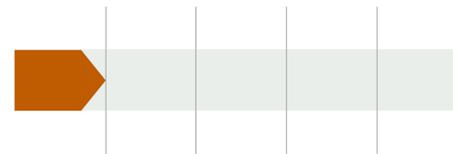
Number of document downloads.  
At least five case studies detailing how the guidance was used.

#### Responsible and supporting bodies

WRAP  
LARAC  
NAWDO  
CIWM  
ADBA  
REA  
ESA

#### Timescale

Short term <1 year



<sup>19</sup> <http://www.wrap.org.uk/content/collection-and-recycling-food-waste-0>



## Theme 2

# Optimising food waste collections

Food waste collectors to know how to design and deliver services that are efficient and maximise the amount of food waste collected for recycling.

### Action 2b

#### Action 2b

Food waste collectors to use the evidence from recent WRAP research<sup>20</sup> and, where there is a positive business case, provide caddy liners as well as well-designed communication materials in the service they offer.

#### Impact

Providing householders and commercial food waste producers with the tools and materials they need to recycle, results in an increase in the amount of food waste captured for recycling.

#### Performance indicator(s)

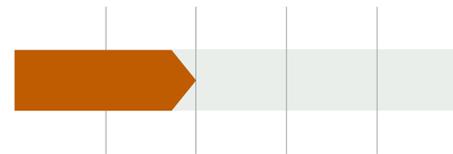
Number of document downloads.  
Survey of food waste collectors to identify the provision of caddy liners and communication materials.

#### Responsible and supporting bodies

WRAP  
LARAC  
ESA  
REA  
ADBA

#### Timescale

Medium term 1-2 years



<sup>20</sup> <http://www.wrap.org.uk/content/food-waste-collections-guide-section-11-increasing-food-waste-capture-existing-separate-week>



## Theme 2

# Optimising food waste collections

Food waste collectors to know how to design and deliver services that are efficient and maximise the amount of food waste collected for recycling.

### Action 2c

#### Action 2c

Work with prominent house builders and suppliers of fitted kitchens to develop design solutions that incorporate and complement food waste collection from new houses, flats and replacement kitchens.

#### Impact

The incorporation of food waste recycling in new-build homes and flats is considered at the outset helping it to become a standard practice.

#### Performance indicator(s)

Commitment from at least five major house builders/suppliers of fitted kitchens to incorporate food waste recycling in future designs.

#### Responsible and supporting bodies

WRAP  
CIWM  
ESA

#### Timescale

Long term 3–5 years



Click on Action to reveal detail

## Theme 3

# Communicating with householders and commercial food waste producers

Well designed and easy to understand food waste communication materials are essential for clearly explaining how to recycle food waste, and why.

### Action 3a

#### Action 3a

Local authorities, waste management companies and food waste processors to use WRAP's resource bank of communications materials which support, increase and sustain food waste collections from households and businesses.<sup>21</sup>

#### Impact

Food waste collectors and processors use good quality, consumer tested communication materials to promote participation in their food waste recycling services. Householders become better informed and motivated resulting in increased participation and capture.

#### Performance indicator(s)

At least 50 food waste collectors and processors actively using the resource bank.

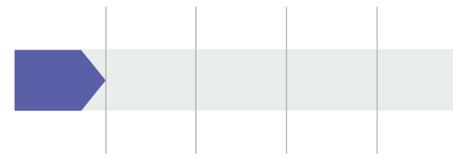
Increase in residents' awareness of, and participation in, food waste recycling collections.

#### Responsible and supporting bodies

<b>WRAP</b>	ESA
LARAC	CIWM
WNC	ADBA
NAWDO	REA

#### Timescale

Short term <1 year



<sup>21</sup> <https://partners.wrap.org.uk/collections/77/>



## Theme 3

# Communicating with householders and commercial food waste producers

Well designed and easy to understand food waste communication materials are essential for clearly explaining how to recycle food waste, and why.

### Action 3b

#### Action 3b

Commercial food waste collectors to use and promote available resources and information<sup>22</sup> to help commercial food waste producers understand the business benefits of recycling unavoidable food waste and their duty of care obligations.

#### Impact

Commercial food waste producers are better informed about their duty of care obligations and the benefit of improved food waste management leading to more commercial food waste collected for recycling.

#### Performance indicator(s)

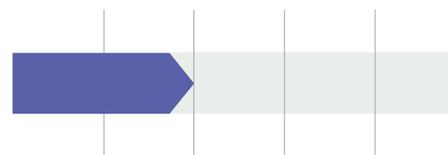
Use of resources by commercial food waste collectors. Feedback received from commercial food waste producers.

#### Responsible and supporting bodies

ESA  
CIWM  
WRAP  
LARAC  
WNC

#### Timescale

Medium term 1-2 years



<sup>22</sup> <http://www.wrap.org.uk/content/sme-food-waste/recycling-guidance>



Click on Action to reveal detail

## Theme 4

# Ensuring quality as well as quantity

Contaminated food waste can significantly compromise the processing of food waste. It can also reduce the value of the compost and digestate outputs, as well as the available markets for them.

### Action 4a

#### Action 4a

Provide food waste processors with practical industry guidance on contamination and accepting and treating polyethylene (PE) and compostable liners as part of household food waste collections.

#### Impact

Provision of appropriate guidance will help ensure that the use of caddy liners (both PE and compostable) does not limit the ability of food waste processors to access existing end markets (e.g. agriculture) whilst exploring access to new ones.

#### Performance indicator(s)

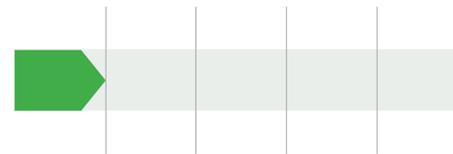
Number of document downloads.  
At least ten food waste processors accepting PE liners who have reviewed the guidance and taken action as per recommendations in the guidance.

#### Responsible and supporting bodies

**ADBA**  
REA  
AADO  
WRAP

#### Timescale

Short term <1 year



## Theme 4

# Ensuring quality as well as quantity

Contaminated food waste can significantly compromise the processing of food waste. It can also reduce the value of the compost and digestate outputs, as well as the available markets for them.

### Action 4b

#### Action 4b

Provide food waste collectors with straightforward guidance on the importance of collecting good quality food waste which is free from contamination.

#### Impact

Food waste collectors will be empowered to provide their customers (either households or commercial food waste producers) with information about what can and can't be recycled leading to improved quality of feedstock.

#### Performance indicator(s)

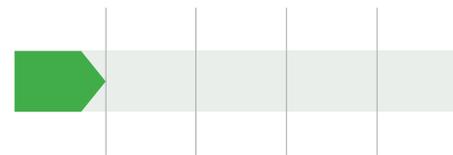
At least 15 food waste collectors presented with the guidance and taken action as per recommendations in the guidance.

#### Responsible and supporting bodies

Steering group for the Compost and Digestate Quality Action Plan

#### Timescale

Short term <1 year



## Theme 4

# Ensuring quality as well as quantity

Contaminated food waste can significantly compromise the processing of food waste. It can also reduce the value of the compost and digestate outputs, as well as the available markets for them.



### Action 4c

#### Action 4c

Collate and publish case studies of AD and IVC food waste processors who have invested in effective management of food waste contamination to achieve sustained quality outputs.

#### Impact

Providing food waste processors with access to a library of case studies will help promote good practice and reduce the likelihood of past mistakes being repeated.

#### Performance indicator(s)

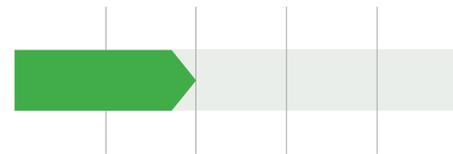
At least eight case studies published.  
Number of document downloads.

#### Responsible and supporting bodies

Steering group for the Compost and Digestate Quality Action Plan

#### Timescale

Medium term 1-2 years



Click on Action to reveal detail

## Theme 5

# Making contracts work

Using contractual mechanisms can incentivise food waste collectors to maximise the amount of food waste they collect for recycling.

Having access to good quality data can help stakeholders throughout the food waste recycling industry make informed decisions about the options available to them.

### Action 5a

#### Action 5a

Produce a suite of contract templates and supporting information for use by food waste collectors and processors that include clauses that incentivise food waste collectors to maximise the amount of food waste collected.

#### Impact

Contracts between food waste collectors and processors include clauses that encourage the collection and recycling of more food waste.

#### Performance indicator(s)

Completion of suite of contract templates.

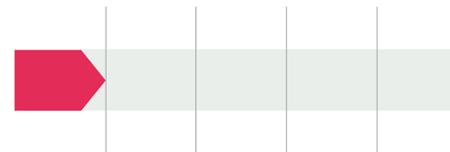
#### Responsible and supporting bodies

##### CIWM

ESA  
WRAP  
ADBA  
REA  
NAWDO  
LARAC

#### Timescale

Short term <1 year



## Theme 5

# Making contracts work

Using contractual mechanisms can incentivise food waste collectors to maximise the amount of food waste they collect for recycling.

Having access to good quality data can help stakeholders throughout the food waste recycling industry make informed decisions about the options available to them.



### Action 5b

#### Action 5b

Highlight and promote best practice in the use of contract mechanisms which help to increase food waste recycling to local authorities, waste management companies and food waste processors.

#### Responsible and supporting bodies

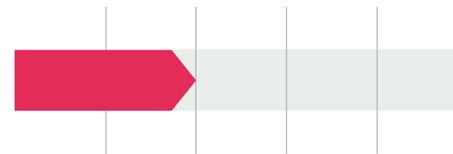
WRAP  
CIWM  
LARAC  
NAWDO  
ADBA

#### Impact

More food waste collectors and processors utilise best practice contract mechanisms resulting in more food waste being recycled.

#### Timescale

Medium term 1-2 years



#### Performance indicator(s)

Number of document downloads/web hits and downloads.  
At least ten food waste recyclers or local authorities using the Action Plan inspired contract mechanisms which have helped to increase the amount of food waste recycled.



Click on Action to reveal detail

## Theme 5

# Making contracts work

Using contractual mechanisms can incentivise food waste collectors to maximise the amount of food waste they collect for recycling.

Having access to good quality data can help stakeholders throughout the food waste recycling industry make informed decisions about the options available to them.



### Action 5c

#### Action 5c

Mechanisms currently used to collate and report gate fee data to be reviewed and options for change presented to industry for consideration.

#### Responsible and supporting bodies

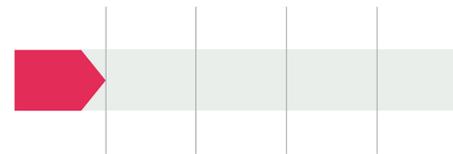
WRAP  
LARAC  
WNC  
NAWDO  
ADBA  
REA  
ESA

#### Impact

Indicative gate fee information that accurately reflects the current food waste processing market can assist food waste recyclers to make better informed decisions regarding waste collection options and contractual arrangements.

#### Timescale

Short term <1 year



#### Performance indicator(s)

Review of current gate fee reporting completed and future options agreed and implemented.



Click on Action to reveal detail

# Review of progress

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The delivery of the actions rests with the respective responsible and supporting bodies listed. Progress of the delivery of each action will be monitored by the steering group.

Responsible and supporting bodies will be required to submit regular written progress reports detailing:

- progress made;
- notable achievements;
- case studies; and if necessary
- barriers to completion.

The steering group will review the progress reports every six months. The findings of these reviews will be published annually to enable stakeholders in the food waste recycling industry, and beyond, to assess the effectiveness of the Action Plan against its stated objectives.

## Appendix A

# Developing the Action Plan

The development of the Food Waste Recycling Action Plan was overseen by a steering group comprising representatives from organisations involved in, or with an interest in, the food waste recycling industry in England (see Appendix C for a list of the members of the steering group). Coordination of the steering group and secretariat services were provided by WRAP.

Having first identified the major barriers currently limiting the expansion and development of food waste recycling in England (see Appendix B), the steering group proposed a list of over 50 possible actions to address these barriers. This initial 'long-list' of actions was then assessed against the following criteria in order to identify the priority actions:

- **Impact:** What is the impact of the proposed action in terms of increased food waste recycled?
- **Likelihood:** How likely is it that the proposed action will happen?
- **Ease of implementation:** How easy will it be to implement the proposed action?

This process, and subsequent consultation with stakeholders, produced the 'short-list' of actions for inclusion in the Action Plan as listed in the 5 Point Plan.

## Appendix B

# Barriers to food waste recycling

The following barriers were identified by the steering group as currently limiting the expansion and development of food waste recycling in England:

Theme	Barrier
<b>Household food waste collections</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Inconsistent provision of household residual and food waste collections across England;</li><li>• Differing collection methodologies employed across local authorities;</li><li>• Cost of providing food waste collections;</li><li>• Negative perception of food waste recycling by some householders;</li><li>• Budget pressures leading to reduced householder communications;</li><li>• Frequency of the provision of householder communications varies widely; and</li><li>• Quality of food waste recycling information provided to householders varies widely.</li></ul>

Theme	Barrier
<b>Commercial food waste collections</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Cost to the customer of separate food waste collections;</li><li>• Lack of space in commercial premises to segregate food waste for separate collection;</li><li>• Lack of understanding of food waste recycling;</li><li>• Poor yields of food waste collected from commercial premises;</li><li>• Difficulty in obtaining management buy-in from customers; and</li><li>• Contamination and customer apathy.</li></ul>

## Appendix B

# Barriers to food waste recycling

Theme	Barrier
Contractual issues	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Contractual arrangements (for both the collection and disposal of household wastes) often restrict the ability to separately collect food waste;</li> <li>• Lack of contractual incentives to maximise collection of food waste;</li> <li>• Lack of understanding of the current gate fee market for food waste treatment; and</li> <li>• Within 'two-tier' local authority areas, the cost of food waste collection will be principally borne by the Waste Collection Authority whilst the savings in disposal costs will be made by the Waste Disposal Authority.</li> </ul>

Theme	Barrier
Food waste processing issues	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Lack of control or focus on input quality up the supply chain;</li> <li>• Variety of caddy liners used with differing requirements for de-packaging;</li> <li>• Limited markets for digestate;</li> <li>• Unsustainably low gate fees;</li> <li>• Negative local perception of food waste processing (odour, noise etc.); and</li> <li>• Investor confidence.</li> </ul>
Food waste quality issues	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Householder behaviour resulting in contamination of food waste collected for recycling;</li> <li>• Economic constraints that limit the collection infrastructure provided to food waste producers; and</li> <li>• Lack of understanding of the benefits of improving quality.</li> </ul>

## Appendix C

# Membership of the steering group

### Organisation

Agrivert

Anaerobic Digestion and Biogas Association (ADBA)

Andigestion

Association of Anaerobic Digestion Operators (AADO)

Biogen

Chartered Institute of Wastes Management (CIWM)

Environmental Services Association (ESA)

Local Authority Recycling Advisory Committee (LARAC)

National Association of Waste Disposal Officers (NAWDO)

Newcastle-under-Lyme Borough Council

### Organisation

ReFood

Ray Georgeson Resources (RGR)

Renewable Energy Association/Organics Recycling Association (REA/ORG)

Somerset Waste Partnership (SWP)

South Cambridgeshire District Council & Cambridge City Council

The Kent Resource Partnership

Tamar Energy Limited

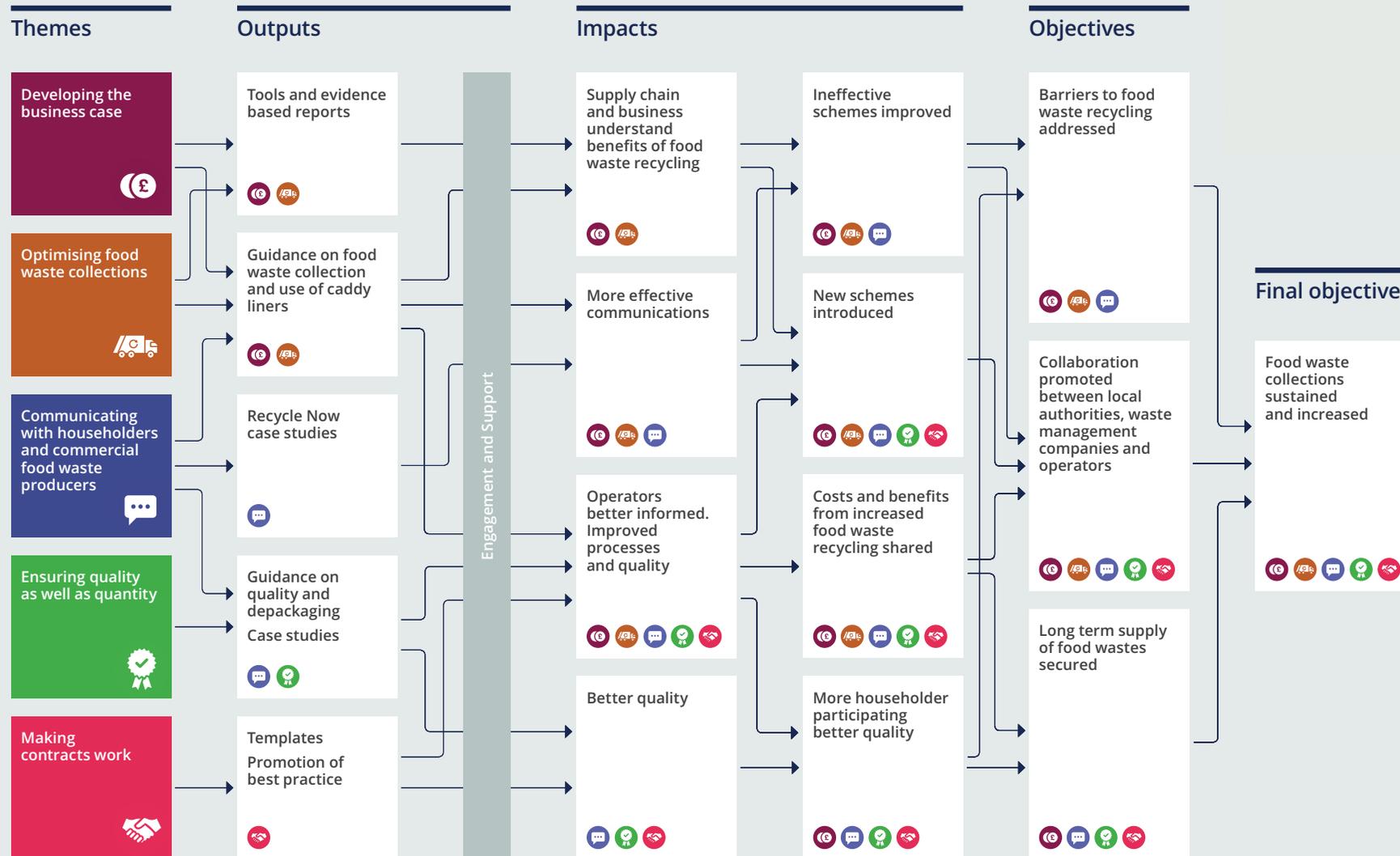
Viridor

Waste Network Coordinators (WNC)

WRAP

## Appendix D

# The 5 Point Plan 'at a glance' (static version)





# A Food Waste Recycling Action Plan for England

Working together to improve the capture, supply and  
quality of household and commercial food waste