

ENVIRONMENTAL BRIEFING

Simpler Recycling – New Legal Obligations in England

Summary

The UK Government has implemented the new Simpler Recycling legislation to reform waste collections and recycling across England. This follows segregation requirements already introduced in Wales which will remain unchanged. This new regulation aims to clear up confusion over recyclable and non-recyclable materials, standardise recycling practices for workplaces, reduce landfill waste, and tackle illegal waste activities, promoting a more sustainable and environmentally conscious approach to waste management.

By March 31st 2025, all Cemex sites are legally obliged to have provision for the separate collection of recyclable waste streams. It has been agreed with Biffa that to meet the legal requirements the following separate bins will be required:

- General - Residual (non-recyclable) waste
- Mixed Recycling - Dry recyclables (paper, card, plastics, metals)
- Food
- Glass – **(only if glass waste will be generated – we are not expecting sites to need this)**

The significant change is that all sites will be provided with a new Food Waste collection bin to supplement the Dry Recyclables bin (paper, card, plastics, metals) and General Waste bin (residual non-recyclable waste) already provided. **No provision will be available for the disposal of glass unless specifically requested locally.** No glass will be permitted in the General, Dry Recycling or Food Waste bins.

Standard solution

General Waste



- Any waste that is not recyclable or that is contaminated

Mixed Recycling



- Plastic
- Metal
- Paper and Card

Biffa

Food



- Plate scrapings
- Tea bags
- Coffee grinds
- Peelings and off-cuts
- Unusable food waste

Key Points

- Poor management could lead to environmental prosecutions. The EA and NRW could audit sites at any time to confirm compliance.
- Poorly segregated waste could also cost us more through wasted journeys and refused collections.
- Good segregation could lead to reduced general waste costs.
- Our compliance with Simpler Recycling can only be assured through the use of Biffa waste services. If an alternative waste management contractor is used then compliance must be confirmed with the Procurement and Sustainability teams.
- **You will be receiving an additional food waste bin before 31st March 2025.**
- **No glass will be permitted in the General, Mixed Recycling or Food Waste bins. A separate glass bin will need to be requested locally if required, but it is recommended that all glass waste be eliminated from sites.**
- Further information on the Biffa roll out will be made available via Procurement and Sustainability in preparation for compliance by March 31st 2025.