

Key Dates in Waste Management 2025

Everything you need to know to help your business comply with legislation this year.



Simpler Recycling

The upcoming "Simpler Recycling" law in England, effective from **31 March 2025**, requires businesses with **more than 10 employees** to sort waste into specific streams:

General Waste

Dry Mixed Recycling

Glass Recycling

Food Waste

Businesses are encouraged to audit current waste practices, educate employees, and implement proper segregation to meet compliance and avoid fines.



Landfill Tax Increases

Starting **1 April 2025**, the landfill tax standard rate in England and Northern Ireland will rise by **22% to £126.15 per tonne**, with the lower rate (for inactive waste like soil) **increasing to £4.05**.

While primarily affecting landfill operators, the cost will likely be passed to businesses, encouraging recycling and other alternatives.

Reviewing waste types and amounts your business sends to landfill can help identify more sustainable, cost-effective disposal methods.



Disposable Vapes Ban

As of **1 June 2025**, the UK government will introduce a **ban of single-use vapes**.

Disposable vapes, which are typically not recycled and contain **harmful materials**, contribute significantly to **excess waste**.

This ban aims to **curb youth vaping, reduce waste**, and promote a **circular economy**.

It also aligns with the government's broader environmental goals and efforts to reduce the use of scarce materials like **lithium**.



Rising Sustainability Expectations

Businesses are increasingly adopting sustainable materials to **reduce waste** and **maximise recycling, reuse, and recovery**, a trend expected to grow in 2025.

Partnerships with suppliers offering recyclable and biodegradable products, particularly in packaging, help **reduce landfill use** and **meet eco-goals**.

Simpler Recycling regulations and higher landfill taxes are driving a shift from general waste disposal to sustainable practices, saving money and appealing to eco-conscious customers.



Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR) for Packaging

The UK's Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR) for packaging is currently on track to be introduced in **October 2025**.

It applies to **businesses with over £1M turnover** that handle **more than 25 tonnes of packaging annually**.

Companies must report packaging data, with fees starting in 2025 based on 2024 data.

Obligations include managing **packaging used**, **supplied**, or **imported**, **promoting sustainability**, and **meeting recycling responsibilities**.



The Rise of Artificial Intelligence

Artificial Intelligence (AI) continues to grow in waste management, with expanded use expected in 2025.

AI is widely applied to **improve waste sorting and recovery rates** at facilities and **monitors equipment** to predict maintenance needs, reducing costly downtime.

These advancements save **time, money, and resources**, highlighting AI's evolving role in the waste management sector.



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