

Overview of national waste prevention programmes in Europe



UK — England

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Waste prevention programme

This **regional fact sheet** was produced in the context of reviewing national and regional waste prevention programmes across Europe. The [Waste Framework Directive](#) (Directive 2008/98/EC), Article 29, requires that Member States adopt their **waste prevention programmes** by 12 December 2013. Article 30(2) of the Directive invites the European Environment Agency (EEA) to carry out an annual review of progress in the completion and implementation of the programmes. Within the waste hierarchy, the overarching principle behind EU and national waste policies, waste prevention is considered the most desirable option.

UNITED KINGDOM, ENGLAND FACT SHEET



Source: Eurostat

GDP

EUR 2 254 billion (16.2 % of EU-28 total in 2014)

Per person GDP

EUR 29 900 (in purchasing power standard)
(109 % of EU-28 average per person in 2014)

Use of materials

563 million tonnes DMC (8.5 % of EU-28 total in 2014)
8.7 tonnes DMC/person (67 % of EU-28 average per person in 2014)
Resource productivity 3.49 EUR/kg (176 % of EU-28 average in 2014)

Structure of the economy

Agriculture: 0.6 %
Industry: 20.6 %
Services: 78.8 % (2014 est.)

Surface area

248 500 square kilometres (5.6 % of EU-28 total)

Population

64.6 million (12.7 % of EU-28 total)

Waste prevention programme

1.	Coverage	Regional
2.	Type of programme	Separate programme
3.	Title of programme and link to programme	Prevention is better than cure – The role of waste prevention in moving to a more resource efficient economy: https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/waste-prevention-programme-for-england
4.	Duration of programme	No final duration foreseen. The evaluation process is being conducted in accordance with Article 30(1) of the Waste Framework Directive.
5.	Languages	English
6.	Contact person	Caroline Tuck (caroline.tuck@defra.gsi.gov.uk) or contact wasteprevention@defra.gsi.gov.uk Department for Environment, Food & Rural Affairs (Defra)
7.	Waste prevention objectives of the programme	<p>The objectives (p. 13) of the programme are to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> encourage businesses to contribute to a more sustainable economy by building waste reduction into design, offering alternative business models and delivering new and improved products and services; encourage a culture of valuing resources by making it easier for people and businesses to find out how to reduce their waste, use products for longer, repair broken items and enable the reuse of items by others; help businesses recognise and act upon potential savings through better resource efficiency and preventing waste in order to realise opportunities for growth; support action by central and local government, businesses and civil society to capitalise on these opportunities. <p>The aim of the programme is to improve the environment and protect human health by supporting a resource-efficient economy, reducing the quantity and impact of waste produced while promoting sustainable economic growth (p. 13).</p>
8.	The means used to break the link between economic growth and the environmental impacts associated with the generation of waste	<p>Are the measures/means specifically mentioned in the waste prevention programme?</p> <p>Yes. All measures listed in the programme are suggested in order to achieve the aim of decoupling the environmental impacts of waste arisings from economic growth.</p>
9.	Sectors covered	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Construction and infrastructure; manufacturing; sale, retail, transport; households; private service activities, hospitality; government and public services.

10. Prevention of waste types	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Food/organic; • textiles; • electrical and electronic equipment /batteries; • plastics; • built environment including construction and demolition and facilities management; • paper and board; • chemical and healthcare; • packaging; • household/municipal; • manufacturing; • bulky material e.g.furniture; • hazardous; • other.
11. Quantitative targets	<p>The waste prevention programme for England does not have any quantitative targets, but some initiatives within the programme do have their own targets aimed specifically at different materials/sectors, such as the Courtauld Agreement, which aims to reduce household food and drink waste, reduce grocery ingredient, product and packaging waste in the supply chain, and improve packaging design.</p> <p>For example,</p> <p>the Courtauld Commitment targets were:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Special target for food waste: reduce food waste by 5 % by 2015 from a 2012 baseline (p. 22). • Special target for paper and board waste: reduce traditional grocery ingredient, product and packaging waste in the grocery supply chain by 3 % by 2015 from a 2012 baseline (p. 23). <p>the Greening Government Commitments include the following target:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • by 2015, reduce the amount of waste generated by 25 % from a 2009/10 baseline (p. 18).
12. Measures on quantitative prevention	<p>The programme describes a variety of new and existing measures for government, businesses, the public sector, civil society and consumers that aim to quantitatively reduce waste, outlined below.</p> <p>Measures for government:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • mandate a GBP 0.05 charge on single-use plastic bags (p. 17); • clarify how the definition of waste can be applied to reuse and repair activities (p. 17); • explore, with industry, how ‘individual producer responsibility’ can be implemented (p. 17); • introduce a government-wide ‘swap’ shop (p. 18); • development of the Sustainable Electricals Action Plan (subsequently renamed the Electrical and Electronic Equipment Sustainability Action Plan or esap) (p. 18); • support the Greening Government Commitments (p. 18); • increase confidence in reused goods through the introduction of a reuse quality standard or similar mechanism (p. 18); • support the Courtauld Commitment (p. 19); • support the voluntary Hospitality and Food Service Agreement (p. 19);

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- support the sustainable clothing action plan (p. 19);
 - facilitate partnership working across the supply chain to encourage greater reuse and repair (p. 19);
 - support the Circular Economy Task Force (p. 19);
 - deliver a 2-year waste prevention community partnership fund (p. 19);
 - support the National Health Service and schools in preventing waste (p. 19);
 - support innovation in design through research and development funds allocated by the Technology Strategy Board (now known as Innovate UK) (p. 19/20);
 - continue the waste prevention loan fund (p. 20);
 - improve the information available to banks to promote the benefits to business of waste prevention (p. 20);
 - improve access to financial resources for businesses (p. 20);
 - develop a postcode locator for householders to use to find reuse and repair services (p. 21);
 - support training of local authority officers on advising businesses about resource efficiency (p. 21);
 - develop a suite of metrics for businesses, local authorities and civil society to monitor progress on waste prevention (p. 21);
 - support action-based research pilot studies testing resource-efficient products and business models (p. 21);
 - establish a baseline for commercial and industrial waste arisings to monitor waste prevention progress (p. 22);
 - support roll-out of the electronic duty of care system to enable easy capture of data on business waste (p. 22);
 - conduct research into the opportunities and challenges of the repair sector (p. 22);
 - support the Product Sustainability Forum (p. 22).

Measures for business:

- design products and processes sustainably;
- consider resource-efficient business models;
- increase consumer confidence in the quality of products;
- measure and report on the progress in resource efficiency;
- demonstrate clear leadership in preventing waste by making waste prevention part of everyday business to staff and customers;
- encourage partnership working across the supply chain to prevent waste;
- work in partnership with others (i.e. local authorities and civil society).

Measures for the public sector:

- become a local leader in preventing waste;
- develop local waste prevention plans;
- measure progress towards preventing waste;
- work with businesses and civil society;
- explore new ways of working to get waste prevention messages out to a wider audience.

	Measures for civil society:
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • be a pioneer by trialling innovative services; • learn from good practice to make services more sustainable (financially); • work in partnership with others to deliver services; • develop services based on customer need.
13.	<p>Measures on qualitative prevention</p> <p>Work to reduce how hazardous waste is included as part of the initiatives outlined above; for example, actions that support changes to the design of products are likely to have an impact on the quantity and type of hazardous resources used within products. Specific initiatives that will have an impact on this are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • the Electrical and Electronic Equipment Sustainability Action Plan or esap, which aims to catalyse sector action in several areas related to EEE, such as guidance on product design, developing buying specifications aimed at reducing failure rates, optimising product life, and exploring options e.g. for business models which keep products in circulation for longer, enable repair etc.; • support the National Health Service to improve the knowledge and understanding of chemical and healthcare waste, with the aim of identifying opportunities to reduce the quantity and hazardous content of waste from this sector.
14.	<p>Prevention measures covered as referred to in Directive 2008/98, Annex IV: Examples of waste prevention measures referred to in Article 29 (1–16)</p> <p>Measures identified in the waste prevention programme are listed below, by measure:</p> <p>1. Planning measures/economic instruments:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • continue to implement the EU Ecodesign Directives and the EU Ecolabel scheme (p. 20); • development of an industrial strategy that sets out the long-term approach to supporting business, giving confidence in growth and investment (p. 17); • development of local waste prevention plans by the public sector (p. 33); • work with industry to explore how ‘individual producer responsibility’ can be implemented (p. 17). <p>2. Research and development:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • support the business-led Circular Economy Task Force, which looks at ways in which to capture materials for remanufacturing and reuse; • promote work by the Technology Strategy Board (now known as Innovate UK) and Knowledge Transfer Networks to support action on resource efficiency, products and innovation (p. 21); • invest GBP 900 000 in action-based research pilot studies that test innovations in resource-efficient products and business models, as well as supply chain innovations (p. 21); • undertake research to fully understand opportunities and challenges of waste prevention activities (p. 22); • continuing to support the Product Sustainability Forum, which identifies the highest priority products to address to reduce environmental impacts associated with grocery consumption (p. 22). <p>3. Indicators:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • development of a suite of metrics to help monitor progress on waste prevention, enabling consistent measurement of, for example, financial, environmental and social impacts, and levels of engagement (p. 6/21); • undertake work to establish a more robust baseline of waste arisings (p. 22); • development of the electronic duty of care system to obtain a more comprehensive picture of business waste (p. 22).

4. Promoting eco-design:

- support the Technology Strategy Board (now known as Innovate UK) in innovation in design (p. 19);
- continuing to implement the EU Ecodesign Directives and the EU Ecolabel scheme (p. 20);
- support the ‘Great Recovery’ project, which supports a shift towards design that is mindful of the whole system or life cycle of products, including investments in ‘new design and business partnerships that re-think products, components and systems that ”close the loop” ’ (p. 27);
- development of the Electrical and Electronic Equipment Sustainability Action Plan (p. 18).

5. Information on best available techniques, by industry:

- bring together investors and developers at networking events to share knowledge and expertise in business planning to enable projects to be more ‘investment ready’ (p. 20);
- support the Product Sustainability Forum, which identifies the highest priority products to address to reduce environmental impacts associated with grocery consumption (p. 22).

6. Training of competent authorities:

- support training of local authorities to offer advice to local businesses and civil society groups to reduce waste (p. 21).

7. Preventing waste production at installations:

- develop local waste prevention plans (p. 33);
- provide clarification on the application of the definition of waste to help businesses realise reuse and repair opportunities (p. 17).

8. Awareness-raising campaigns or providing support to businesses:

- deliver a 2-year community partnership fund, the Innovation in Waste Prevention Fund, to take forward innovative waste prevention actions (p. 19);
- improve the information available to banks to enable them to promote the business benefits of investment in resource efficiency (p. 20);
- set up a business bank for small and medium-sized businesses, which will support access to finance for businesses (p. 20);
- continue the waste prevention loan fund, which supports action on prevention and reuse (p. 20);
- support the Green Investment Bank, which invests in commercial and environmental UK projects (p. 20);
- support training of local authority officers to advise businesses on waste prevention (p. 21);
- work with businesses and social enterprises in asset management, repair and reuse sectors to increase capacity, quality of outputs and commercial sustainability (p. 21);
- develop a framework of actions that realise the full benefits of corporate responsibility for businesses (p. 21).

9. Availability of different toolkits for the business sector:

- Business Resource Efficiency Toolkit (helps identify ways for businesses to become more resource efficient and profitable) (p. 29);
- Facilities Management Procurement tool (provides information on how to ask for waste prevention measures when procuring services) (p. 29);

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- ReThink Waste online tool (helps manufacturers reduce waste, improve resource efficiency and save money) (p. 29);
 - Designing Out Waste Tool (helps improve materials' resource efficiency in construction projects) (pg. 29).
10. Use of voluntary agreements:
- continue driving waste reduction within central government via the Greening Government Commitments (p. 18);
 - support the voluntary Hospitality and Food Service Agreement (p. 18);
 - support the Courtauld Commitment (p. 19);
 - support of the Sustainable Clothing Action Plan (p. 19);
 - development of the Electrical and Electronic Equipment Sustainability Action Plan (p. 18).
11. Promoting environmental management systems:
- continue driving waste reduction within central government via the Greening Government Commitments (p. 18);
 - develop a framework of actions that realise the full benefits of corporate responsibility for businesses (pg. 21);
 - encourage the public sector to become local leaders (action L1), which includes achieving standards such as ISO 14001 to demonstrate commitment to reducing material use and coherence of waste prevention policies across organisations (p. 33).
12. Economic instruments:
- landfill tax to push waste up the hierarchy (p. 12);
 - mandate a five pence charge on single-use plastic carrier bags (p. 17).
13. Awareness-raising campaigns and information provided to consumers:
- consumer waste prevention campaigns alongside the voluntary agreements e.g. Love Food Hate Waste (p. 22);
 - promote resource efficiency and waste prevention in schools and higher education (p. 19);
 - development of a postcode locator to enable householders to find their nearest reuse and repair services (p. 21);
 - provide guidance and communication materials that local authorities and others can use to promote action in their local areas (p. 21).
14. Eco-labels:
- work in partnership with industry to increase consumer confidence in the quality of second-hand goods and on the development of a standard or similar mechanism for the reuse sector (p. 18);
 - continue to implement the EU Ecolabel Scheme, which will bring waste prevention requirements into product standards (p. 20).
15. Agreements with industry:
- support the voluntary Hospitality and Food Service Agreement (p. 18);
 - support the Courtauld Commitment (p. 19);
 - support the Sustainable Clothing Action Plan (p. 19);
 - development of the Electrical and Electronic Equipment Sustainability Action Plan (p. 18).
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16. Procurement:

- include waste prevention and reuse criteria into the Government Buying Standards (pp. 6 and 17);
- encourage authorities to engage in pre-procurement market engagement with a diverse range of suppliers and use outcome-based tender requirements that support low-waste solutions (p. 18);
- implement the Public Services Act (2012), which requires commissioners of public services to consider how services benefit local people (p. 17);
- work with the British Standards Institute to encourage inclusion of waste prevention requirements and principles in standards development (p. 21).

17. Promoting reuse and repair activities:

- deliver a 2-year community partnership fund, the Innovation in Waste Prevention Fund, to take forward innovative waste prevention actions (p. 19);
- research pilot studies on trials of take-back schemes for resale and of leasing/hiring schemes (p. 21);
- develop a standard or similar mechanism for reuse (pp. 6, 18 and 23);
- pilot a government-wide 'swap shop' (p. 18);
- work with local authority collection facilities to increase opportunities for EEE reuse (p. 17);
- undertake further research into the opportunities and challenges in the repair sector (p. 22).

15. Other prevention measures not covered by Annex IV No.

16. Indicators proposed

Does the programme define indicators for waste prevention?

Yes. The following indicators are considered (p. 14):

For household wastes

- waste arisings (Mt) per unit household economic activity.

For commercial and industrial, and construction and demolition waste

- waste arisings (Mt) per unit gross value added (GVA) in constant price (volume) terms.

Is there monitoring of indicators?

Yes. Monitoring of individual actions, voluntary agreements and key indicators (including total amount of waste produced by sectors, amount of waste produced by sectors per unit of GVA, carbon impact of waste) to judge the success of the programme as a whole is envisaged in the programme.

By the end of 2014, a suite of metrics to help monitor progress on waste prevention, enabling consistent measurement of, for example, financial, environmental and social impacts, and levels of engagement, shall be developed (p. 14).

17. Evaluation and monitoring of the programme

Is the programme evaluated (midterm, etc.)?

No information.

In order to assess progress against the aim of this programme, changes in overall waste arisings will be measured, the environmental impacts of this waste will be assessed and how these factors relate to changes in the resource efficiency of the economy will be considered. The amount of waste produced per unit of economic activity will also be measured.

The suite of metrics (p. 14) will be used to monitor progress on waste prevention.

18. Target groups	The English waste prevention programme requires action from everyone in the supply chain, from those extracting raw materials to the designers, manufacturers, distributors, retailers and consumers, as well as those managing the collection and processing of waste. It recognises that everyone has a role to play in preventing waste (p. 12).
19. Involvement of stakeholders	<p>Does the waste prevention programme describe the involvement of stakeholders in the development of the programme?</p> <p>No. The programme does not explicitly refer to how stakeholders were involved in the development of the programme; however, separate stakeholder events and consultations were undertaken.</p> <p>Does the waste prevention programme describe the involvement of stakeholders in the implementation of the programme?</p> <p>Yes. The programme describes the different roles and actions to be taken by the government, businesses, the wider public sector, and civil society and consumers, demonstrating where the government will support others in taking action (see the different sections of the programme).</p>
20. Other comments	<p>Are the costs/savings of waste prevention measures stated in the programme?</p> <p>Yes. The programme sets out a framework of support investments in waste prevention initiatives/measures, for example:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • investment of up to GBP 5 million in collaborative research and development on design innovation; • GBP 900 000 for programme of action-based research pilot studies and trials of take-back schemes and leasing/hiring schemes; • GBP 800 000 for a 2-year scheme to support communities to take forward innovative waste prevention, reuse and repair actions in their local areas, working in partnership with local businesses, authorities and civil society groups. • continued support of the GBP 1.5 million Waste Prevention Loan Fund. <p>A key point of the programme is that it recognises that everyone has a role to play in preventing waste, and believes a more sustainable and circular economy can be delivered with limited government intervention as industry responds to the clear business case for action on waste prevention.</p> <p>Stakeholders were involved in the development of the programme through a combination of formal consultations and a variety of meetings and events. Please see the following documents:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Call for Evidence on Waste Prevention from Stakeholders https://www.gov.uk/government/consultations/call-for-evidence-waste-prevention-programme-for-england • Consultation on the Waste Prevention Programme https://www.gov.uk/government/consultations/waste-prevention-programme-for-england • existing waste prevention measures that are already in place are identified in Evaluation of existing measures covered in Annex IV. https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/264902/pb14092-wpp-measures-evaluation-20131211.pdf