

Environment Agency charge proposals for simpler recycling

Consultation response form

May 2025

We are the Environment Agency. We protect and improve the environment.

We help people and wildlife adapt to climate change and reduce its impacts, including flooding, drought, sea level rise and coastal erosion.

We improve the quality of our water, land and air by tackling pollution. We work with businesses to help them comply with environmental regulations. A healthy and diverse environment enhances people's lives and contributes to economic growth.

We cannot do this alone. We work as part of the Defra group (Department for Environment, Food & Rural Affairs), with the rest of government, local councils, businesses, civil society groups and local communities to create a better place for people and wildlife.

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Environment Agency
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[www.gov.uk/environment-agency](http://www.gov.uk/environment-agency)

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Email: enquiries@environment-agency.gov.uk

# When to use this response form

This is an offline response form for responding to the Environment Agency’s consultation on charge proposals for simpler recycling. It should be used if responding by post or email. If possible, we prefer consultees to respond online using our [consultation website, Citizen Space](https://consult.environment-agency.gov.uk/environment-and-business/ea-charge-proposals-for-simpler-recycling) where you can also view our consultation document with full details of the proposal.

# Summary

Government policy on delivering [simpler recycling in England](https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/simpler-recycling-in-england-policy-update/simpler-recycling-in-england-policy-update) requires dry recyclable waste to be collected separately from food waste and residual waste. This applies for waste collected from businesses and relevant non-domestic premises from 31 March 2025 (except micro-firms with less than 10 full time equivalent employees, who are exempt until 31 March 2027).

From 31 March 2025, simpler recycling requires businesses and occupiers of relevant non-domestic premises in England to present dry recyclable waste (paper and card, plastic, metal, glass), food waste and residual (non-recyclable) waste, separated from each other in accordance with the arrangements made with their waste collector. The requirement also exists for waste collectors to collect recyclable waste separately from other relevant (residual) waste for recycling or composting. Refer to the glossary at the end of the consultation document for definitions of terms used in this document, such as relevant non-domestic premises.

We are committed to making sure our charges are fair and transparent. We want them to reflect the full cost of the chargeable services we provide.

## Overview of consultation

We are proposing to introduce a new hourly rate (time and materials charge) of £118 per hour. This will apply to businesses or occupiers of relevant non-domestic premises that are not complying with requirements of [simpler recycling: workplace recycling in England](https://www.gov.uk/guidance/simpler-recycling-workplace-recycling-in-england) (simpler recycling). This includes micro-businesses who will not come into scope of simpler recycling until 31 March 2027.

We would like you to share your views so that we can understand the impacts and benefits, as you consider them, of the proposal outlined in this consultation. We would also like to hear any suggestions on how you think we might improve our proposal.

The proposed charge will allow us to recover the costs of our regulatory activities where businesses and relevant non-domestic premises do not comply with the rules of simpler recycling.

To complete the consultation questions, please refer to the consultation document for the full details of our proposed charges.

## How to respond to this consultation

The consultation runs for 2 months from 15 May 2025 until midnight on 15 July 2025. You can view the consultation document, draft charging scheme, and consultation questions using our [online consultation tool, Citizen Space](https://consult.environment-agency.gov.uk/environment-and-business/ea-charge-proposals-for-simpler-recycling) (https://consult.environment-agency.gov.uk/environment-and-business/ea-charge-proposals-for-simpler-recycling).

**Please use this form if you are responding by email or post rather than online.**

Please complete the questions and where there are free text boxes, give as much information as possible to support your answer.

For the questions, we refer you to specific sections in the consultation document to provide you with the background information you need to complete the question.

### Returning your response

To return this response form, or to request a hard copy of the consultation documents and/or response form, please contact us on 03708 506 506 (Monday to Friday, 8am to 6pm), by email enquiries@environment-agency.gov.uk, or by post:

Environment Agency

Charges consultation: simpler recycling

National Customer Contact Centre

PO Box 544

Rotherham

S60 1BY

The closing date for responses is 15 July 2025. We will consider all responses received by this date before finalising our proposals to submit for approval by government.

### Consultation principles

We are running this consultation in accordance with the guidance set out in the government's consultation principles. If you believe the consultation has not been run in accordance with these principles, please email consultation.enquiries@environment-agency.gov.uk.

Otherwise, for all other queries or complaints regarding this consultation please email enquiries@environment-agency.gov.uk.

## How we will use your information

After the consultation has closed, the Environment Agency will summarise responses in a consultation response document and make this publicly available on GOV.UK. We may include comments or quotes, unless you specifically request that we keep your response confidential.

We will not publish names of individuals who respond, or personal data, but we will publish the name of the organisation for those responses made on behalf of organisations. We will not respond individually to responses.

**Privacy Notice**

We would like to keep you informed about the outcomes of this consultation. If you would like to receive emails acknowledging your response and or telling you when we have published the summary of responses, please tick the relevant boxes below:

[ ]  yes, I would like to receive an email acknowledging my response

[ ]  yes, I would like to receive an email to let me know the consultation response document is published

If you have ticked any of the boxes above, please tell us your email address.

Email:

By giving us your email address, you consent for us to email you about the consultation. We will keep your details until we have notified you of the response document publication.

We will not share your details with any other third party without your explicit consent unless required to by law.

You can withdraw your consent to receive these email as at any time by contact us at enquiries@environment-agency.gov.uk.

**Can we publish your response?**

In line with the Freedom of Information Act 2000, we may be required to publish your response to this consultation but will not include any personal information. If you would like anything in your response to be kept confidential, please tell us what information you would like to be kept as confidential and explain your reasons for confidentiality. If you have requested your response to be kept confidential, we may still be required to provide a summary of it. For more information see our [Personal Information Charter](https://www.gov.uk/government/organisations/environment-agency/about/personal-information-charter).

*Please select one of the following:*

[ ]  yes

[ ]  no

If you answered ‘no’, please tell us why as we will need to understand this when responding to any Freedom of Information requests:

To help when we analyse the consultation responses, we would like you to answer a few questions about you (or about your organisation, if you are responding on their behalf).

**Please tell us if you are responding as an individual or on behalf of an organisation or group.**

*Select one answer only from the following options:*

[ ]  (a) responding as an individual

[ ]  (b) responding on behalf of an organisation or group

[ ]  (c) other

If you selected (b) ‘responding on behalf of an organisation or group’, please tell us the name of your organisation or group:

If you selected (c) 'other' please specify:

**If you are responding on behalf of an organisation, how many employees work there?**

*Please choose one of the following:*

[ ]  0 to 10 (or sole trader)

[ ]  11 to 50

[ ]  51 to 100

[ ]  101 to 250

[ ]  More than 250

**Are you a waste collector or waste producer?**

*Please choose one of the following:*

[ ]  waste collector and producer

[ ]  waste collector only

[ ]  waste producer

[ ]  not applicable

**How did you find out about this consultation?**

*Please choose one of the following:*

[ ]  from the Environment Agency

[ ]  from another organisation

[ ]  through an organisation, group, or trade association you are a member of

[ ]  press article

[ ]  social media, for example, Facebook, Twitter

[ ]  through a meeting you attended

[ ]  other (please specify below)

If you selected ‘other’ please tell us how you found out about the consultation:

# Charge proposal: hourly rate for non-compliant businesses or occupiers of relevant non-domestic premises

*Please refer to page 7 of the consultation document for full details of this proposal.*

### Question 1: To what extent do you agree or disagree with the proposed introduction of an hourly rate charge for businesses or occupiers of relevant non-domestic premises who do not comply with the rules of simpler recycling?

Please choose one of the following:

[ ]  strongly agree

[ ]  agree

[ ]  neither agree nor disagree

[ ]  disagree

[ ]  strongly disagree

[ ]  do not know

[ ]  not applicable

Why do you think this?

END of CONSULTATION

### Publishing our consultation response

We aim to publish our response to the consultation on GOV.UK within 12 weeks of this consultation closing and before we implement any changes. It will include a summary of the comments and queries we received. A link to this document will be added to the consultation page of Citizen Space.

We will circulate a link to our response to all consultees and other interested parties who have asked to be kept informed. We will not respond individually to consultees.

# **Would you like to find out more about us or your environment?**

Then call us on

03708 506 506 (Monday to Friday, 8am to 6pm)

Email: enquiries@environment-agency.gov.uk

Or visit our website

[www.gov.uk/environment-agency](https://www.gov.uk/environment-agency)

## **incident hotline**

0800 807060 **(24 hours)**

## **floodline**

0345 988 1188 **(24 hours)**

Find out about call charges (<https://www.gov.uk/call-charges>)

## **Environment first**

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