

New plans unveiled to boost recycling

Every home in England will receive easier and more consistent recycling collections, under new plans to boost recycling and protect the environment, helping the country reach our target of eliminating all avoidable waste by 2050.

Under proposals unveiled by ministers today (Friday 7 May), every household will receive separate, weekly food waste collections from 2023, which will stop the build-up of smelly waste that attracts flies and pests.

Plans being considered include the introduction of statutory guidance on new minimum service standards for rubbish and recycling collections, subject to an assessment of affordability and value for money. This could recommend a minimum service standard of residual waste at least once a fortnight alongside the weekly collection of organic waste. Councils would continue to be supported to collect more frequently than the minimum standard, which is especially important in urban areas, with less space to place bins and homes that have small or no gardens.

Ministers are also considering free garden waste collections for every home, which could save householders over £100 million a year in green waste charges. Currently, councils have discretion on whether to provide the service, which is usually charged for on top of council tax.

Environment Secretary George Eustice said:

Householders want more frequent recycling collections. Regular food and garden waste collections will ensure that they can get rid of their rubbish faster, at no additional cost to them.

Our proposals will boost recycling rates, and ensure that less rubbish is condemned to landfill.

In [the consultation, published today](#), the Government will also set out plans to make recycling easier with a clear list of materials that all local authorities and waste firms must collect from homes and businesses, specifically plastic, paper and card, glass, metal and food waste, as well as garden waste for households. This means we will end the confusion for millions of homes and businesses having different collections in different areas, helping households recycle more and send less waste to landfill.

Additional funding and support will be provided to councils for their recycling collections, partly through our reform of the packaging sector which will see firms covering the full net cost of managing their packaging waste. This means council taxpayers will not have to foot the bill, and in turn will be able to reduce the amount of unnecessary packaging that is thrown away.

These proposals also build on steps that the Government has taken to support families' bin collections. Since 2010, ministers have scrapped previous plans for new bin taxes on family homes; stopped unfair bin fines for petty or minor breaches of complex bin rules; supported rewards for recycling; and banned charges for responsibly disposing of household rubbish at local dumps.

Our measures will help ensure that the Government meets its ambition laid out in the Resources and Waste Strategy of recycling at least 65% of municipal waste by 2035, with a maximum of 10% being landfilled. Ministers are also committed to eliminating all avoidable waste by 2050.

The proposals for consistent collections are part of the Government's wider programme of major waste reforms which will boost recycling, step-up our war on plastic pollution and tackle litter. In March, a [second round of consultations](#) were also launched for Extended Producer Responsibility for packaging, which will see packaging firms covering the full net cost of managing their packaging waste, and a Deposit Return Scheme for drinks containers, where consumers will be incentivised to return and recycle their bottles and cans.

[38th Universal Periodic Review of human rights: UK statement on Palau](#)

World news story

The UK delivered the statement on Palau at the 38th Session of Universal Periodic Review (UPR), sharing recommendations to improve their human rights record.



The Universal Periodic Review takes place in Geneva.

The United Kingdom recognises Palau's progress on human rights issues since its 2016 review, including in the field of domestic violence with the

criminalisation of marital rape. Furthermore, we pay tribute to Palau's continued democratic values which are demonstrated through an independent media and judiciary and the continued fight against corruption.

We encourage Palau to continue its engagement with the UK and other members of the international community in order to advance democracy and human rights internally.

We recommend that Palau:

1. Develop and implement a National Action Plan on modern slavery with clear performance indicators and allocation of responsibilities.
2. Ratify and implement the 2014 ILO Protocol to the Forced Labour Convention, 1930.
3. Ratify the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (ICCPR) and the Second Optional Protocol aiming at the abolition of the death penalty.

Thank you.

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Reappointment of 3 Commissioners to the Judicial Appointments Commission

News story

Her Majesty the Queen, on the advice of the Lord Chancellor, has approved the reappointment of 3 Commissioners to the Judicial Appointments Commission.



The following have been reappointed as Commissioners of the Judicial Appointments Commission (JAC) for a term of 3 years.

Those reappointed are:

- Brie Stevens-Hoare (professional barrister Commissioner)
- Sarah Lee, (professional solicitor Commissioner)
- Her Honour Judge Anuja Dhir QC (circuit judge Commissioner)

Brie Stevens-Hoare and Sarah Lee commenced their new terms on 9 April 2021. HHJ Anuja Dhir QC will commence her new term on 9 June 2021.

JAC is an independent body that selects candidates for judicial office in courts and tribunals in England and Wales, and for some tribunals with UK-wide jurisdiction. Candidates are selected on merit, through fair and open competition.

JAC Commissioners are appointed, under Schedule 12(1) of the Constitutional Reform Act 2005, by Her Majesty the Queen on the recommendation of the Lord Chancellor. Commissioner appointments comply with the provisions of the Judicial Appointment Commission Regulations 2013.

Biographies

Brie Stevens-Hoare

Brie has been a barrister since 1986, Brie was appointed Queen's Counsel in 2013 and a Bencher of Lincoln's Inn in 2018. She is the current Chair of the Property Bar Association and the Bar Council Leadership Programme Working Party. Brie sits as a fee-paid judge of the First-tier Tribunal, Property Chamber (Land Registration).

Sarah Lee

Sarah qualified as a solicitor in 1990 and has spent the majority of her career at Slaughter and May where she was Head of the Disputes and Investigations Group until 2020. Sarah is an accredited Centre for Effective Dispute Accreditation mediator and a Governor of the Cripplegate Foundation. In January 2021, she became a non executive director of the Financial Ombudsman Service.

HHJ Anuja Dhir QC

Anuja was called to the Bar in 1989, Anuja was appointed Queen's Counsel in 2010 and a Circuit Judge in 2012. Anuja is currently a judge of the Central Criminal Court and is authorised to sit in the Court of Appeal, Criminal Division. Anuja is currently: a tutor judge for the Judicial College; a governor of the Haberdasher Borough Academy School; a trustee for the mental health charity – A Place 2B; and a trustee of the Mansion House scholarship Fund.

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Reappointment of the Chairman of the Criminal Cases Review Commission

News story

Her Majesty the Queen, on the recommendation of the Prime Minister, has approved the reappointment of the Chairman of the Criminal Cases Review Commission.



Helen Pitcher OBE has been reappointed as Chairman of the Criminal Cases Review Commission (CCRC) for a term of 5 years from 1 November 2021.

CCRC is an independent body, set up by the Criminal Appeal Act 1995, to investigate possible miscarriages of justice in England, Wales and Northern Ireland.

CCRC decides if there is any new evidence or new argument which raises a real possibility that an appeal court would quash a conviction or reduce a sentence.

Appointments to the CCRC are regulated by the Commissioner for Public Appointments and comply with the Governance Code on Public Appointments.

Biography

Helen is Chairman of Advanced Boardroom Excellence; a Non-Executive Director at United Biscuits UK; C & C Group Plc and Chairman of their Remuneration Committee and a member of the Nomination and Environment, Social and Governance Committees.

Helen is also a Senior Independent Director at OneHealth Group Ltd and Chairman of the Remuneration and Nominations Committees; President of INSEAD Directors Network Board and a Chairman of INSEAD Directors Club Limited. Helen is the President of KidsOut (a National Children's Charity) and sits on the Advisory Board for Leeds University Law Faculty.

Helen has an MA, LLB (Law), from Queen Mary's College London. Until 2017, Helen was Chairman of the Queen's Counsel Selection Panel. She is a former member of the Professional Conduct Committee of the Bar Council. Helen has served as a panel member of the Employment Appeal Tribunal for more than 17 years.

In 2015, Helen was awarded an OBE for services to business.

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[Achieving net zero – a review of the evidence behind potential carbon offsetting approaches](#)

News story

Join our webinar sessions to hear more about the recently published project and our planned next steps to achieve net zero carbon emissions.



Upland peat restoration was one carbon offsetting approach reviewed in the evidence base.

The Environment Agency aims to become a [net zero carbon organisation by 2030](#). This includes reducing emissions by 45%, and using best practice carbon offsetting techniques to address remaining emissions.

To help achieve this target, we recently published an evidence base which will help shape the Environment Agency's corporate carbon offsetting strategy.

We have set up webinar sessions for users to hear more about the evidence project and how the Environment Agency plans to take this work forward. These will be targeted at specific audiences.

Click on the relevant link to book your place:

See the [evidence base, which includes a literature review and summary infographic](#)

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