

National factsheet on separate collection

United Kingdom

Note: This 'National factsheet' has been prepared within the EC study "**Assessment of separate collection schemes in the 28 capitals of the EU**". The document represents the status-quo of the EU Member State (MS) in September 2015. The information included in this document has been elaborated for all 28 EU-MS based on publically available documents, i.e. national legislation, Waste Management Plans, Waste Prevention Programmes, strategies, implementation reports, and statistics. All information is cited in the factsheet, a complete list of information sources can be found at the end of this document.

For quality assurance purposes the 'National factsheet' has been sent to the EU Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) Members on waste for verification and commenting, the comments received are included in this final version.

1 General requirements on separate collection based on national legislation

The Waste (England and Wales) Regulations 2011, (as amended by The Waste (England and Wales) (Amendment) Regulations 2012), the Waste (Scotland) Regulations 2012, the Waste Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2011, (and associated The Waste (Amendment) regulations (Northern Ireland) 2013) and the Waste (Miscellaneous Provisions) (Wales) Regulations 2011, together transpose the requirements of the WFD into domestic law.

Waste regulation in the UK is devolved to the individual countries of the UK. However, the individual regulations above are broadly similar in their implementation of the WFD with some notable differences:

England and Wales:

- The Waste (England and Wales) Regulations 2011 were amended by the Waste (England and Wales) (Amendment) Regulations 2012. From 2012, Regulation 13 of the 2011 Regulations states that paper, metal, plastic and glass must be collected separately subject to this being technically, environmentally and economically practicable as well as necessary to ensure that waste undergoes recovery operations in accordance with the WFD and to facilitate or improve recovery. It does not explicitly define co-mingling as a form of separate collection. [UK TAC 2015]

Northern Ireland:

- The Waste (Amendment) Regulations (NI) 2013, revoked regulation 21 (the one that explicitly defined co-mingling as a form of separate collection) (comment [UK TAC 2015])
- Waste need only be separately collected if doing so facilitates and improves recovery and not recycling

Scotland: (please see [UK TAC 2015] comments following this section)

- No mention of material “properties” for mixing waste, only that dry recycling waste should be kept separate from non-recyclable waste, and from food waste.
- No mention of technical practicability, nor quality standards of the recycling industry. However, they do expand on the definition of economic and environmental practicability to include allow for non-collection in rural areas only or in situations where the material would otherwise end in a bring site/ Civic amenity site.
- Food waste and bio waste are addressed together. From 1st Jan 2016, domestic properties must be provided with a food waste or bio-waste/food waste collection receptacle.
- Separate collection of glass, metals, plastics, paper, or card (including cardboard), one year earlier than the WFD – 1st January 2014.
- Additional provisions are made for high quality recycling.
- Refers to dry recyclables, which include paper, glass, plastic, metal and additionally card and cardboard.

Comment [UK TAC 2015] referring to Scotland:

- ‘Whilst this is true of our Waste regulations, we’d like to point out that Scotland does have other specific measures in place to support recyclate quality, including:
 - The “Code of Practice on Sampling and Reporting at Materials Recovery Facilities”, which comes into force on 1 October 2015, requires operators to sample the quality of recyclate as it arrives

and leaves facilities, as well as to record the next and final destinations of each load that leaves the facility, and report results to SEPA. The Code is intended to drive up demand for clean, consistent, high quality streams of recyclate and improve transparency.

- The Scottish Materials Brokerage Service will deliver collaborative contracts for waste and recyclable materials from local authorities and other public bodies, and will increase the value and stability of contracts. This will help to create business conditions for investment in domestic reprocessing by providing certainty in the volume and duration of supply of valuable materials.

Scotland's Zero Waste Taskforce (a joint initiative between Scottish Ministers and COSLA) has agreed that a Charter for more consistent recycling systems based on best practice is to be developed. The charter will be supported by a Code of Practice, to be developed by local authorities in collaboration with other key delivery partners, which will help to improve the availability and quality of recyclate in our economy.

Table 1: Overview of national law(s) that implement separate collection

Year and Abbreviation	Title of the law (translation)
[UK England and Wales No. 988 2011]	The Waste (England and Wales) Regulations 2011.
[UK England and Wales No. 1889 2012]	The Waste (England and Wales) (Amendment) Regulations 2012
[UK Scotland No. 148 2012]	The Waste (Scotland) Regulations 2012
[UK Northern Ireland No. 127 2011]	The Waste Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2011 as amended by UK Northern Ireland No. 241 2013

Table 2: Overview on evaluation categories recycling

Evaluation	Explanation
additional	The requirements of the WFD have been transposed and additional information or requirements are set out in the national legal requirement, i.e. additional definition, precision of requirement that goes beyond the text of the WFD
one:one	The requirement of the WFD has been transposed exactly / literally or transposed analogously. No additional requirements or explanations are set out.
deviating	The requirements of the WFD have been implemented into national legal requirements but have been adjusted, left out or deviated
not included	The requirement of the WFD is not transposed into national law

Table 3: Assessment on national transpositions

Law & Article	Evaluation	Original text (English text)
1. Article 3 (11) WFD: Definition separate collection: "separate collection" means the collection where a waste stream is kept separately by type and nature so as to facilitate a specific treatment"		
[UK England and Wales No. 988 2011] Regulation 3 (2)	one:one	3 (2) Terms which are used but not defined in the Regulations and are used in the Waste Framework Directive have the same meaning as in that Directive.
[UK Scotland No. 148 2012] Regulation 2 (2)	additional	(2) In section 29(5A) (preliminary)(d), after paragraph (b) insert— “(ba) “separate collection” means that waste is presented for collection, and collected, in a manner that ensures that— (i) dry recyclable waste is kept separate from other waste; (ii) waste from one dry waste stream is kept separate from waste in another such stream; and (iii) food waste is kept separate from other waste;”.
[UK Northern Ireland No. 127 2011] Regulation 9 (1)	one:one	9 (1) “separate collection” means the collection where a waste stream is kept separately by type and nature so as to facilitate a specific treatment;
2. Article 10 (2) WFD: “waste shall not be mixed with other waste/material with other properties”		
[UK England and Wales No. 988 2011] Regulations 13(2), 13(3), 14 (1) (2) [As amended by UK England and Wales No. 1889 2012]	one:one	14 (1) An establishment or undertaking which collects, transports or receives waste paper, metal, plastic or glass must, from 1st January 2015, take all such measures available to it in that capacity as are reasonable in the circumstances to ensure that where that waste has been separately collected it is not mixed with other waste or other material with different properties. 14 (2) This duty applies where keeping waste separate is necessary to ensure that waste undergoes recovery operations in accordance with Articles 4 and 13 of the Waste Framework Directive and to facilitate or improve recover.
[UK Scotland No. 148 2012] Regulation 2. (3)	deviating	2. 3 (2J) The duties in subsection (2E) or (2I) may be departed from where dry recyclable waste is managed in such a manner as will ensure that— (a) the amount of material recycled from the waste is not significantly less, and the quality of the material recycled is not significantly lower, than would be the case were there no departure from the duties; and (b) the waste is not mixed with other waste that cannot be recycled.

Law & Article	Evaluation	Original text (English text)
[UK Northern Ireland No. 127 2011] Regulation 19 (1)	one:one	19 (1) A district council which collects, transports or receives waste paper, metal, plastic or glass shall, from 1st January 2015, take measures to ensure that where that waste has been separately collected it is not mixed with other waste or other material with different properties.
3. Article 11 (1) WFD: “measures to promote high quality recycling”		
[UK England and Wales No. 988 2011] Schedule 1 Paragraph 8	one:one	Schedule 1 Waste prevention programmes and waste management plans - PART 2 Matters which must be included in waste management plans 8. Policies in relation to separate collection of waste Measures to promote high quality recycling including the setting up of separate collections of waste where technically, environmentally and economically practicable and appropriate to meet the necessary quality standards for the relevant recycling sectors.
[UK Scotland No. 148 2012] Regulation 2. (3)	additional	2. 3 (2L) It shall be the duty of any person who produces or manages controlled waste, or who as a broker or dealer has control of such waste, to take all reasonable steps to— (a) ensure that the waste meets any quality standard for the management of material included in the waste; (b) ensure that the waste is managed in a manner that promotes high quality recycling;
[UK Northern Ireland No. 127 2011] Regulation 7 (b)	one:one	7. The waste management strategy must include policies in relation to packaging waste, separate collection of waste, bio-waste and re-use and including— (b) measures to promote high quality recycling including the setting up of separate collections of waste where technically, environmentally and economically practicable.
4. Requirement WFD: 11 (1) “separate collection if technically practicable”		
[UK England and Wales No. 988 2011] Regulation 13 (4) [As amended by UK England and Wales No. 1889 2012]	one:one	13 (4) The duties in this regulation apply where separate collection – (A) is necessary to ensure that waste undergoes recovery operations in accordance with Articles 4 and 13 of the Waste Framework Directive and to facilitate or improve recovery; and (b) is technically, environmentally and economically practicable.
[UK Scotland No. 148 2012] Comment [UK TAC 2015]:	additional	45 (C) (2) An authority must, from 1st January 2014, arrange for there to be provided to the occupier of every domestic

Law & Article	Evaluation	Original text (English text)
<p>The Waste (Scotland) Regulations 2012 amended the Environmental Protection Act 1990, and amongst those amendments was the following, which makes a reference to “environmentally or economically practicable” (see EPA 45(C)(2))</p>		<p>property in its area such receptacles as will enable the separate collection of dry recyclable waste from the property.</p> <p>(3) An authority need not arrange for a receptacle to be provided under subsection (2) if—</p> <p>(a) the property is in a rural area, and the authority considers that the separate collection of dry recyclable waste from the property would not be environmentally or economically practicable; or</p> <p>(b) the authority considers that dry recyclable waste if not presented in a receptacle will be deposited at a bring site.</p> <p>Comment [UK TAC 2015]: By not including ‘technically practicable’ in the legislation – Scotland has gone beyond the requirements of teep, as it removes the option of not separately collecting for reasons of technical practicability.</p>
<p>[UK Northern Ireland No. 127 2011] Regulation 18 - 20, Explanatory note</p>	<p>one:one</p>	<p>Regulations 18 to 20 require that, from 1st January 2015, where it is environmentally, economically and technically feasible to do so, at least waste paper, metal, plastic and glass should be collected separately and the mixing of those wastes once separately collected is prohibited.</p> <p>18 (1) A district council, when collecting waste paper, metal, plastic or glass shall, from 1st January 2015, take all such measures to ensure separate collection of that waste as are available to it and are—</p> <p>(a) technically, environmentally and economically practicable;</p> <p>(b) appropriate to meet the necessary quality standards for the relevant recycling sectors.</p> <p>(2) A district council, when making arrangements for the collection of waste paper, metal, plastic or glass, shall, from 1st January 2015, take measures to ensure that those arrangements are by way of separate collection.</p> <p>(3) The duties under paragraphs (1) and (2) shall apply only where keeping waste separate facilitates or improves recovery.</p> <p>Comment [UK TAC 2015]: (This paragraph transposes the requirements of Article 10(2) WFD which states...‘where necessary..... to facilitate or improve recovery’)</p> <p>Regulation 20 should also be cited here as it applies the requirements to other waste collectors (than district councils).</p> <p>20. The duties under regulations 18 and 19 shall apply equally to a person required to be registered as a carrier of controlled waste for the purposes of the Controlled Waste (Registration of Carriers and Seizure of Vehicles) Regulations</p>

Law & Article	Evaluation	Original text (English text)
		(NI) 1999 (S.R. 1999 No. 362) as they apply to district councils.
5. Requirement WFD: 11 (1) separate collection if economically practicable		
[UK England and Wales No. 988 2011] Regulation 13 (4) [as amended by UK England and Wales No.1889 2012]]	one:one	13 (4) The duties in this regulation apply where separate collection – (a) is necessary to ensure that waste undergoes recovery operations in accordance with Articles 4 and 13 of the Waste Framework Directive and to facilitate or improve recovery; and (b) is technically environmentally and economically practicable.
[UK Scotland No. 148 2012] Regulation 2. (5)	deviating	2. 5 (3) An authority need not arrange for a receptacle to be provided under subsection (2) if— (a) the property is in a rural area, and the authority considers that the separate collection of dry recyclable waste from the property would not be environmentally or economically practicable; or (b) the authority considers that dry recyclable waste if not presented in a receptacle will be deposited at a bring site.
[UK Northern Ireland No. 127 2011] Regulation 18 - 20, Explanatory note	one:one	See above “separate collection if technically practicable”
6. Requirement WFD: 11 (1) “separate collection if environmentally practicable”		
[UK England and Wales No. 988 2011] Regulation 13 (4) [as amended by UK England and Wales No. 1889 2012]	one:one	13 (4) The duties in this regulation apply where separate collection – (a) is necessary to ensure that waste undergoes recovery operations in accordance with Articles 4 and 13 of the Waste Framework Directive and to facilitate or improve recovery; and (b) is technically, environmentally and economically practicable.
[UK Scotland No. 148 2012] Regulation 2. (5)	deviating	2. 5 (3) An authority need not arrange for a receptacle to be provided under subsection (2) if— (a) the property is in a rural area, and the authority considers that the separate collection of dry recyclable waste from the property would not be environmentally or economically practicable; or (b) the authority considers that dry recyclable waste if not presented in a receptacle will be deposited at a bring site
UK Northern Ireland No. 127	one:one	See above “separate collection if technically practicable”

Law & Article	Evaluation	Original text (English text)
2011] Regulation 18 - 20, Explanatory note		
7. Article 11 (1) WFD: “separate collections (...) appropriate to meet the necessary quality standards for the relevant recycling sectors”		
[UK England and Wales No. 988 2011] Schedule 1, Part 2 (8)	one:one	<p>Comment [UK TAC 2015]:</p> <p>[See ‘3. Article 11 (1) WFD: “measures to promote high quality recycling”’]</p> <p>SCHEDULE 1, PART 2, (8) – Policies in relation to separate collection of waste within Waste Management Plans:</p> <p>“Measures to promote high quality recycling including the setting up of separate collections of waste where technically, environmentally and economically practicable and appropriate to meet the necessary quality standards for the relevant recycling sectors”.</p>
[UK Scotland No. 148 2012] Regulation 2. (3)	one:one	<p>2. 3 (2L) It shall be the duty of any person who produces or manages controlled waste, or who as a broker or dealer has control of such waste, to take all reasonable steps to—</p> <p>(a) ensure that the waste meets any quality standard for the management of material included in the waste;</p> <p>(b) ensure that the waste is managed in a manner that promotes high quality recycling;</p>
[UK Northern Ireland No. 127 2011] Regulation 18, 20	one:one	<p>18 (1) A district council, when collecting waste paper, metal, plastic or glass shall, from 1st January 2015, take all such measures to ensure separate collection of that waste as are available to it and are—</p> <p>(a) technically, environmentally and economically practicable;</p> <p>(b) appropriate to meet the necessary quality standards for the relevant recycling sectors.</p> <p>(2) A district council, when making arrangements for the collection of waste paper, metal, plastic or glass, shall, from 1st January 2015, take measures to ensure that those arrangements are by way of separate collection.</p> <p>(3) The duties under paragraphs (1) and (2) shall apply only where keeping waste separate facilitates or improves recovery.</p> <p>Comment [UK TAC 2015]:</p> <p>20. The duties under regulations 18 and 19 shall apply equally to a person required to be registered as a carrier of controlled waste for the purposes of the Controlled Waste (Registration of Carriers and Seizure of Vehicles) Regulations</p>

Law & Article	Evaluation	Original text (English text)
		(NI) 1999 (S.R. 1999 No.362) as they apply to district councils.
8. Article 11 (1) WFD “by 2015 separate collection shall be set up for at least the following: paper, metal, plastic and glass”		
[UK England and Wales No. 988 2011] Regulation 13 (1), 13(2), 13(3) [As amended by UK England and Wales No. 1889 2012]	one:one	Comment [UK TAC 2015]: Duties in relation to collection of waste 13. (1) This regulation applies from 1 st January 2015. (2) Subject to paragraph (4), an establishment or undertaking which collects waste paper, metal, plastic or glass must do so by way of separate collection. (3) Subject to paragraph (4), every waste collection authority must, when making arrangements for the collection of waste paper, metal, plastic or glass, ensure that those arrangements are by way of separate collection.
[UK Scotland No. 148 2012] Regulation 2 (5)	additional	2. 5 (2) An authority must, from 1st January 2014, arrange for there to be provided to the occupier of every domestic property in its area such receptacles as will enable the separate collection of dry recyclable waste from the property.
[UK Scotland No. 148 2012] Regulation 2 (7A)	one:one	2 (7A) “Dry recyclable waste” means controlled waste that is— (a) glass; (b) metals; (c) plastics; (d) paper; or (e) card (including cardboard),
[UK Northern Ireland No. 127 2011] Regulation 18	one:one	18 (1) A district council, when collecting waste paper, metal, plastic or glass shall, from 1 st January 2015, take all such measures to ensure separate collection of that waste as are available to it and are— (a) technically, environmentally and economically practicable; (b) appropriate to meet the necessary quality standards for the relevant recycling sectors. (2) A district council, when making arrangements for the collection of waste paper, metal, plastic or glass, shall, from 1st January 2015, take measures to ensure that those arrangements are by way of separate collection.
9. Article 22 WFD: Bio-waste - Member States shall take measures, as appropriate (...) to encourage: “a) the separate collection of bio-waste with a view to the composting and digestion of bio-waste”		
[UK England and Wales No. 988 2011] Schedule 1 Paragraph 9.	one:one	Schedule 1 Waste prevention programmes and waste management plans - PART 2 Matters which must be included in waste management plans 9. Policies in relation to bio-waste As appropriate, measures to encourage the separate collection of bio-waste with a view to the composting and digestion

Law & Article	Evaluation	Original text (English text)
		of bio-waste.
[UK Scotland No. 148 2012] Regulation 2. (5)	deviating	2. 5 (5) An authority must, from 1st January 2016, arrange for there to be provided to the occupier of every domestic property in its area (apart from a property in a rural area)— (a) a receptacle which enables the separate collection of food waste from the property; or (b) where an authority is satisfied that the amount of food waste that will be collected is not significantly less than would be collected in a receptacle provided under paragraph (a), a receptacle which enables the occupier to present food waste and other biodegradable waste for collection.
[UK Northern Ireland No. 127 2011] Regulation 7 (7)	one:one	7 (7) The waste management strategy must include policies in relation to packaging waste, separate collection of waste, bio-waste and re-use and including— (c) measures to encourage the separate collection of bio-waste with a view to the composting and digestion of bio-waste;

2 General requirements on separate collection based on main strategies

United Kingdom	472 kg MSW/capita 45.55% recycling
<p>Definition of Municipal solid waste (MSW):</p> <p>In the waste management plans (WMP) for the different regions, a distinction is made between municipal waste, household waste and waste collected by local authorities.</p> <p>In the WMP for England, municipal waste is defined as “household waste and commercial waste similar to household waste” [UK WMP 2013, p.7]. This is a broadened definition from the original one that included only “waste collected by local authorities” and was changed following discussions of the UK with the European Commission [UK ZWW 2010, p.16]. Comment [UK TAC 2015]: The Municipal Sector Plan 2011 and Collections, Infrastructure and Markets Sector Plan 2012 (which are part of the Wales waste strategy) distinguish between local authority collected municipal waste and municipal waste collected by others, and thus comply with the definition of municipal waste laid down in the Landfill Directive.</p> <p>In the Scottish Zero Waste plan, municipal waste is defined as “waste from households and commerce collected by or on behalf of local authorities” [UK ZWS 2010, Annex 1, p.4] and in the Plan for Northern Ireland, municipal waste means “waste from households and other waste which is similar in nature to waste from a household”, including commercial waste which is similar in nature to waste from a household [UK NIW 2013, p.16]. Comment [UK TAC 2015]: “In agreement with the European Commission the way in which municipal waste is defined in NI has been broadened. Previously, the definition only included waste which was collected by Councils but this has been changed to include all waste from households and all wastes of a similar nature and composition to waste from households, whoever collects it. As a result, the definition now includes commercial waste which is similar in nature to household waste”.</p>	
Main strategies implementing separate collection	
<p>The Waste Management Plan for England, together with corresponding plans for Wales, Scotland and Northern Ireland and local waste management plans issued by local authorities together cover the whole territory of the United Kingdom and therefore fulfil the Waste Framework Directive (WFD) requirement [UK WMP 2013, p.6].</p> <p>The Waste (England and Wales) Regulations 2011 [UK England and Wales No. 988 2011] were amended in 2012 [UK England and Wales No 1889 2012] to reflect the WFD requirement of introduction of separate collection schemes for paper, plastic, glass and metal by 2015. Separate collection of these streams has to be undertaken wherever it is necessary to facilitate or improve recovery and is technically, environmentally and economically practicable to do so. The Waste (England and Wales) (Amendment) Regulations 2012 removed the reference to co-mingling from the original regulations (comment [UK TAC 2015]). The separate collection of bio-waste is subject to the decision of local councils although it is encouraged by the Government [UK WMP 2013, p.23]. Likewise, The Waste (Scotland) Regulations 2012 [UK Scotland No. 148 2012] amended both the original Regulations from 2011 and the Environmental Protection Act 1990 to include separate collection provisions for dry recyclables from 1st January 2014 and for food and other biodegradable waste from 1st January 2016. This is true unless it can be proven that the same quality and quantity of waste can be collected mixed [UK SWR 2012, p.4]. On the contrary, the original Waste Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2011 [UK Northern Ireland No. 127 2011] already contain a paragraph dealing</p>	

with the separate collection of certain waste streams as well as with compliance with the WFD targets [UK NWR 2011, p.5].

Until the 2000s, the English household waste management system depended heavily on landfilling. Since then, the landfilling rates decreased while recycling gained a larger share of waste management through the combined use of regulatory, policy and financial measures [UK WMP 2013, p.10].

Eurostat shows that the amount of municipal waste materially recycled in the United Kingdom has been on a more or less stable increase since 1998 until 2012, from 47 kg/cap to 129 kg/cap. In the same period, the amount of waste composted and digested increased from 1999 every year, until it reached 75 kg/cap in 2012 [UK Eurostat 2014, 1]. Altogether, the recycling rate of municipal waste has increased from 11.1 % in 2000 to 42.8 % in 2012 [UK Eurostat 2014, 2].

Both Scotland and Wales have issued their Zero Waste plans where the objective is, besides complying with the WFD objective of **50% of preparing for re-use and recycling of certain waste streams by 2020**, a more ambitious target of **70% of all waste to be re-used, recycled or composted by 2025** (for Wales, 2024/25) and **a maximum of 5% landfilled** [UK ZWS 2010, Annex 1, p.5; UK ZWW 2010, p.61]. Comment [UK TAC 2015]: This is also a target for Wales for 2024/25, as specified in Towards Zero Waste].

The Scottish plan furthermore includes interim objectives of **60% of household waste recycled by 2020** to help deliver the WFD objective [UK ZWS 2010, Annex 1, p.20].

The interim recycling target in the Welsh plan for **2015/16 is 58% of municipal waste collected by local authorities (64% in 2019/20) and 57% of commercial waste¹ re-used, recycled or composted. A minimum 80% of preparing for re-use, recycling or composting must come from source separation in all interim target years until 2024/25**. Furthermore, there are interim targets for landfilling, energy recovery and **preparing for re-use, the latter of which should reach minimum 1% by 2024/25** [UK ZWW 2010, p.61].

The Northern Irish Waste Management Strategy targets differ from the Welsh and Scottish. The Strategy introduced, besides the WFD 50% target for 2020, an interim target of **45% of household waste prepared for re-use or recycled by 2015**. Moreover, **60% of local authority collected municipal waste (LACMW) should be prepared for re-use or recycled by 2020**. Household waste is defined either as a sub-section of municipal waste, excluding “waste similar in nature to that from households” [UK NIW 2013, p.16], or as waste from a domestic property or other specified premises. Furthermore, LACMW is defined as “waste that is collected by, or on behalf of, a District Council” [UK NIW 2013, p.16].

¹ Commercial waste was not included in the relevant definition of municipal waste but its inclusion in the overall definition of municipal waste was anticipated [UK ZWW 2010, p.16]

3 Implementation of separate collection

Overview on separate collection systems in place

Local authorities are legally obliged to provide waste collection services to households, including separate collection of recyclable waste streams where this is technically, environmentally or economically practicable and facilitates or improves recovery of the waste [UK WMP 2013, p.32]. **Paper and cardboard, plastic, glass and metal are mainly collected door-to-door**, and while a separate collection of each of them is preferred by the Regulations, **co-mingled collection may be allowed under certain conditions** – the condition of necessity and technical, environmental and economical practicability – to be assessed by each local council [UK RMR 2014, p.1-2]. Comment [UK TAC 2015]: Regulatory provisions are in place to provide transparency around data on the quality of co-mingled collected dry-recyclable material, so local authorities can keep track of quality levels. When materials can be effectively separated and the same high quality of recycling can be achieved as if they would have been collected separately co-mingled collection is permissible. Evidence shows that this is not the case for the co-mingled collection of food waste with dry recyclables as well as the inclusion of glass waste within a dry recycling mix. Food waste and glass waste should therefore be collected separately from dry recyclables [UK RMR 2014, p.15-16].

Door-to-door collection provision by local authorities as reported by WRAP for 2013/14 is **100% for metal cans, 84% for glass and 98% for plastic bottles (63% for other rigid plastic packaging)**. All authorities collected paper, and 96% also collect card [WRAP].

Door-to-door collection of glass has many different systems. Glass can be either separated at kerbside by colour (clear, brown, green), which increases the quality of glass cullet, or clear and coloured glass are collected together. To secure good quality of the cullet, if this is required, glass of different colours is manually sorted into separate compartments of the door-to-door collection vehicle [UK WRA n.d., p.7-9].

Where dry recyclables are collected fully co-mingled, the presence of glass in the mix can be detrimental to the quality of glass and particularly paper output from MRF. As such, it is recommended that glass remain separate and be placed in a dedicated compartment on the collection truck. [UK WRA n.d., p.10].

Garden waste is collected by almost all local authorities, and food waste by about 50% (100 % in Wales) of them either separately, or mixed with garden waste [UK WMP 2013, p.23].

Other than door-to-door, recyclables are also collected at bring sites and at household waste recycling centres [UK RMR 2014, p.13]. All the four waste streams paper/cardboard, plastic, metal and glass can be brought to bring sites for collection either separately or co-mingled, furthermore, organic waste and other recyclable materials (e.g. textiles) are collected at some sites. Co-mingled bring site collection is allowed with an Environmental Permit [UK BSR 2013, p.49].

There is no deposit-return scheme operating in the United Kingdom for the waste fractions under consideration.

Table 4: Overview of main separate collection systems in United Kingdom

Collection type	Paper and cardboard	Glass	Plastic	Metal	Bio-waste
Door-to-door collection 	Secondary	Secondary	Secondary	Secondary	Primary
Co-mingled (door-to-door) 	Primary	Primary	Primary	Primary	Secondary (mixed food and garden waste)
Bring points 	Secondary	Secondary	Secondary	Secondary	-
Civic amenity sites 	Tertiary				Tertiary for garden waste
Producer/retail take-back 					

4 Information sources

- [UK BSR 2013]** WRAP Enviro – Update to Bring Site Recycling Guide (WRAP Project BHC002-207). WRAP, 2013.
http://www.wrap.org.uk/sites/files/wrap/Bring%20Site%20Draft%20Report%20v5%20JB%20amends_0.pdf
- [UK England No. 988 2011]** The Waste (England and Wales) Regulations 2011 No. 988.
<http://www.legislation.gov.uk/uksi/2011/988/contents/made>
- [UK Eurostat 2014, 1]** Eurostat – Municipal waste generation and treatment, by type of treatment method. Eurostat, 2014.
<http://ec.europa.eu/eurostat/tgm/table.do?tab=table&init=1&language=en&pcode=tsdpc240&plugip=1>
- [UK Eurostat 2014, 2]** Eurostat - Recycling rate of municipal waste, Eurostat, 2014.
http://ec.europa.eu/eurostat/tgm/table.do?tab=table&init=1&language=en&pcode=t2020_rt120&pppplu=1
- [UK N.I. No. 127 2011]** The Waste Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2011 No. 127.
<http://www.legislation.gov.uk/nisr/2011/127/contents/made>
- [UK NIW 2013]** Department of the Environment – Delivering Resource Efficiency. Northern Ireland Waste Management Strategy. DOENI, Belfast, 2013.
- [UK REC 2015]** Recyclenow webpage.
<http://www.recyclenow.com/facts-figures/how-it-recycled/collection-services>
- [UK RMR 2014]** WRAP – Waste Regulations Route Map, WRAP 2014.
<http://www.wrap.org.uk/sites/files/wrap/Route%20Map%20Revised%20Dec%2014.pdf>
- [UK Scotland No. 148 2012]** The Waste (Scotland) Regulations 2012 No.148.
http://www.legislation.gov.uk/ssi/2012/148/pdfs/ssi_20120148_en.pdf
- [UK SWM 2011]** Department for Communities and Local Government – Planning Policy Statement 10: Planning for Sustainable Waste Management. Crown copyright, 2011, ISBN: 978-011-7539501.
https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/11443/1876202.pdf
- [UK TAC 2015]** Information provided by the TAC member of United Kingdom, September 2015.
- [UK WMP 2013]** Department for Environment, Food & Rural Affairs – Waste Management Plan for England. Crown copyright, 2013.
- [UK WRA 2010]** Waste & Resources Action Programme – Analysis of kerbside dry recycling performance in the UK 2008/09. Summary report. WRAP, 2010.
<http://www.wrap.org.uk/sites/files/wrap/EVA143-000%20Kerbside%20Dry%20Benchmarking%20UK%2008-09%20Report%20FINAL%20for%20publication%20V2%201.pdf>
- [UK WRA 2015]** WRAP website.
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