

POLICY NEWS

MAKING YOUR BUSINESS SUSTAINABLE

October/November 2023

WASTE  ENERGY  WATER 

Please take a few minutes to complete a short survey on Policy News [here](#)

KEY HIGHLIGHTS

POLITICAL UPDATE:

- Labour Party **Conference special**
- Things to look out for

RESOURCES & WASTE

- DEFRA publishes **Simpler Recycling update**
- Home Office announces **ban on nitrous oxide**
- Keep Britain Tidy Publishes **findings on 'misunderstandings of waste prevention'**
- DEFRA announces **Digital Waste Tracking service**
- Welsh Government announces that **Single-use plastic ban** comes into force
- Battery compliance schemes launch **'Battrecycle'**
- DHSC opens consultation on **tackling youth vaping**
- DEFRA publishes outcome of **'Reforming the waste carrier, broker and dealer registration system in England'** consultation

ENERGY

- DESNZ announces **emissions scheme to reduce sale of carbon allowances**
- DESNZ publishes evaluation of the **Capacity Market Scheme**
- Ofgem announces new members to join **governing body**
- DESNZ announces **heat pump grants increased by 50%**
- DESNZ publishes update on **CCUS business model for waste**
- DESNZ publishes update on the **UK fusion strategy 'Towards fusion energy'**
- DESNZ updates **Green Gas Scheme**

WATER

- DEFRA opens consultation on the proposed of **wet wipes containing plastic**
- Ofwat announces **£4.6billion of investment** for the water sector

NET ZERO AND CLIMATE CHANGE

- DESNZ opens Call for Evidence on **Scope 3 Emissions reporting**
- DEFRA announces first farmers receive **Sustainable Farming Incentive** early payment
- NIC publishes **National Infrastructure Assessment**
- DESNZ announces **Environmental Principles**
- Welsh Government opens consultation on **Net Zero Sector Skills**

INNOVATION

- Innovate UK announces regional SME innovation clusters for **£75 million boost to economies**

Ireland

- DECC announces **€1.159 billion investment in Budget 2024**

OTHER

- **SNP Party Conference highlights**

VEOLIA NEWS

- StreetKind campaign launched in Sheffield to **combat frontline abuse**
- DEFRA Announce **Simpler Recycling at Southwark MRF**
- : Veolia launches first UK approved technician **training scheme for electric vehicles**
- Cory Reynolds attends **Environment and Climate Change Committee**

ONGOING CONSULTATIONS AND COMMITTEE INQUIRIES

POLITICAL UPDATE: Labour Party Conference Special

The Labour Party Conference for 2023 kicked off with a message to 'rebuild Britain' after what it said to be years of 'Tory Decline'. Over the next four days, this message was reasserted by key speakers such as Angela Rayner, Rachel Reeves, Steve Reed, Ed Milliband and Keir Starmer. The messaging of the conference covered issues such as economic growth, reforming the NHS, climate change, and improving living standards.

In his speech, Keir Starmer set out his vision for a "Britain for the Many, Not the Few" and pledged to "make Britain a better place to live and work."

Starmer then set out Labour's plan to build a better Britain. He said that Labour would "grow the economy for everyone" by investing in public services, creating jobs, and supporting businesses. He also pledged to "tackle the cost of living crisis" by lowering energy bills and raising wages. The National Wealth Fund will work "hand in glove with the private sector to rebuild this country".

Starmer continued his speech with promising "a new mindset" recognising the opportunity offered by green jobs. On climate change, Starmer said that Labour would take action imminently to reduce emissions and create a green economy. He pledged to invest in renewable energy, retrofit homes, and support electric vehicles. He argued that clean British energy is cheaper than fossil fuels and said that the Labour Party would ensure Great British Energy would be based in Scotland, a new company that will be publicly owned and will harness clean British power.

Closing his speech, the Labour leader re-emphasised that there is hope for change, that this will be an era of 'rebuilding

King's Speech & Autumn statement

The King's Speech 2023 is the first King's Speech in over 70 years, and it sets out the government's priorities for the next parliamentary session. Key themes included:

Economic growth: The government will continue to take action to bring down inflation and ease the cost of living for families. It will also invest in infrastructure and skills to boost economic growth.

Energy security: The government will introduce new oil and gas licensing arrangements and legislation to strengthen the UK's energy security and reduce reliance on volatile international energy markets and hostile foreign regimes. This will include supporting the future licensing of new oil and gas fields, as well as investing in renewable energy sources.

Trade and investment: The government will introduce a bill to promote trade and investment with economies in the fastest growing region in the world. It will also continue to negotiate trade agreements with dynamic economies.

Innovation: The government will introduce new legal frameworks to support the safe commercial development of emerging industries, such as self-driving vehicles, and introduce new competition rules for digital markets. It will also encourage innovation in technologies such as machine learning.

Climate Change: The government will continue to lead action on tackling climate change and biodiversity loss.

Britain' and that "we will face down the age of insecurity together".

Following the range of controversial policy announcements during the Conservative Party conference, Labour's conference was seen as a success for the party. Starmer's speech was widely praised despite being heckled and disrupted by a protester with glitter. His speech addressed key concerns over net-zero, housing and economic insecurity. Rachel Reeves' speech was also generally positively received, as she described herself as the 'Iron' Chancellor who will help grow the British economy after 13 years of Conservative rule.

Labour's messaging was clear and focused, and its policy announcements were well-received. However, some commentators have argued that Labour needs to provide more detail on its policies and that it needs to be more open to different views and perspectives.

At this fringe event, hosted by A Plastic Planet and Barry Gardiner MP, The Reuse, Refill, Replace Revolution report was launched. A Plastic Planet uses the report to set out how it believes alternative, natural materials and new reusable packaging systems can replace plastics. The report also calls for the plastic packaging tax to increase from £210 to £500 per tonne and to raise the exemption threshold from 30% to 50% recycled content. The report also calls on a series of bans, including single-use vapes by March 2024.

For Veolia, this conference highlights that Labour appears to be committed to tackling climate change and energy security.

The government will support developing countries with their energy transition and will hold other countries to their environmental commitments. The government will invest in renewable energy sources. The government will create a smoke free generation with efforts to tackle the selling of e-cigarettes to young people.

It was announced that the Government will host the Global Investment Summit, European Political committee and the Energy Conference, leading the global conversations on the UK's most pressing challenges.

Although very much anticipated, the reaction to the King's Speech has been very mixed, as it seems as though it has left many with more questions than answers on topics such as, contradictory messaging on climate change and lack of focus on cost of living.

In addition, this month Chancellor Jeremy Hunt will deliver the Autumn Statement on **Wednesday 22 November**, he is expected to announce new measures around taxes and spending. Yet the Chancellor has warned that tax cuts are "virtually impossible" despite the Government borrowing less-than-expected this year.

He has said the country faces "difficult decisions" – blaming record interest payments on the national debt and the poor state of the public finances. Nevertheless, Conservative MPs are piling pressure on Mr Hunt to find the money to cut taxes and use the Autumn Statement to boost growth as the next General Election looms.

RESOURCES & WASTE

DEFRA: Simpler Recycling update

The Department for Environment, Food & Rural Affairs (DEFRA) has [published](#) Simpler Recycling, following their [public consultation of Consistency of Collection](#), which aims to standardise recycling collections across England. The main proposals are:

- Allowing dry recyclables to be collected together and organic waste like food and garden scraps in shared bins, to reduce bin numbers.
- Requiring weekly separate food waste collection for most households by 2026, to reduce food waste to landfills. Funding will be provided to councils for this change.
- Requiring councils to collect: glass, metal, plastic, paper/card, food waste and garden waste to create consistency.
- The government is proposing that Local Authorities are to collect residual (non-recyclable) waste at least fortnightly, if not more frequently.
- Potential exemptions for councils to co-collect some streams to minimise bins, subject to consultation.

DEFRA is considering introducing exemptions to allow councils to co-collect dry recycling and to allow co-collection of food and garden waste – meaning there will only ever need to be a minimum of three bins – dry recycling, organic waste, and residual (non-recyclable) waste. Subject to consultation, these exemptions will be confirmed in regulations.

Here is a summary of the materials in scope:

- **Glass** - Glass packaging including bottles and jars
- **Metal**- Steel and aluminium cans, aerosols, foil, food trays, jars, bottle lids, and tubes
- **Plastic**- PET pots, tubs and trays; PE/PP tubes over 50mm; cartons for food, drinks etc; plastic bags and film made of PE, PP or mixed PE/PP (from 2027)

HO: Announces ban on nitrous oxide

The Home Office has [announced](#) plans to ban possession of nitrous oxide, also known as 'laughing gas' by 8 November 2023. This move is aimed at curbing the recreational use of nitrous oxide, which poses various challenges, including environmental concerns and safety risks.

The canisters used for nitrous oxide cannot be recycled using conventional methods. Instead, they must be individually sorted and sent to specialised recycling centres, incurring significant costs. The unique handling process for these items has cost over £100,000 in just nine months. Moreover, the compressed cylinders can be hazardous to staff, and when the material is crushed, it can explode if any gas remains, increasing the risk of injury.

Nitrous oxide has been linked to antisocial behaviour, including gatherings on high streets and in children's parks, often resulting in the littering of empty canisters across public spaces. Repeat serious users of nitrous oxide could face up to 2 years in prison and dealers up to 14 years, as the government delivers on its zero-tolerance approach to antisocial behaviour. The ban, promised as part of the government's Anti-Social Behaviour Action Plan, will make nitrous oxide a controlled Class C drug under the Misuse of

- **Paper/Card**- All paper and card except those containing glitter/foil, laminated paper, stickers, padded envelopes, books, and wallpaper
- **Food Waste**- All food intended for human or pet consumption, including inedible parts like bones, skins, and coffee grounds
- **Garden Waste**- All organic garden material except ash, full-sized trees, invasive weeds, soil, turf, and animal waste products

Key dates in the timeline:

- **By 31 March 2025**- Non-household municipal premises (except micro-firms) will be required to recycle all recyclable waste streams, excluding garden waste and plastic films.
- **By 31 March 2026**- Local Authorities will be required to collect all six recyclable waste streams, excluding plastic film, from all households in England. This includes weekly food collections, unless a transitional arrangement has been agreed to allow longer where a council is bound by a long-term waste disposal contract.
- **By 31 March 2027**- micro-firms (businesses with less than 10 full-time equivalent employees) will be required to recycle all recyclable waste streams, excluding garden waste.
- **By 31 March 2027**-recyclable plastic films will be required to be collected for all households, non-municipal and commercial premises.

This plan builds on wider UK efforts to increase recycling and reduce waste, including upcoming deposit return schemes and restrictions on single-use plastics that started on 1 October 2023. DEFRA has [opened a consultation on expanding rules for non-household municipal premises](#), and a [private consultation](#) on adjoining statutory guidance, including the exemption to allow co-collection of materials. Both of these consultations will close on **20 November 2023**.

Drugs Act 1971.

Consequences could include:

1. An unlimited fine
2. A visible community punishment
3. A caution – which would appear on their criminal record
4. A prison sentence for repeat serious offenders

There are still many necessary uses for nitrous oxide and those with a legitimate reason for possessing the substance will be exempt from the ban. For example, it will continue to be lawful for catering purposes and in maternity wards when used as pain relief during labour.

Licences will not be required to carry nitrous oxide, but individual users will need to demonstrate they are lawfully in possession of nitrous oxide and not intending to consume it for psychoactive effects.

The ban on nitrous oxide possession is a part of the government's broader efforts to address antisocial behaviour and environmental concerns associated with the recreational use of the substance.

Keep Britain Tidy: Publishes findings on ‘misunderstandings of waste prevention’

The charity, Keep Britain Tidy, [has released findings](#) from their research project with industry players which aims to tackle the public's ‘fundamental misunderstanding’ of waste prevention. It comes after the charity found 85% of people mistakenly regard recycling as ‘waste prevention’.

According to their findings, over three quarters of people say that they have heard the phrase ‘reduce, reuse, recycle’, but almost seven in ten people (68%) think that recycling is the best thing they can do to reduce the environmental impact of the things they buy.

To combat this confusion, the charity has stated it will be launching a new research project into how to communicate waste prevention methods through the waste hierarchy to the general public.

The charity aims to develop a consumer-faced version of the waste hierarchy that is easily understood by the public and will include a report alongside a guide on how to better communicate waste prevention which it aims to publish in 2024. It is also eager to educate people that while recycling is a necessary part of the waste hierarchy, it sits behind reduce and reuse, and the new research will explore how to better communicate waste prevention messages to the public.

The outcome of the research will be aimed at policymakers and behaviour change practitioners in the waste and consumption arena. It will include a report alongside a simple guide for stakeholders to better communicate waste prevention to the public.

DEFRA: Announces Digital Waste Tracking service

The Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs have [announced](#) plans to introduce mandatory digital waste tracking across the UK which was consulted on and implemented as part of the [Resources and Waste Strategy for England](#). The government has proposed that the digital waste tracking service is put forward across multiple UK nation strategies. This will:

- Provide a comprehensive way to see what is happening to the waste produced in the UK
- Help support more effective regulation of waste
- Help businesses comply with their duty of care with regards to waste
- Help move towards a more circular economy by enabling maximisation of the value extracted from resources
- Reduce the ability for waste criminals to operate and undercut legitimate businesses through their systemic mis-handling of waste, illegal exports, and flytipping

The Government will have information about where and how waste is created, who is handling it, what is done to it, and where it ends up through the introduction of mandatory digital waste tracking. This commitment aligns with the goals outlined in the Resources and Waste Strategy for England.

The Government states that mandatory digital waste tracking will support businesses and government in moving towards a

circular economy by joining up and digitising currently fragmented systems. This will provide a single comprehensive way of tracking the amount and type of waste produced and its final destination.

Digital waste tracking will also support effective regulation of waste, transforming how environmental regulators monitor compliance, prioritise activities and help prevent waste crime, including: fly tipping, deliberate misclassification of waste, illegal waste exports and illegal waste sites. It will also facilitate a more level playing field for legitimate waste operators.

This forms part of the UK Government's wider plans to introduce smarter regulation to grow the economy. Smarter regulation aims to improve regulation and guidance for businesses across the board, ensuring it is as clear, proportionate and does not unnecessarily impose burdens that restrict innovation and growth.

The government states the digital waste tracking service will support more effective waste regulation and help businesses comply with their duty of care regarding waste. Additionally, comprehensive waste tracking is expected to reduce waste crime such as illegal handling, exports and fly-tipping that undercut legitimate operators..

Mandatory digital waste tracking will come into force from April 2025 – with the digital waste tracking service being publicly available to users on a voluntary basis in 2024.

Welsh Government: Single-use plastic ban comes into force

[The Welsh government's ban](#) on various single-use plastic items has officially come into effect as of October 30, 2023. The move is part of the Environmental Protection (Single-use Plastic Products) (Wales) Act 2023, which criminalises the supply or free offering of selected single-use plastic products to consumers. The key objectives of this legislation are to reduce the flow of plastic waste into the environment and contribute to the Welsh government's broader efforts to address climate and nature emergencies. The following single-use plastic items are now banned from being sold across Wales:

- Single-use plastic plates
- Single-use plastic cutlery
- Single-use plastic drinks stirrers

- Cups made of expanded or foamed extruded polystyrene
- Takeaway food containers made of expanded or foamed extruded polystyrene
- Single-use plastic balloon sticks
- Single-use plastic-stemmed cotton buds
- Single-use plastic drinking straws (with exemptions for individuals who require them for safe and independent eating and drinking)

This ban is intended to reduce the environmental impact of single-use plastic items and promote more sustainable practices. It is aligned with the global effort to address plastic pollution and contribute to a more environmentally responsible and sustainable future.

Battrecycle: Battery compliance schemes launch 'Battrecycle'

Battery compliance schemes have combined to launch [Battrecycle](#), a national network of 30,000 collection points for unwanted batteries, with the aim of tripling battery collections in the UK.

It will try to raise awareness of battery recycling by offering an online locator for collections and will use the promotional character 'Battery Bob' supported by a digital marketing campaign.

Partnerships are expected with additional supermarkets, retailers, local authorities and schools to expand the collection points network. For every battery recycled, Battrecycle will fund community projects designed to educate on and increase local access to the environment.

Meanwhile, the Government has allocated £89m to 20 net-zero technology projects including new electric vehicle

battery systems. The funding has been awarded through the Advanced Propulsion Centre.

As part of the scheme a digital marketing campaign has been launched. Central to this campaign is the "#BigYellowBatteryBin" featuring the mascot "Battery Bob." These easily recognisable collection points aim to encourage consumers to responsibly dispose of their used batteries.

For every recycled battery, Battrecycle will allocate funds to community projects designed to promote environmental education and enhance local access to green spaces.

Over time, Battrecycle users will have the opportunity to choose which local community project they wish to support with their recycled batteries. They can also track the progress and success stories of these projects through Battrecycle's social media channels and website.

DHSC: Opens consultation on tackling youth vaping

The Department of Health and Social Care has [opened a consultation](#) on proposed actions to be taken by the UK Government and devolved administrations to address smoking and youth vaping. The consultation focuses on measures aimed at safeguarding future generations from the harmful effects of smoking and aims to create a "smoke-free generation."

Key Proposals Under Consideration:

- **Restriction of Vape Flavors:** Proposals include restrictions on the availability of various vape flavours.
- **Regulation of Vape Packaging and Product Presentation:** Measures may be taken to regulate how vaping products are packaged and presented to consumers.
- **Regulation of Point of Sale Displays:** Regulations could be introduced to control the display of vaping products at retail points.
- **Restriction on Sale of Disposable Vapes:** The sale of disposable vaping products may be restricted to curb their prevalence among youth.
- **Age Restriction for Non-Nicotine Vapes:** The introduction of an age restriction for non-nicotine vaping products is being considered.
- **Further Restrictions on Nicotine Consumer Products:** Exploration of additional restrictions on other nicotine consumer products, such as nicotine pouches.
- **Preventing Free Samples:** Measures to prevent the distribution of free vape samples to children by the industry.

The proposed actions are designed to complement each other and create a comprehensive set of measures that collectively reduce the appeal of vaping products to children, with the primary goal of curbing youth vaping and limiting children's exposure to associated risks.

The surge in disposable vape usage has resulted in a significant increase in waste generated by these products. Disposed disposable vapes introduce various environmental hazards, including plastic, nicotine salts, heavy metals, and lithium-ion batteries, into the environment. This pollution poses risks to waterways, soil, and the health of wildlife. Moreover, improperly disposed of disposable vapes can pose fire hazards, particularly when lithium-ion batteries ignite during waste processing.

[Research commissioned](#) by Material Focus found that nearly 5 million disposable vapes are littered or discarded in general waste weekly. This has quadrupled over the past year and is equivalent to disposing of the lithium batteries from 5,000 electric vehicles each year. The research also revealed that 52% of vapes purchased by 18 to 34-year-olds in the last year were single-use products. Moreover, over 360 million single-use vapes are purchased annually in the UK, with a concerning 73% of these vapes being discarded.

The consultation seeks input on these proposed measures and their potential impact on reducing youth vaping and addressing the environmental challenges associated with disposable vapes. **The consultation is open for input until 6 December 2023.**

DEFRA: Publishes outcome of 'Reforming the waste carrier, broker and dealer registration system in England' consultation

The Department for Environment, Food & Rural Affairs (DEFRA) conducted a [consultation](#) on proposed reforms to regulations for waste carriers, brokers, and dealers in England with the aim of addressing weaknesses in the current registration system and its impact on illegal waste activities. The consultation received a total of 426 responses from various stakeholders, including waste businesses, local authorities, consultancies, industry bodies, campaign groups, and individuals.

Areas of Broad Support:

- The proposal to replace the terminology of 'carriers, brokers, and dealers' with 'controllers' and 'transporters' to better reflect industry roles and assign legal responsibility.
- The idea of consolidating the existing registration regime into environmental permitting regulations with new standard permit types based on specific waste-related activities.
- The requirement for the display of permit numbers in advertising and on waste collection vehicles to enable compliance checks and improve the duty of care.
- The introduction of periodic permit renewals based on self-declarations, which would allow for updated business details and assessments of competence.
- The exemption of certain low-risk activities such as local authorities, farmers, and charities from permitting requirements.
- A phased transition approach over a period of 1 to 3 years when implementing the new system.

Common Concerns Raised:

- Concerns regarding increased financial costs and administrative burdens, particularly for small and medium-sized waste enterprises, which could result in higher prices and potentially incentivize illegal waste activities.
- The need for enhanced enforcement capabilities and proportionate penalties to effectively deter waste crime, given perceptions of insufficient enforcement currently.
- The importance of ensuring consistency in regulations across UK national jurisdictions to prevent individuals from registering in areas with lower regulatory standards.
- The necessity for clear communication of changes through guidance and awareness campaigns to minimise unintended non-compliance.

The consultation also received more specific feedback on differentiating permit types, transition timescales, approaches for assessing competence, and monitoring methods.

Overall, the consultation findings indicate general agreement on the need to modernise the outdated regulations by transitioning to a new environmental permitting system for waste controllers and transporters. However, it emphasises the critical need to minimise the burdens on legitimate operators while enhancing enforcement capabilities; otherwise, the intended benefits of the reforms may not be realised.

ENERGY

DESNZ: Announces emissions scheme to reduce sale of carbon allowances

The Department for Energy, Security and Net Zero (DESNZ) has [unveiled](#) plans to significantly reduce the number of carbon emissions allowances available for purchase through the UK Emissions Trading Scheme (UK ETS). The UK ETS requires industries like power generation, aviation, and manufacturing to buy allowances to cover their carbon emissions.

The calendar published for 2024 auctions will see allowances limited to 69 million, 12.4% lower than 2023 and the lowest amount ever. This reduction will continue in subsequent years, reaching around 44 million in 2027 (a 45% drop from 2023) and approximately 24 million by 2030.

The UK ETS Authority, comprising the UK and devolved governments, is driving these reductions to incentivise emissions cuts in line with the UK's legally binding net zero emissions target by 2050. It aims to give businesses certainty and spur investments in efficiency and transitions away from fossil fuels towards cleaner energy sources.

Some unused allowances from 2021-2023 will be reallocated to auctions between 2024-2027 to smooth the transition to lowercase. The UK and devolved governments are also providing millions in funding through programs in England, Wales, Scotland and Northern Ireland to assist industries in making necessary decarbonization investments.

Additionally, the UK ETS Authority is looking at further measures like a supply adjustment mechanism that could modify the number of allowances available in response to market conditions. This aims to avoid price shocks as allowance supplies tighten.

The UK ETS covers around 1,000 of the most energy-intensive sites in the UK across power generation, oil refining, aviation and various manufacturing industries. The tightening allowance caps are a key policy lever to drive emissions reductions from major polluters on the path to the UK's net zero target.

DESNZ: Evaluation of the Capacity Market Scheme released

The Department for Energy, Security and Net Zero (DESNZ) commissioned an [evaluation of the Capacity Market scheme](#), which was established in 2014 to help ensure electricity supply security. The evaluation concludes that the Capacity Market has broadly met its core objective of maintaining security of supply, with no system stress events occurring since its inception.

However, there is uncertainty over whether the scheme has provided adequate incentives for medium and long-term investment to ensure future system security as margins tighten. The transition to net zero emissions has also resulted in market changes that the original Capacity Market design did not foresee.

Key conclusions include:

- The auction design does not sufficiently incentivise low carbon technologies aligned with decarbonisation goals.
- The penalty regime for non-delivery is insufficient, while termination fees are viewed as overly punitive.
- Secondary trading volumes have been low, suggesting limited impact on bid prices.
- The prequalification process is cumbersome and time-consuming for applicants.
- The governance regime had mixed reviews on responsiveness and communication. Rules and regulations are seen as complex.

Key suggestions include:

- Reviewing the prequalification process to reduce applicant burden.
- Exploring split auctions to better incentivise low carbon capacity.
- Developing a centralised secondary trading platform.
- Rebalancing termination fees, penalties and incentives for delivery during system stress events.

Following this evaluation, DESNZ have [opened a consultation](#) on Capacity Market proposals to improve security of supply and align with net zero (Phase 2) and call for evidence on Ten-year Review. **This will close on 8th December 2023.**

The consultation will be formed in two parts:

Part A- is a consultation on proposals to reform the CM to improve security of supply, aligning the scheme with the government's net zero goals, and improve the functioning of the scheme.

Improving security of supply:

- Amend settlement timelines after system stress events to align with recent changes to non-delivery penalty calculations.
- Extend emergency provisions allowing mothballed plants to prequalify, by using operational data older than 24 months.
- Align consequences for failing extended

performance tests with those for failing satisfactory performance days.

- Clarify that sites cannot pre qualify if they hold clean energy subsidies for the delivery year.

Accelerating low carbon investment:

- Allow battery storage degradation management by defining "augmentation".
- Reduce extended performance test obligations through secondary trading.
- Remove capital expenditure thresholds for unproven demand-side response and new build capacity.
- Implement 9-year contracts and expenditure thresholds for low carbon new build/refurbishing capacity.
- Offer 24-month long stop dates for low carbon new build/refurbishment projects in T-4 auctions.
- Partially redact residential addresses for domestic demand-side response on the public register.
- Amend reallocation caps for demand-side response.
- Explore new technology classes for demand-side response.
- Clarify turbine replacement requirements.

Decarbonising the Capacity Market:

- Publish Capacity Market emissions data to improve transparency.

Part B- is a call for evidence to inform the second statutory five yearly review of the CM (referred to as the 'Ten-year Review'), which is due to be published in summer 2024.

Whilst both parts of the document are inherently linked, they can be treated separately. The UK's Energy Act 2013 and associated legislation established a requirement to conduct a review of the Capacity Market scheme every 5 years.

The first review was published in 2019, covering the first 5 years of the scheme. The second review, referred to as the Ten-year Review, is due by summer 2024 and will cover the period since the previous review.

As legislated, the Ten-year Review must:

- Set out the intended objectives of the Capacity Market
- Assess the extent to which those objectives have been achieved
- Assess if the objectives remain appropriate, and if they could be achieved in a less burdensome way
- The current call for evidence seeks views and evidence on the Capacity Market's performance over the 5 years since the 2019 review. This will inform the upcoming Ten-year Review on whether the scheme has met its goals efficiently and if reforms are needed going forward.

The regular 5-year reviews aim to evaluate the Capacity Market's effectiveness and ensure it aligns with policy goals as the energy system evolves over time

Ofgem: Announces new members to join governing body

The Department for Energy, Security and Net Zero (DESNZ) has [announced](#) the appointment of five new Non-Executive Directors to the board of the energy regulator Ofgem. They aim to strengthen Ofgem's work in consumer protection as well as in the transition to net zero emissions.

The new appointees are Warren Buckley, outgoing Chair of Citizens Advice; Alena Kozakova, Director at E.CA Economics; Graham Mather, President of the Infrastructure Forum; Jonathan Kini, Non-Executive Director at Ofwat; and Dr Tony Curzon Price, former advisor at the Department for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy.

Additionally, Energy Security Secretary, Claire Coutinho, has [appointed](#) Mark McAllister as new Ofgem Chair. As Chair,

Mr. McAllister will be responsible for guiding Ofgem's work to protect consumers from high energy bills, restore resilience in the retail energy market, and support progress towards the UK's decarbonisation goals. He will also collaborate with the government on initiatives to help more households access cleaner, cheaper British-generated energy.

The government stated it will collaborate closely with Ofgem and the new directors to deliver energy market reforms focused on affordability, security and clean energy transition. This includes planning reforms to accelerate major energy infrastructure projects.

DESNZ: Announces heat pump grants increased by 50%

The Department for Energy Security and Net Zero (DESNZ) [has increased grants](#) available for households to install heat pumps, as part of efforts to reduce carbon emissions from homes.

Grants for air source heat pumps have been increased by 50% to £7,500 under the Boiler Upgrade Scheme. This makes it one of the most generous schemes in Europe. The scheme has also been extended by 3 years to 2028.

With the higher grant, the starting cost of a heat pump could now be cheaper than the typical £2,500-£3,000 for a new gas boiler installation.

Government will provide £10 million in new funding to support innovation to further reduce heat pump costs.

Additionally, a new public information campaign will promote home energy efficiency improvements to help reduce bills this winter.

Organisations can apply for funding from the Heat Pump Ready program to develop projects that would cut heat pump costs and improve the customer experience.

Previously, the UK government had planned to phase out new fossil fuel boilers by 2035. However, this has now been delayed to prevent high upgrade costs for households in homes not suitable for heat pumps.

The government has emphasised this approach aims to be more pragmatic in meeting climate goals while minimising pressures on families facing cost of living challenges.

DESNZ: Publishes update on CCUS business model for waste

The UK government [published](#) an update on its proposed business models for industrial carbon capture, usage and storage (CCUS). The models aim to incentivise deployment of CCUS technology by industrial emitters to help meet climate goals. Two main contracts are proposed:

1. The Industrial Carbon Capture (ICC) Contract for most industrial sectors
2. The Waste ICC Contract for waste management facilities

The contracts provide capital grants and/or ongoing revenue support funded by government schemes. Projects connecting to initial CCUS clusters applied for support in a process that closed in January 2022. Negotiations are now beginning with selected projects. The update provides further details on key aspects of the contracts:

- Treatment of Free Allowances under the emissions trading scheme, including forfeiture rules and

volume protection.

- Monitoring, reporting and verification requirements for pre- and post-capture carbon dioxide measurements.
- Rules regarding crediting and revenue sharing for captured biogenic carbon dioxide emissions.
- Specific provisions in the Waste ICC Contract, such as determining monthly biogenic/fossil carbon percentages.
- Assessment criteria for contract extensions and participation in greenhouse gas removal credit markets.
- Other miscellaneous items like know-your-customer checks.

The government will continue to develop the proposals, taking industry feedback into account. Two further potential clusters will also be explored to contribute to the government's carbon capture goals.

DESNZ: Publishes update on the UK fusion strategy 'Towards fusion energy'

The UK [published](#) its first fusion energy strategy in 2021, setting out a vision to develop fusion power commercially and establish strengths in international collaboration, scientific leadership, and support for the private sector.

Since then, major progress has occurred globally, including advances in fusion experiments, increased private investment, and other nations setting fusion strategies.

The UK sees opportunities to build on its strengths and enhance support to stay at the forefront of fusion's development. The strategy retains three core pillars - international engagement, scientific expertise, and commercialisation. But the approach will adapt to support broader sector needs. Fusion could help meet these future energy needs with a clean, safe and virtually limitless energy source generated domestically

The Potential Role of Fusion

- Fusion fuel (deuterium and lithium) is widely available and inexhaustible, unlike fossil fuels.
- Fusion plants could provide constant baseload power, unlike intermittent sources like wind and solar.
- Fusion fuel is highly energy dense, with more energy extracted per gram than any other process

achievable on Earth.

- Fusion emits no carbon or greenhouse gases, only helium as a by-product.
- Fusion power can be rapidly switched off, with no risk of runaway reactions.
- Fusion produces less long-term radioactive waste compared to fission.
- For countries without renewable resources or space for large plants, fusion could enable low-carbon energy self-sufficiency.

The strategy emphasises the government's role in enabling the UK fusion sector, to realise the potential benefits for clean energy, energy security, and economic opportunities.

A new £650 million Fusion Futures program is planned up to 2027, subject to approvals, with three main elements:

Infrastructure- Further developing the UK's fusion innovation cluster and facilities. A new national fusion fuel cycle facility is planned, accessible to public and private users.

Skills- Establishing a Fusion Skills Centre to grow talent pipelines from apprentice to PhD level.

Commercialisation - Expanding industry funding programs. Exploring a UK fusion investment fund. Enhancing technology transfer.

DESNZ: Update on Green Gas Scheme published

The Department for Energy Security and Net Zero has [announced](#) its plans to extend the Green Gas Support Scheme to **March 31 2028**. The scheme provides support for biomethane production through anaerobic digestion and injection into the gas grid as a replacement for natural gas.

The scheme was originally set to run until November 30, 2025. After consultation with industry, the Department has decided a longer extension is needed to address challenges affecting deployment.

The extended timeframe aims to give prospective applicants sufficient time to apply and commission projects before the

scheme's closure. More information will be published in the government's full consultation response later this winter.

Full details of the extension will be published in the government's response to the Green Gas Support Scheme Mid-Scheme Review in due course. The extension will be implemented through new regulations to be laid before Parliament.

The Department is also considering options for a future policy framework for biomethane after the scheme ends. More details on this will be announced in 2024.

WATER

DEFRA: Opens consultation on the proposed of wet wipes containing plastic

The governments of the UK, Wales, Scotland and Northern Ireland are [consulting](#) on a proposed ban on the manufacture, supply and sale of wet wipes containing plastic. The goal is to reduce plastic pollution and waste, moving towards a circular economy.

The consultation seeks views on:

- Impacts on businesses manufacturing, supplying or selling plastic-containing wet wipes.
- Impacts on consumers, especially those with disabilities.
- Wider impacts of keeping plastic wipes in use.
- Impacts of wipes marketed as plastic-free

alternatives.

- Composition of alternative wet wipes.
- If any exemptions are needed for certain plastic wipes.
- Timeframe for implementing the ban.

The consultation is open until 25 November 2023.

The proposed ban would be applied by each UK country through their own legislative process. The consultation aims to inform decision making on whether to proceed with the ban, considering potential impacts on industry, consumers and the environment.

Ofwat: Announces £4.6billion of investment for the water sector

Ofwat has [announced](#) that since 2020, the water sector has received a significant investment of £4.6 billion from shareholders, aimed at enhancing the financial stability of water companies and supporting increased investment for the 2024 price review. This investment comes in response to Ofwat's requirement for water companies to ensure their long-term resilience.

The Monitoring Financial Resilience (MFR) report outlines Ofwat's ongoing approach to monitoring and engaging with the financial aspects of water companies. It classifies water companies into three categories: standard, elevated concern, or action required.

In the report for the 2022-23 financial year, eight companies were categorised as standard, four were marked as elevated concern, and four companies were identified as requiring action. For companies in the higher concern categories, Ofwat expects them to take measures to enhance their financial resilience. This may entail increased regulatory scrutiny, monitoring, and the implementation of turnaround plans in certain cases.

The MFR report for the 2022-23 financial year predates the introduction of new licence conditions in May 2023. These new powers empower Ofwat to take enforcement action if the payment of dividends by water companies does not consider long-term performance and financial resilience.

NET ZERO AND CLIMATE CHANGE

DESNZ: Opens Call for Evidence on Scope 3 Emissions reporting

The Department of Energy, Security, and Net Zero (DESNZ) is [seeking input](#) on the viability, benefits, and logistics of reporting Scope 3 greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions in the United Kingdom. Scope 3 emissions, which represent a substantial share (80-95%) of total emissions for many organisations, play a pivotal role in the UK's pursuit of its Net Zero target by 2050. As stakeholders and investors increasingly consider their organisation's preparedness for the transition to a low-carbon economy, Scope 3 disclosures have gained considerable importance.

On June 26, 2023, the International Sustainability Standards Board (ISSB) introduced its initial sustainability disclosure standards, which encompass reporting requirements for Scope 1, Scope 2, and Scope 3 GHG emissions.

Scope 1 Emissions: Direct emissions stemming from owned or controlled sources.

Scope 2 Emissions: Indirect emissions resulting from purchased energy generation.

Scope 3 Emissions: All other indirect emissions within the value chain of the reporting company, not covered in Scope 2.

Large UK organisations are currently obligated to report

Scope 1 and Scope 2 emissions in their annual reports under the Streamlined Energy and Carbon Reporting (SECR) framework. However, reporting Scope 3 emissions remains largely voluntary. The framework aims to increase awareness of energy costs and emissions within organisations by providing them with data to inform the adoption of energy efficiency measures and help them to reduce their impact on climate change. The DESNZ is seeking opinions on two key areas:

Scope 3 GHG Emissions Reporting: Gathering insights on the costs, benefits, and practical aspects of reporting Scope 3 greenhouse gas emissions. This data will aid the government in determining whether to adopt the ISSB standards in the UK.

SECR Framework Review: Assessing the current SECR framework to inform a Post-Implementation Review of the policy.

Responses will inform ISSB endorsement, SECR review, updates to reporting guidance, and future Scope 3 reporting obligations. **This call for evidence will be open until 14th December 2023.** The government will publish its response within 12 weeks of the closing date.

DEFRA: First farmers receive Sustainable Farming Incentive early payment

The Department for Environment, Food & Rural Affairs (Defra) has [confirmed](#) that the first group of farmers who enrolled in the new and improved Sustainable Farming Incentive (SFI) program have received their inaugural payments.

These early payments, amounting to 25% of the annual value of farmers' agreements, have been disbursed just one month after the opening of the application period. Every farmer whose SFI agreement commenced on 1 October 2023 has now received this payment, designed to enhance cash flow and ensure the SFI benefits their farming operations.

The Sustainable Farming Incentive is a scheme that compensates farmers in England for taking actions that support food production, farm profitability, and resilience, all while safeguarding and enhancing the environment.

The SFI offering for 2023 has already generated record interest from farmers across the country, including those with

existing SFI agreements from 2022. Over 14,000 registrations of interest have been recorded, and nearly 1,000 applications have been submitted since the program's application phase began.

Starting this week, the majority of farmers will no longer need to submit registrations of interest; they can apply directly online, streamlining the application process. Farmers operating on common lands should continue to express their interest through the Rural Payments Agency (RPA), who will assist them in preparing their applications.

The 2023 SFI offering has been broadened and rendered more flexible in response to farmer feedback. It now includes over 23 paid-for actions, encompassing areas such as hedgerow improvement, nutrient management, farmland wildlife conservation, and low input grassland management. Additionally, farmers now have the flexibility to choose the combination of actions that best align with their needs, a departure from the previous grouping of actions into standards.

NIC: Publishes National Infrastructure Assessment

The National Infrastructure Commission (NIC) has [released](#) its Second National Infrastructure Assessment, outlining the current status of the UK's economic infrastructure and highlighting key challenges for the coming decades. The report includes significant recommendations in several areas:

1. Recycling and Waste Management:

- To meet the 65% recycling target by 2035, the report suggests implementing simpler recycling methods, packaging reforms, and deposit return schemes.
- Developing recycling targets and providing support for local authorities is essential, along with expanding plastic bans and measuring commercial and industrial waste.
- Stronger incentives for recycling investment are needed, including banning unabated energy from waste and increasing landfill tax.
- To reduce waste emissions, there must be a reduction of tonnage going to unabated energy from waste by 25% by 2035 and 80% by 2050.
- New waste-to-energy plants should be carbon capture-ready, and creating unabated capacity would hinder waste reduction and recycling efforts.

2. Energy and Net Zero Emissions:

- The report recommends transitioning away from fossil fuels over the next 30 years and replacing them with low-cost, reliable, low-carbon electricity.
- It emphasises the need for a significant expansion in electricity generation, primarily from offshore wind, solar, and some nuclear sources.
- The report calls for the phasing out of unabated gas generation, the transition from gas boilers to electric heat pumps in buildings, and the acceleration of electric vehicle charging infrastructure.

- Industry should be encouraged to switch to electricity, while hydrogen and carbon capture networks are vital where electrification is not feasible.
- The creation of a strategic energy reserve to mitigate price shocks is proposed, along with transformational changes in networks, planning, and regulation to support increased electricity demand.

3. Improving Resilience and the Environment:

- The NIC emphasises that infrastructure should contribute to improving the environment by increasing recycling, enhancing natural habitats, preventing pollution, and utilising nature-based solutions.
- The UK's 65% recycling target for 2035 should be achieved urgently through various reforms.
- Economic regulators should consider resilience and sustainability when making investment decisions.
- Operators should assess climate risks, and the government should set clear resilience standards and require cost estimates.
- Major projects should focus on maximising natural capital, biodiversity net gain, and environmental improvements.
- Devolved administrations and metro mayors should have a greater role in setting resilience standards, environmental targets, and infrastructure planning.
- Support for households to reduce waste and water consumption through smart metres and water efficiency labelling is recommended.

The NIC emphasises that these recommendations are crucial for the UK to transition to a low-carbon, resilient, and sustainable infrastructure, and the government must act decisively to implement them.

DESNZ: Announces Environmental Principles

The Department for Environment, Food & Rural Affairs [announced](#) a new environmental principles duty, aimed at prioritising environmental considerations in government policy-making, has officially come into effect in the United Kingdom. This duty, outlined in the Environment Act 2021, reinforces the government's commitment to leave the environment in better condition for future generations and to ensure that environmental issues are a central focus in decision-making processes. The goal is to help the government achieve the targets set forth in the Environmental Improvement Plan and ensure that environmental impacts are consistently taken into account during policy formulation.

Under this duty, ministers and policy makers are obligated to consider the environmental consequences of new policies, guided by a framework of key principles:

- The Integration Principle: This principle advocates for the integration of environmental protection into policy-making.
- The Prevention Principle: It requires government policy makers to strive to prevent environmental harm.
- The Rectification at Source Principle: Policy should address environmental damage at its source to avoid the need for later remedies.

- The Polluter Pays Principle: Where possible, the costs of environmental damage should be borne by those responsible for causing it, rather than those suffering its effects or the broader community.
- The Precautionary Principle: When the risk of severe or irreversible environmental damage exists, the absence of scientific certainty should not be a reason to postpone cost-effective measures to prevent environmental degradation.

These principles are internationally recognized as effective benchmarks for environmental protection and enhancement. The duty is detailed in the Environmental Principles Policy Statement, published earlier this year, providing guidance on interpreting and proportionally applying these principles. Policymakers, along with officials advising them on policy matters, are encouraged to consider these principles extensively throughout the policy development process.

The Office for Environmental Protection (OEP) will oversee and report on the implementation of this duty across the government. It's important to note that environmental protection is a devolved matter in Scotland, Wales, and Northern Ireland, subject to a few reserved areas. Therefore, each devolved administration can independently legislate for the Environmental Principles in their respective regions.

Welsh Government: Opens consultation on Net Zero Sector Skills

The Welsh government has [launched](#) a consultation to gather views on the skills required to facilitate Wales' transition to net zero emissions across various sectors. The consultation covers the following aspects:

Net Zero Skills Action Plan: Feedback is sought on the findings of the Net Zero Skills Action Plan and its application to the eight emission sectors identified in Net Zero Wales.

Current Sector Status: Insights and information are sought regarding the current state of each sector in Wales. This includes any existing skills groups, research, or evidence reports that can inform the transition.

Future Skills Needs: The consultation aims to identify the skills requirements and evidence of demand associated with key milestones in achieving net zero emissions. This may involve factors such as climate change pathways, major investments or investment opportunities, changes in industry

practices aligned with carbon reduction, adoption of new technologies, key policy developments, and transitioning activities.

Cross-Cutting Themes: There is a focus on cross-cutting themes, including digital skills, procurement, Welsh language skills, and innovation. The consultation seeks to identify areas where these themes align with skills needs.

Employer Challenges: Input is requested regarding challenges and barriers faced by employers in upskilling and accessing a skilled workforce in the context of the net zero transition.

The consultation will run until December 31 2023, providing 56 days for stakeholders to respond. The insights gathered from this consultation will contribute to the development of sector-specific skills roadmaps to support Wales' transition to a net-zero emissions economy.

INNOVATION

Innovate UK: Regional SME innovation clusters for £75 million boost to economies

The UK government is [providing up to £75 million](#) to establish 8 new innovation "Launchpads" across the UK, building on existing regional clusters of high-tech small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs). The goal is to boost local economies and pioneer solutions in areas like healthcare and achieving net zero carbon emissions.

Launchpads are local programs supporting groups of innovative SMEs. Each Launchpad will receive funding to tailor projects to their regional business cluster, providing resources for research and development along with opportunities for collaboration.

The new Launchpads follow pilot projects in Liverpool and Teesside. They were selected through a competitive process assessing proposals from local leaders across the UK.

This initiative aligns with government aims to grow regional innovation networks and drive increased employment and economic growth outside the traditional "golden triangle" of London-Oxford-Cambridge.

The targeted funding and support intends to catalyse growth and innovation in emerging regional clusters of high-tech SMEs across the UK.

Ireland

DECC: €1.159 billion investment in Budget 2024

Minister for the Environment, Climate, and Communications, Eamon Ryan, [has secured a significant budget](#) of €1.159 billion for 2024 with a strong emphasis on addressing energy costs, advancing towards a low-carbon, digitally-connected future, and ensuring a just transition. The key highlights of the budget include:

Electricity Credits:

Three Electricity Credits of €150 each will be applied to domestic electricity bills, providing over two million households with a total value of just over €1 billion. These credits aim to support families and communities with their energy costs over the winter months and will be part-funded by €167 million raised from measures addressing windfall profits of fossil fuel companies and electricity generators.

Home Energy Upgrades — Retrofitting and Solar PV:

A record funding of €380 million for SEAI (Sustainable Energy Authority of Ireland) residential and community energy upgrades, including the Solar PV (photovoltaic) Scheme.

This funding increase will make homes warmer, healthier, more comfortable, and less expensive to heat.

The 0% VAT rate for domestic solar panel installations, introduced earlier, is expected to benefit over 21,000 households in 2023.

National Broadband Plan:

An allocation of €348 million for the National Broadband Plan, which aims to rapidly expand high-speed broadband services to an additional 100,000 homes and businesses in Ireland in the coming year.

This represents a substantial increase of €136 million (64%) from the previous year, reinforcing Ireland's digital connectivity.

Just Transition:

A commitment to ensuring no sector of society or community is left behind in the transition to a low-carbon future.

€45 million allocated to support a Just Transition in the Midlands counties most affected by the ending of peat extraction.

This budget is aligned with the government's commitment to achieving a climate-neutral, sustainable, and digitally-connected Ireland, addressing energy affordability and advancing environmental goals.

OTHER

UK Parliament: SNP Party Conference highlights

SNP Annual National Conference took place at Aberdeen, from Sunday 15 October to Tuesday 17 October 2023. Humza Yousaf, the leader of the Scottish National Party (SNP), [addressed](#) a wide range of important topics during his speech at the SNP conference. He emphasised the party's commitment to Scottish independence and announced plans to issue the first Scottish Bond in the international bond market.

Yousaf also discussed pressing social issues, including the rising cost of living and societal polarisation. He highlighted the need for effective solutions to these challenges and acknowledged the recent challenging by-election in Rutherglen and Hamilton West. Yousaf expressed his determination to serve the people of Scotland and showcased the SNP government's accomplishments, such as bringing railways back into public ownership, investing in education, and freezing rents.

In terms of public services, Yousaf criticised Westminster's handling of the cost of living crisis and pledged to freeze council taxes and increase funding for the NHS to reduce waiting lists. He also addressed energy policy, outlining plans to reinvest North Sea oil profits and support renewable energy initiatives.

Yousaf concluded his speech by announcing the SNP's intention to go directly to the international bond market to

introduce the first Scottish Bond, which is expected to encourage international investment.

SNP climate policies mentioned during the conference highlighted the severe consequences of climate breakdown, including events like wildfires, floods, and droughts, and emphasises the urgent need for action. The Cabinet Secretary for Net Zero and Just Transition, Màiri McAllan, speech acknowledges that communities worldwide are disproportionately affected by these climate impacts, even when they are not responsible for causing the issues.

Within the speech, Scotland's efforts in responding to climate change were mentioned. This includes initiatives like Scotwind, which focuses on offshore wind energy, the Just Transition program designed to empower workers and communities, and investments in renewable hydrogen and public transportation. The speech stressed the importance of reducing emissions while simultaneously benefiting people economically.

Additionally, the address called for leadership in achieving a just transition, supporting farming and land-based sectors, and working towards a net-zero Scotland. It highlighted the potential socioeconomic opportunities associated with addressing climate change. The speech criticised the UK government for being complacent in taking climate action and emphasises the need for Scotland to have the authority to lead in transitioning to a net-zero future.

UK Parliament: Tamworth and Mid Bedfordshire by-election results

The parliamentary constituency of Mid Bedfordshire held a by-election on Thursday following the resignation of long-standing Conservative MP Nadine Dorries. In a historic result, Labour candidate Alistair Strathern won the seat with a majority of 1,192 votes, overturning the Conservatives' previous majority of 24,664 from the 2019 general election.

This is the largest Conservative majority overturned by Labour in a by-election since 1945. Turnout was down to 44% from 74% in 2019.

Labour also took the parliamentary seat of Tamworth from the Conservatives in a historic by-election victory with Labour candidate Sarah Edwards winning the by-election with a

majority of 1,316 votes. The seat had been held by the Tories since 2010 with a majority of nearly 20,000 votes. It became vacant after former deputy chief whip Chris Pincher resigned, overturning the Conservatives' large majority.

The Labour leader Keir Starmer said the result demonstrated people want change and are putting renewed faith in Labour to deliver it. The historic win deep in a traditional Conservative area has been seen partly as a protest vote against the Tories rather than outright support for Labour. However, the Conservatives aim to regain the constituency at the next general election, which must happen by January 2025.

VEOLIA NEWS

Veolia News: StreetKind campaign launched in Sheffield to combat frontline abuse

Veolia and Sheffield City Council are taking a stand to tackle unacceptable verbal and physical abuse that frontline colleagues face on a daily basis as they carry out their essential duties.

[The campaign](#) used real CCTV and witness impact statements to highlight the issue and underline that Veolia and Sheffield City Council have a zero tolerance attitude towards abuse to frontline colleagues.

Veolia News: DEFRA Announce Simpler Recycling

Veolia hosted Defra Minister Rebecca Pow at [its Southwark Integrated Waste Management Facility](#) to launch Defra's Simpler Recycling consultation response. The reforms will

see consistency in collections across households, schools and businesses and more enforcement of waste crime.

Veolia News: Veolia launches first UK approved technician training scheme for electric vehicles

Veolia [launched](#) the first UK approved technician training scheme for electric vehicles and one of the first cohort, Joel Taylor, shared his story with the Daily Mirror. Looking at a day in the life of an electric vehicle technician, Joel shared

why it is so crucial to keep up to date with evolving technologies as fleets across all industries look to decarbonise.

Veolia News: Cory Reynolds attends Environment and Climate Change Committee

The Environment and Climate Change Committee held an [Oral Evidence for Electric Vehicles](#) which was attended by Cory Reynolds, Veolia's Corporate Affairs and Communications Director.

Cory emphasised the need for more reprocessing facilities, clearer regulations and producer responsibilities, and greater public awareness to support the increase in EV batteries needing recycling. Speeding up permissions, extending producer duties, adding waste codes, and improving awareness were highlighted as important steps.

There is currently not enough capacity in the UK to process the number of end-of-life EV batteries expected by 2040. Veolia estimates 10 times more battery reprocessing facilities will be needed.

Overall, the hearing emphasised the opportunities from EVs but challenges around capacity, costs, information, regulation, and coordination that need addressing.

ONGOING CONSULTATIONS AND COMMITTEE INQUIRIES

- Extending civil sanction variable monetary penalty powers, DEFRA, 08/11/23
- Environmental permitting: standard rules consultation 27, EA, 09/11/23
- Waste Electrical and Electronic Equipment (WEEE) compliance fee methodology 2023: call for views, DEFRA, 12/11/23
- Simpler Recycling (additional policies), DEFRA, 20/11/23
- Creating a smoke free generation and tackling youth vaping, DHSC, 06/12/23
- Capacity Market: new technologies 2023, DESNZ, 08/12/23
- UK greenhouse gas emissions reporting: Scope 3 emissions, 14/12/23
- Wet wipes containing plastic: proposed ban on the manufacture, supply and sale, DEFRA, 25/12/23
- Net zero sector skills, Welsh Government, 31/12/23
- Consultation on our regulatory fees and charges for 2024/2025, Natural Resource Wales, 08/01/24

This brief is aimed to provide you with an overview of the latest regulatory and legislative developments.

If you have any questions or comments, please let the Public Affairs Department know, by contacting Charlotte.blegay@veolia.com