



Rialtas na hÉireann  
Government of Ireland

# Incentivised waste collection charging in the commercial sector

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# Background



- EPA Waste Characterisation Study from 2018 found that 70% of material in commercial residual waste bins should be in either the mixed dry recyclable or organic waste bin.
- This represents a massive loss of resource value and an unnecessarily high cost to households and businesses whose waste charges would be lowered through proper segregation. It also undermines investment in indigenous treatment capacity.

# What is in a Commercial Bin?

*EPA municipal waste characterisation study 2018*

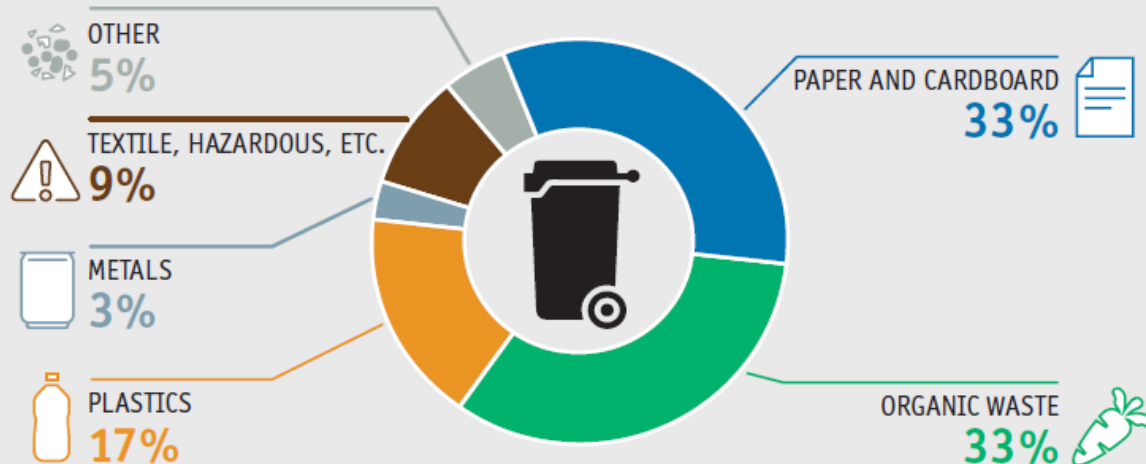


## General Waste

**Approx. 70% of material in the black bin could be diverted to recycling or composting.**

Organic waste is one third of all waste in the black bin. Businesses must divert this to the brown bin.

The share of plastic waste in the black bin has almost doubled over the last ten years. Approximately 4% of commercial black bin waste is made up of coffee cups.

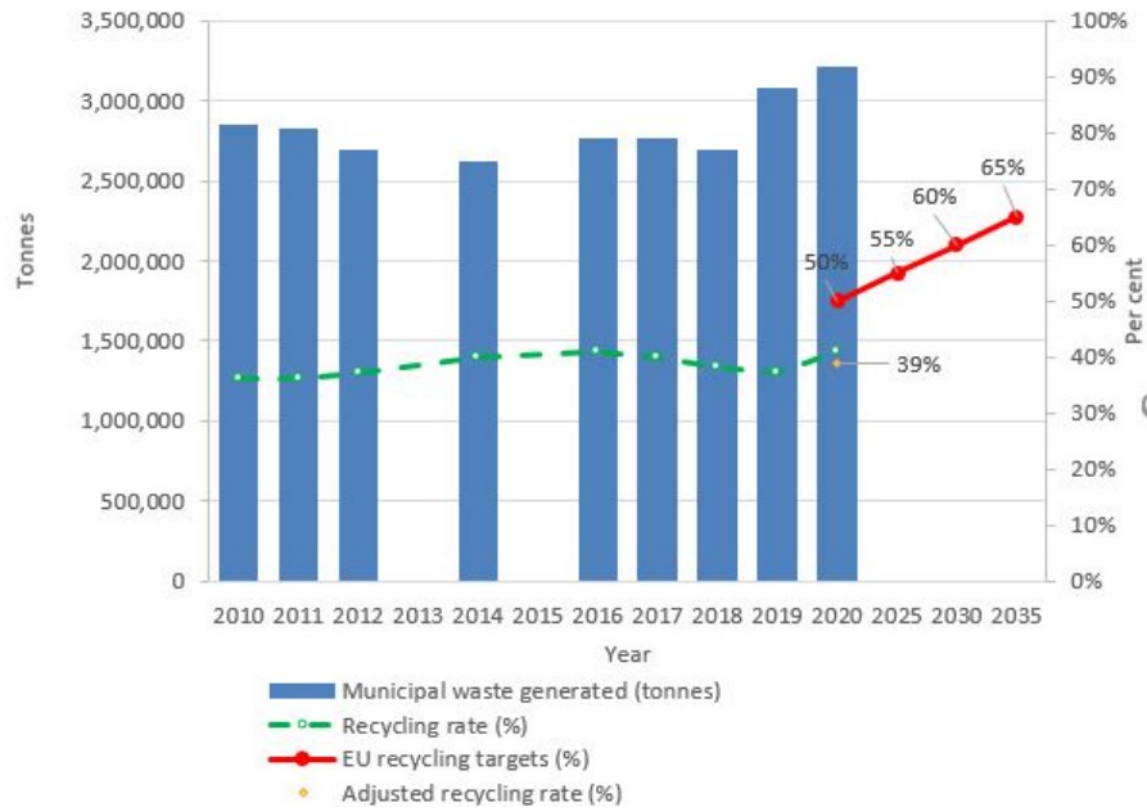


# Recycling Targets



- The Waste Framework Directive imposes a target recycling rate for municipal waste of 55% by 2025, 60% by 2030 and 65% by 2035.
- Most recent figures from the EPA show that we achieved a rate of 41% in 2020.
- Please see [Municipal | Environmental Protection Agency \(epa.ie\)](https://www.epa.ie/municipal/)

# Progress to EU Targets



# Policy Commitment



- A Waste Action Plan for a Circular Economy committed to *“working to improve waste segregation in the commercial sector, including an awareness campaign and enforcement actions requiring segregated waste bins and incentivised charging to ensure waste minimisation and proper waste segregation.”*
- Section 26 of the Circular Economy & Miscellaneous Provisions Act, 2022, amends the Waste Management Act, 1996 (WMA) by making provision for the introduction of a requirement for segregated waste bins and incentivised charging for the commercial sector.

# Draft Statutory Instrument



- Arising from the recent amendments to the WMA, DECC are currently drafting the required Statutory Instrument to amend the Waste Management (Collection Permit) Regulations, 2007, to introduce incentivised waste collection charging in the commercial sector.

# Main elements of proposed S.I.



Mirrors the existing requirements for household waste collection.

Some examples:

- All waste collection companies will be required to provide a residual, mixed dry recyclable and bio-waste bin to all their customers.
- All waste collected must be weighed, with details on the weights of the individual bins communicated to customers.
- All commercial customers must be placed onto a price plan that encourages waste minimisation and improved segregation of their waste i.e. cost of disposing of residual waste must be higher than cost of disposing of either mixed dry recycling or bio-waste.



# Main elements of proposed S.I.



- No change proposed for packaging waste currently collected under Packaging Waste legislation.
- No change proposed for food waste/bio-waste currently collected from commercial premises under Waste Management (Food Waste) Regulations 2009.

# Expanded “Brown Bin” Collection



- In parallel with the introduction of incentivised waste collection charges in the commercial sector, DECC are also in the process of drafting an amendment to current European Union (Household Food Waste & Bio-Waste) Regulations, 2015, which will require all households in the State on a waste collection service to be provided with a bio-waste bin by end of 2023.
- This is in line with Waste Framework Directive requirement that *“Member States shall ensure that, by 31 December 2023.....bio-waste is either separated and recycled at source, or is collected separately and is not mixed with other types of waste.”*

# Next steps



- DECC working to finalise draft regulations as soon as possible with a target date for submission of the draft regulations to the Minister of January 2023.
- Once regulations are approved by the Minister the NWCPO will begin the process of reviewing all commercial waste collection permits with this exercise expected to take approximately 6 months.
- Target date for new permit conditions to come into force is 1<sup>st</sup> July 2023 for all waste collection companies.

# Next steps



- DECC, in conjunction with [mywaste.ie](https://mywaste.ie), will arrange an education and awareness campaign to support the roll-out of this measure.
- Once regulations come into force it will fall to local authority sector to enforce requirements.
- It is worth stressing that the National Waste Enforcement Steering Committee (NWESC) have identified maximising segregation, and recycling of household and commercial waste as one of the 5 key National Waste Enforcement Priorities for period 2022-2024.

# Cost implications for the commercial sector



- All commercial waste collection price plans will be required to ensure that the cost to the customer for mixed dry recyclable or bio-waste should be less than cost of disposal for residual waste.
- Therefore DECC expects that the introduction of this measure should not result in higher waste collection charges for commercial customers.
- Improved waste segregation practices should result in lower waste collection charges in the longer term given that the volumes of residual waste will be minimised. Reduced contamination in the mixed dry recyclable and bio-waste bins will mean that the resource value of these waste streams will be maximised.

# Thank you for listening



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