



European
Recycling
Platform

A Landbell Group Company

ERP UK Newsletter

Q2 2019





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Member News

Consultations, consultations, consultations – an update from our Managing Director

The Resources and Waste Strategy published by government at the end of 2018 is a document of significant scope and ambition across all areas of resource management in England.

Hot on its heels in February came the much anticipated consultation on reform of the UK's packaging EPR regime – along with associated consultations on a Deposit Return Scheme (DRS), consistency in recycling collections and a plastic packaging tax.

The scale and complexity of all of these was quite daunting! But the prize is a significant one - a significantly improved system, delivering significantly better environmental outcomes.

ERP staff worked hard on understanding and responding to all of these – whilst keeping in close touch with industry bodies and trade associations – thank you to all for your effort on this.

Now it is over to DEFRA, the Welsh Government, DAERA and HM Treasury to review the responses and come back with conclusions – and probably more consultations on more details next year!

Not waiting for this, on 8 May, the Scottish Government announced its plans for a DRS covering drinks containers of all sizes.



ERP always emphasise the importance of a single approach to product related policies within the UK. For us the questions always come down to:

- What additional environmental benefits will come from the increases in complexity and administration producers (and potentially consumers) will face; and
- What unintended consequences may result from this divergence?

WEEE and Batteries cannot be forgotten either:

- We are awaiting the results of the review of the 2013 WEEE Regulations and ERP are participating in early stage discussions on possible future changes to the UK WEEE Regulations;
- With our European colleagues we are awaiting the proposals for the revision of the Battery Directive – which is expected to come into revised UK regulations.

Member News

Super-charged batteries recycling competition

As proud sponsors of the South East Wales counties largest school batteries recycling competition, ERP are delighted to announce a significant milestone – together the schools have collected over 20 tonnes of batteries!

Since its inception seven years ago, the number of schools participating has grown exponentially. Recent numbers show that roughly 106 schools have contributed this year.

We'd like to express our thanks to the students, parents, teachers and councils for their great work.



WEEE and batteries: data reporting

We are asking that Producers submit their Q2 2019 B2C EEE & Battery data in July with a deadline set for 15th July. You are encouraged to contact your account manager for support, if you have any questions.

Producers are also asked to consider any changes that WEEE Open Scope will have caused to their EEE data reporting.

Member News

Packaging: data registrations are complete

April marked the completion of our packaging data reporting and registrations for Great Britain and Northern Ireland. All registered members have received their registration certificate for the 2019 compliance period.

Unfortunately, the public register shows that a number of companies still need to register. As a matter of urgency, we advise late registrants to complete your packaging data submissions and registrations as soon as possible.



Data services: reporting

For the remainder of the year the Data Services team will be working on maintaining our packaging weights database in an effort to support our customers in additional reporting and analysis outside of the packaging waste regulations. Along with future-proofing in light of the potential reporting requirements under EPR.

As part of this on-going collection activity we may wish to carry out some targeted and specific data collections for your account. Your support will be greatly appreciated during this time and should you have any related questions, please do contact your account manager.

Member News

Member workshops 2019

Are you new to a role involving compliance, in the midst of a hand over with a previous colleague and a bit confused, or do you want to know how WEEE Open Scope impacts your company? Allow us to help you!

ERP are running a series of free workshops on Batteries, Packaging and WEEE. Join us for a full day of learning to find out more on Extended Producer Responsibility obligations, network with fellow ERP members over a buffet lunch and get face-to-face time with members of our team.

Dates

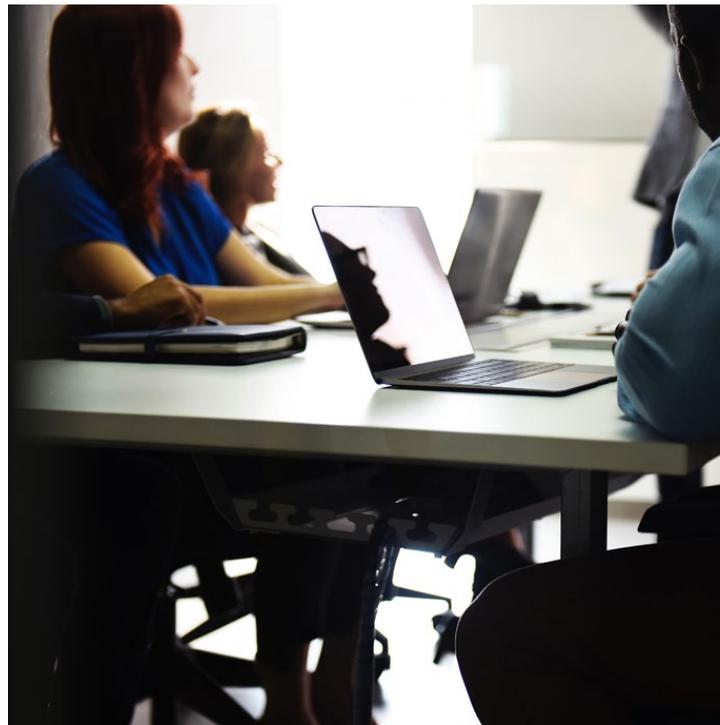
27/06/2019 – WEEE & Batteries, Chiswick, London

25/09/19 – WEEE & Batteries, Chiswick, London

28/09/2019 - WEEE & Batteries Workshop, Manchester

10/01/2020 - WEEE & Batteries Workshop, Leicester

To book your **FREE** place now, please e-mail your details and the workshop you are interested in to the UK Compliance Team: ukcompliance@erp-recycling.org.

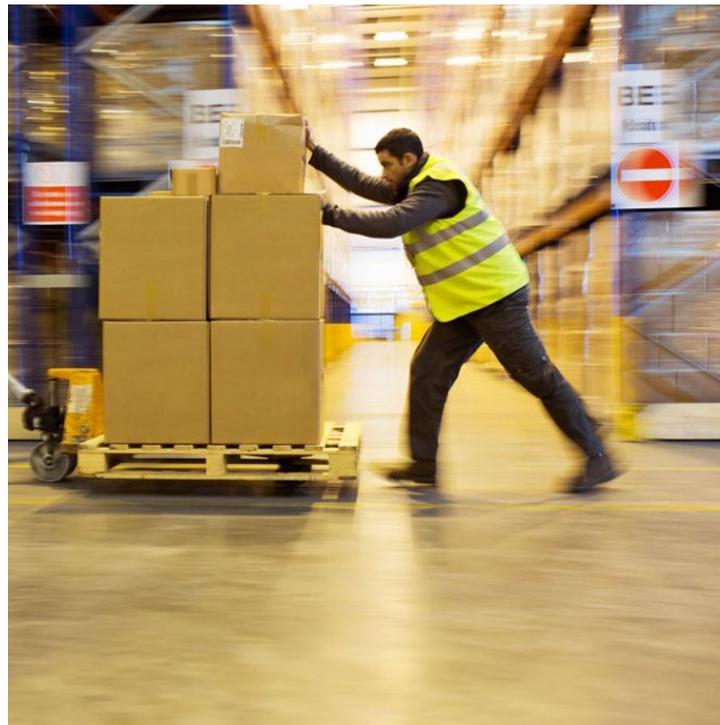


Industry News

Packaging consultations

As previously mentioned by our Managing Director, last month the following packaging consultations closed: **Reforming the UK Packaging Producer Responsibility system, Plastic Packaging Tax, Introducing a Deposit Return Scheme in England, Wales and Northern Ireland and Consistency in Household and Business Recycling Collections in England.**

We have responded to all four consultations and expect a response from the government later this summer. However, in anticipation of changes to the UK packaging responsibility system, we advise producers to budget for substantial increases from 2023.



Consolidate your compliance needs with ERP UK

ERP works closely with producers that have obligations under multiple areas of the Batteries, Packaging and WEEE producer responsibility regulations; helping them to consolidate their compliance needs and reduce costs.

Supporting our solutions, our data consultancy service is the longest standing in the sector. Assisting clients with data calculations, plastics pact reporting, OPRL reporting and more.

Contact us via uk@erp-recycling.org for more information.



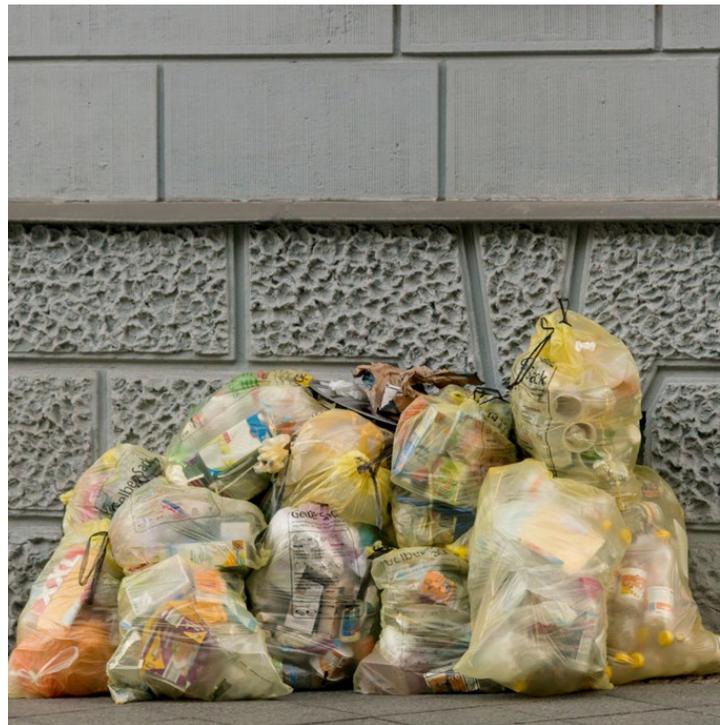
Industry News

War on waste

Celebrity chef Hugh Fearnley-Whittingstall has launched a 'war on waste' campaign targeting the "Big Seven" supermarkets and their regular use of single use plastics.

As a result many have made significant changes to their business models, paving the way to a more circular economy. See examples below:

- [Sainsbury's trials reverse vending machines](#)
- [Iceland pledges to be plastic free by 2023](#)



Persistent Organic Pollutants (POPs) in WEEE

Under the Stockholm and UNECE conventions the EU is required to restrict POPs in waste to limit their impact on the environment. As a result, WEEE exceeding the concentration thresholds must be treated to destroy the POPs.

This change in legislation will impact how WEEE evidence is classified and will likely result in an increase in cost of collection and recycling, as specialised recycling methods will be required.

Our Managing Director John Redmayne, is working closely with the WEEE Scheme Forum and will update members in future.

Industry News

PRN market update

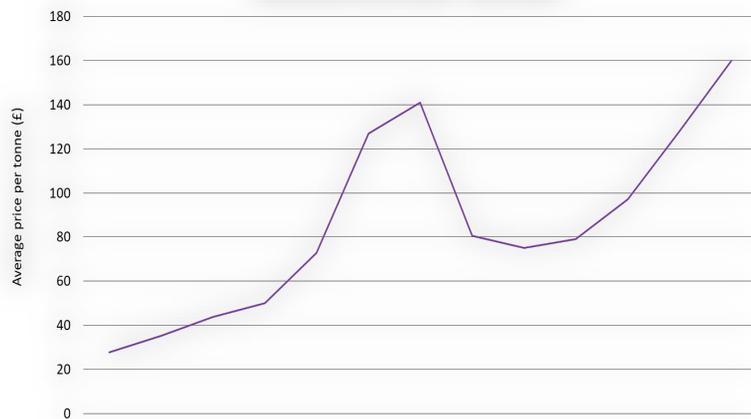
The unprecedented volatility in the PRN market and the exceptional increases in the price of plastic PRNs this year is a cause for great concern amongst producers and packaging compliance schemes.

In addition to significant changes in market price, we are also seeing potential shortfall issues with aluminium.

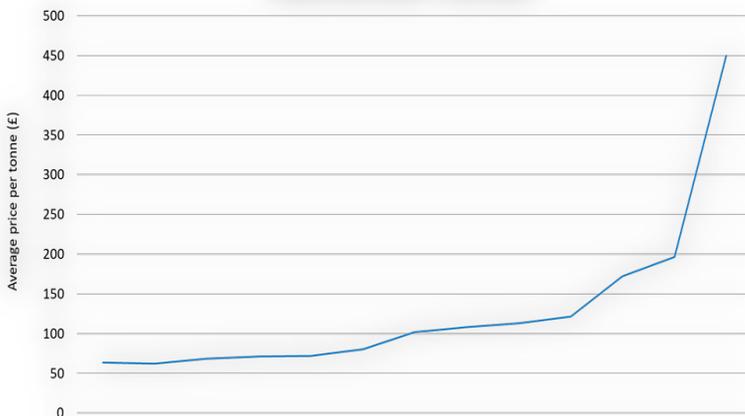
Aluminium

Aluminium recycling rates are still tight in terms of ability to meet the recycling target. The risk that the 2019 aluminium recycling target may also be missed has been causing prices to rise to £150-£160 per tonne so far.

Aluminium June 2018 – June 2019



Plastic June 2018 – June 2019



Plastic

The risk that plastic PRNs may be in shortfall to meet this year's UK recycling targets has caused sharp price rises.

Plastic PRNs, whilst starting this year at over £100 per tonne - during the third week of June have reached an unprecedented level of £450 per tonne.

Industry News

Call for packaging compliance fee

Packaging compliance schemes have been raising concerns regarding the price levels for plastic and aluminium PRNs and the UK's ability to meet recycling targets through PRNs.

ERP UK are a member of the Packaging Scheme Forum (PSF), which has recently written to government to express concerns about the UK's ability to comply if there are not enough PRNs to meet targets. As well as, the significant price rises in PRNs that have been experienced as a result of this possibility.

The PSF has proposed that a form of 'safety net' be considered by government, via a compliance fee route in the event that PRNs are not available in sufficient amounts.

Update

Having met on Wednesday 19th, to urgently discuss the situation, Defra's Advisory Committee on Packaging (ACP) recently released a statement recommending that a 'mechanism' be introduced for PRNs in 2020 to combat the excessive volatility.

Click here for further information on the topic.



Industry News

Green Dot symbol confusion

Recently the [BBC Watchdog programme](#) revealed that members of the public believe the 'Green Dot' symbol on packaging indicated its recyclability.

In fact the symbol is used to identify packaging which has paid the appropriate licence fees.

Displaying the Green Dot on packaging is mandatory in some countries (voluntary in others). To reduce costs involved in printing different packaging for different markets, many companies choose to use the symbol and purchase a UK Green Dot licence.

If your company is using this symbol on packaging which you import into a country then you must have a licence.

If you would like to know more or need help please contact our UK Compliance Team via ukcompliance@erp-recycling.org, subject line: Green Dot, along with a list of countries you are interested in.

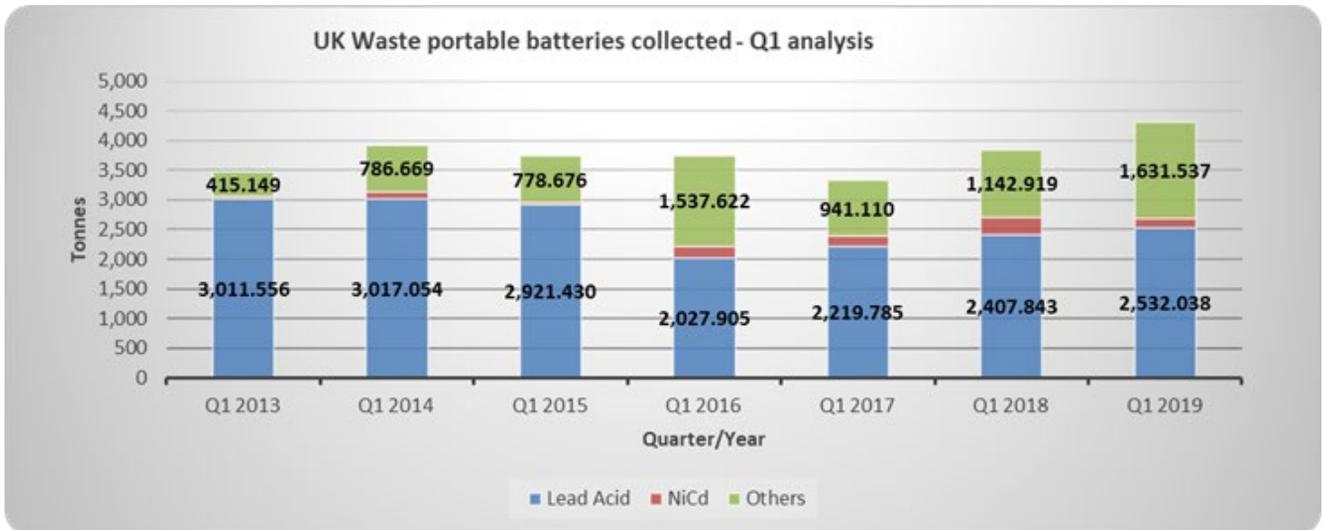


Compliance Data

Batteries: UK government data analysis

ERP monitors the recycling data produced by the UK in order to understand and provide insight to our members on the driving forces of battery evidence. This in turn helps articulate the costs behind the evidence required to meet your obligations.

A quick review of the Q1 2019 battery data shows an uplift in the amount of batteries collected in Q1 2019 compared to the previous year. Based on this Q1 2019 data, the UK is currently sitting at 13.11% towards the 45% target.



Compliance Data

Packaging: UK government data analysis

Following our analysis of the interim Q1 2019 recycling data last month, most materials are looking positive towards meeting the 2019 obligations (including small increases in plastic and steel since the first set of data was published by the Environment Agency).

However, there are concerns with aluminium and plastic. Both are behind target and plastic performance is down compared to Q1 2018. When including PRNs carried over from 2018, which can be used towards the 2019 obligation, this does improve the situation, but not by enough to meet targets in plastic and aluminium. If recycling rates remain the same for the following quarters in 2019, the projected rates suggest that other materials will comfortably meet targets.

We will be keeping a close eye on the UK's recycling performance throughout 2019.

Material	2019 UK Obligations (tonnes)	Q1 Recycling	Achievement In Q1 towards 2019 Requirements	2018 PRNs carried over)	Projected year achievement towards 2019 Obligations
Paper	2,843,283	932,706	33%	163,192	137%
Glass	1,587,327	444,164	28%	69,383	116%
Aluminium	105,734	23,586	22%	3,280	92%
Steel	361,052	103,055	29%	16,561	119%
Plastic	1,027,280	244,366	24%	23,009	97%
Wood	430,804	161,665	38%	27,025	156%
Recovery	577,055	175,242	30%	50,919	130%

Compliance Data

WEEE: UK government data analysis

The Q1 2019 recycling data, recently published by the Environment Agency, shows a slight increase overall compared to Q1 2018. However, display equipment and lamps have decreased compared to Q1 2018.

Looking at the amount of WEEE collected in Q1 2019 against the 2019 Defra targets, all streams are below 25% and have underperformed for Q1. The largest shortfall is seen in Small Mixed WEEE which is currently at 20%.

UK Waste Stream	Q1 2019 UK WEEE collected	2019 DEFRA targets	Progress to targets
Large Domestic Appliances	45,640	188,282	24%
Cooling Equipment	31,448	135,415	23%
Display Equipment	11,388	48,708	23%
Small Mixed WEEE (cat 2-10)	33,851	172,919	20%
Lamps	1,144	5,168	22%
Photovoltaics	18	87	21%
Total	123,489	550,579	22%

Please get in touch – we'd love to hear from you!

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