

Overview of Short- Medium- & Long-Term Options for Recycling Policy in Northern Ireland.

Short Term Options

Impact	Short Term Options	Timeline					
		2021-2022	2022-2023	2023-2024	2024-2025	2025-2026	2026>
HIGH	Review Food Waste Regulations for businesses Introduce enforcement of the Food Waste Regulations for businesses i.e. those producing over 5kg of food waste per week but not presenting this for separate collection.						
	Enhanced powers for Councils Enhanced powers to allow councils to mandate separation of waste for recycling by businesses.						
	Restricted residual capacity Proposal to decrease residual waste capacity at households and businesses to increase recycling and decrease waste to landfill.						
	Increase food waste from household collections Introduce a range of activities all designed to increase food waste capture, possibly including (i) targeted communications; (ii) free liner supply; (iii) switch to weekly food waste collections.						
	National Guidance on consistent collections DAERA will develop guidelines, statutory/non-statutory minimum service standards for Councils based on feedback from the 2020 Discussion Document.						
	Recycling Targets Setting new national/local recycling targets based on revised waste Circular Economy Package and Climate Change Act targets.						

	<p>TEEP update A review of TEEP guidance to assist Councils on their compliance with regulations on separate collection, particularly in light of changes to material collection under EPR and DRS reforms.</p>						
MEDIUM	<p>National campaign on HH recycling Increase engagement with WRAP & local councils to deliver an enhanced NI-specific national campaign to increase the quality and quantity of recycling.</p>						
	<p>Business waste Bring sites/HHWRC Review options to develop new facilities/increased access for small/micro businesses to recycling services.</p>						
	<p>Business support tools Develop on-line tools and calculators to help businesses better understand recycling opportunities and how to incorporate recycling into their business space/operations.</p>						
	<p>National campaign on business recycling A national behaviour change campaign to encourage businesses to separate recyclables and food waste.</p>						
LOW	<p>Indicators for Recycling Complete a review of current indicators for recycling and consider the introduction of new indicators based on feedback from the 2020 Discussion Document.</p>						
	<p>Add new materials to collection services Carry out a review of additional materials which could be included in household and business collections.</p>						

Medium to Long Term Options

Impact	Medium/Long Term Options	Timeline					
		2021-2022	2022-2023	2023-2024	2024-2025	2025-2026	2026>
HIGH	Landfill Ban of organics at site Implementing a ban on biodegradable/organic waste going to landfill.						
	Extend separate food waste collections Move to separate weekly food waste collections from households to increase yield. Increase food waste collections from business						
MEDIUM	Include waste management in amended business rates Explore potential incentivised business rating system based on good recycling behaviours - Further analysis required						
	Zoning of business collections including price cap Business collections zoning involves contractors competing to undertake all collections within a particular 'zone'. Further analysis required						
	Extend scope of EPR funding Review which additional materials could be included in household and business collections.						
	Improved communication materials – Delivered by a dedicated Campaigns Manager for NI within WRAP - subject to continued funding.						
	Funding to support roll out of local communications Delivered by a dedicated Campaigns Manager for NI within WRAP - subject to continued funding.						

	Material specific campaigns / support This falls within the cycle of continuous campaigns DAERA already deliver/as above						
	Behavioural pull mechanisms; nudge theory Delivered by a dedicated Campaigns Manager for NI within WRAP - subject to continued funding.						
	Single Use Plastics interventions Ongoing actions including behaviour change, the plan to eliminate plastic pollution and legislative interventions.						
	Energy from Waste plant (EfW) Tax A tax for EfW operators to encourage upward movement of resources on the waste hierarchy. Further analysis required						
	Cap and trade model; NILAS revisited To incentivise firms to reduce their emissions, government sets a cap on the maximum level, creating permits of allowances for each unit of emissions allowed under the cap. Further analysis required						
LOW	Landfill Tax Revision of landfill tax to further discourage usage. Further analysis required						
	Home composting programme Develop & deliver a home composting programme to reduce waste						