

## Legislative changes regarding the separate collection of Recyclables

### What are the new laws governing recyclables?

As of January 2015 new legislation came into force that changes the responsibility of the waste producer and waste collector when dealing with the four most common recyclable wastes; paper, plastic, metal and glass. The new laws require that these materials are collected separately from other waste streams and that none of these recyclable materials should be mixed with general waste. These new rules should be enforced wherever it is technically, environmentally and economically practicable meaning that if you have the space and the budget and that the collections will not have a derogatory effect on the environment you must comply. This is known as the 'TEEP Test'

### How it affects us; the waste collector

The new regulations mean that we are required to provide separate collections of paper, plastic, glass and metal to new and existing customers if they pass the 'TEEP Test'. Furthermore we are responsible for ensuring that the recyclable material is of the highest possible quality and that it is treated at facilities that produce high grade material once the recyclables have been processed. The new legislation also states that waste collectors are not allowed to mix recyclables that have been separated at source. This means that a waste collector cannot empty various streams of waste into a collection vehicle where they will be mixed together.

For many years now we have been using see through bags in our recycling collections to ensure high quality and already segregate glass from other recyclables. The wide range of separate recycling collections we offer (which include paper cup recycling cups) and the processing facilities we use mean that we are already compliant with the new legislation and pass the 'Necessity Test' which states that we must ensure the waste we collect undergoes recovery operations in accordance with the [Waste Framework Directive](#).

### How it affects you; the waste producer

For you the new legislation means that your business may have to make changes to the way it manages its waste. Implementation of additional containers and services for the housing and collection of the recyclables is the easiest way to achieve compliance. However, the changes should only be implemented if it is technically, environmentally and economically practicable (TEEP Test). At the very least the regulations will expect you to recycle some element of the waste that you produce. Businesses that only operate a general waste collection will be hard pressed to prove that they fail the TEEP test as recycling services tend to be cheaper than general waste collections by comparison. The legislation does account for the fact that having five or six separate waste receptacles outside may not be practical or cost effective and that is why finding the best solution for your business, that stands up to scrutiny is paramount. For more information on TEEP please [click here](#).

### How will the legislation be enforced?

The Environment Agency will be responsible for enforcing the new regulations. They will focus at first on the collectors but if they deem that not enough effort is being made to apply TEEP they will visit sites and even prosecute people who refuse to adopt the new legislation.

If you would like to talk to somebody about TEEP and how the legislation will affect your business please call us on [03330 433 033](tel:03330433033) or e-mail us [sales@simplywastesolutions.co.uk](mailto:sales@simplywastesolutions.co.uk)

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### Frequently asked questions from waste producers

I have mixed recycling bins, should I consider splitting them out and having bins for each material? In a word, yes. The TEEP legislation has been brought in to ensure the quality of recyclable material. The quality of materials collected separately is better than when materials are mixed due to the fact that small amounts of cross contamination can occur when co-mingled recyclables are sorted. This contamination lowers the quality, one of the things TEEP has been brought in to combat. If however you are not able to house the extra containers required mixed recycling collections are still better than no recycling collections.

### I only have a general waste bin, do I need recycling services too?

Yes, definitely. As a waste producer you need to be doing everything you can to recycle the waste material you produce. TEEP is promoting separate recycling collections but it also says that it only applies if you have the space and the budget. We would suggest talking to us so that you can see what the best solution for your business is as we can often collect small quantities of recyclables very cost effectively.

### Is it more expensive to have recycling collections?

In general recycling services are considerably cheaper than general waste collection services that are similar in nature. It really is about finding the right fit for your business. Having lots of different recycling containers when you only produce tiny amounts of recyclables is not always practical or cheaper but making changes and tweaking services can afford you financial benefits. Here is an example –

*\*Mr Wu has a retail business and currently has three 1100 litre bins for general waste emptied twice a week. He's paying £15 per bin per empty making his annual waste costs £4680 plus VAT. Mr Wu produces a lot of cardboard and a mixture of other recyclables so he converts one of his bins to a cardboard only bin (£7.50 per empty), one to a mixed recycling bin (£8 per empty), he leaves the last container as a general waste bin. His new annual waste costs are £3172 plus VAT. He saves £1508 a year cutting his waste costs by 33%.*

### How do I go about making the changes?

The TEEP legislation should only be viewed as a positive thing; something that will improve efficiencies within your business and possibly even unlock new revenue streams. The best waste solution is often the simplest waste solution. Speak to your waste collection provider about the changes and ask for a consultation. Failing that you can speak to Simply Waste Solutions who will be more than happy to offer you obligation free advice or even pay a visit to your business to counsel you in best practice when introducing a new recycling management system.

\*Prices quoted are for example purposes only and are not representative of Simply Waste Solutions charges

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