



# Simpler Recycling legislation changes - for landlords, Managing Agents and social housing providers

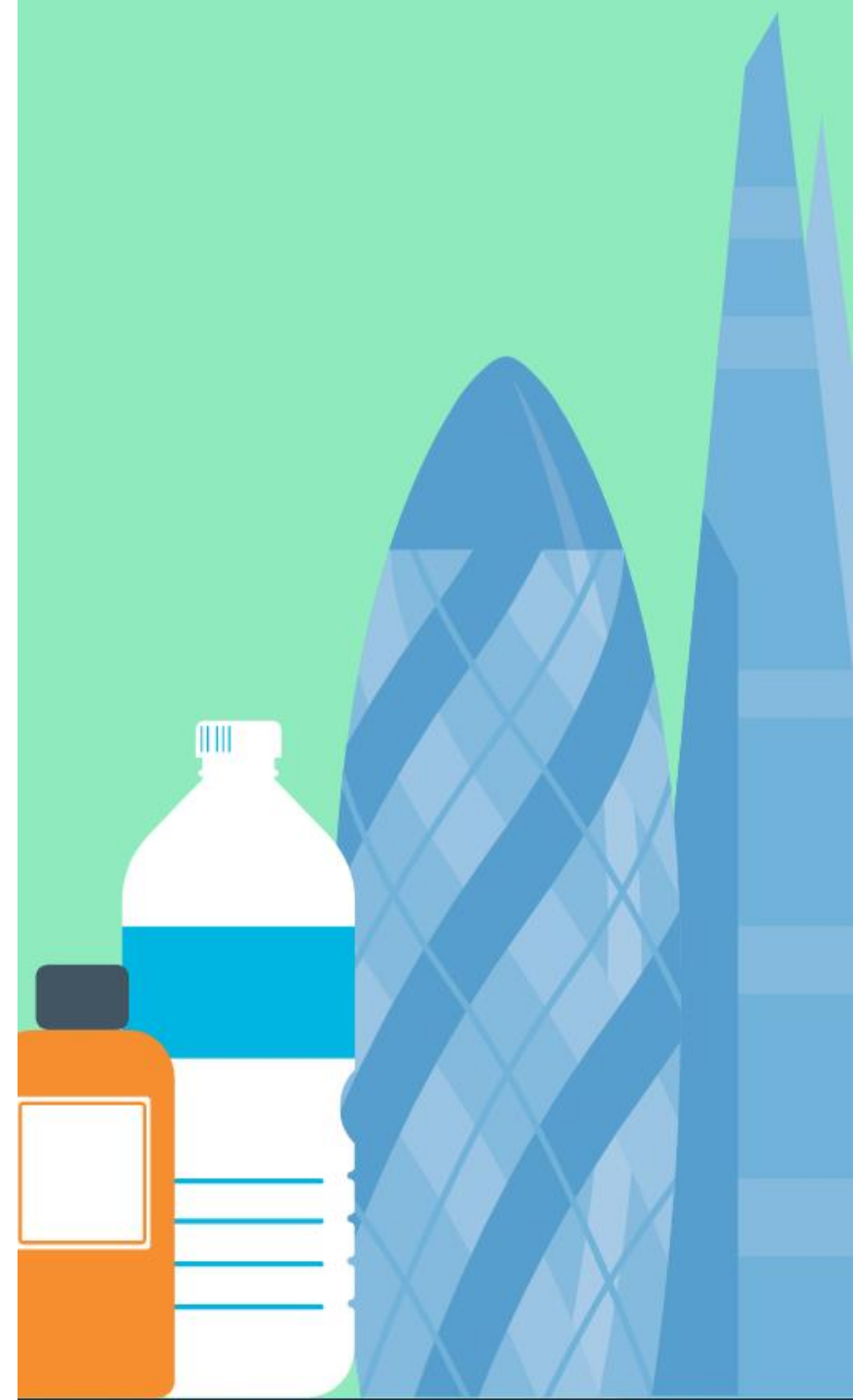
September 2025



# Who are ReLondon?

ReLondon is a partnership of the Mayor of London and London Boroughs to make our city a leader in the circular economy.

- **Helping local authorities** rethink plans and policies to support recycling improvements and a circular economy through advice and projects.
- **Supporting London's small and medium sized businesses** to adopt or scale circular business models through advice, grants and connections.
- **Empowering & educating Londoners** to revolutionise their relationship with stuff through campaigns.



# Presentation agenda

1

**New legislation on waste and recycling and what this might mean for you**

2

**Support available from Local Authorities and ReLondon**

**Housekeeping: this webinar is not for individual collection issues.**



# Why you're here today

## The housing management sector has a vital role to help improve recycling rates

- Waste and recycling legislation and services are undergoing significant changes. From April 2026, all households\* are legally required to have a full recycling service including food waste.
- Local authorities are preparing to rollout new and improved services and often need support and collaboration from managing agents to do so successfully.
- Across the country, 4 million households live in purpose-built flats - 1.4 million of these are in London. Many don't have access to recycling services.
- Making it easier for people who live in flats to recycle benefits everyone - the residents, managing agents, local authorities and the environment.



# Overview of waste legislation changes

Simpler  
Recycling



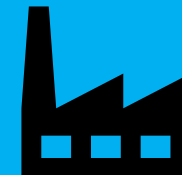
Persistent Organic  
Pollutants (POPs)



Deposit Return  
Scheme (DRS) and  
Extended Producer  
Responsibility  
(pEPR)



Emissions Trading  
Scheme (ETS)



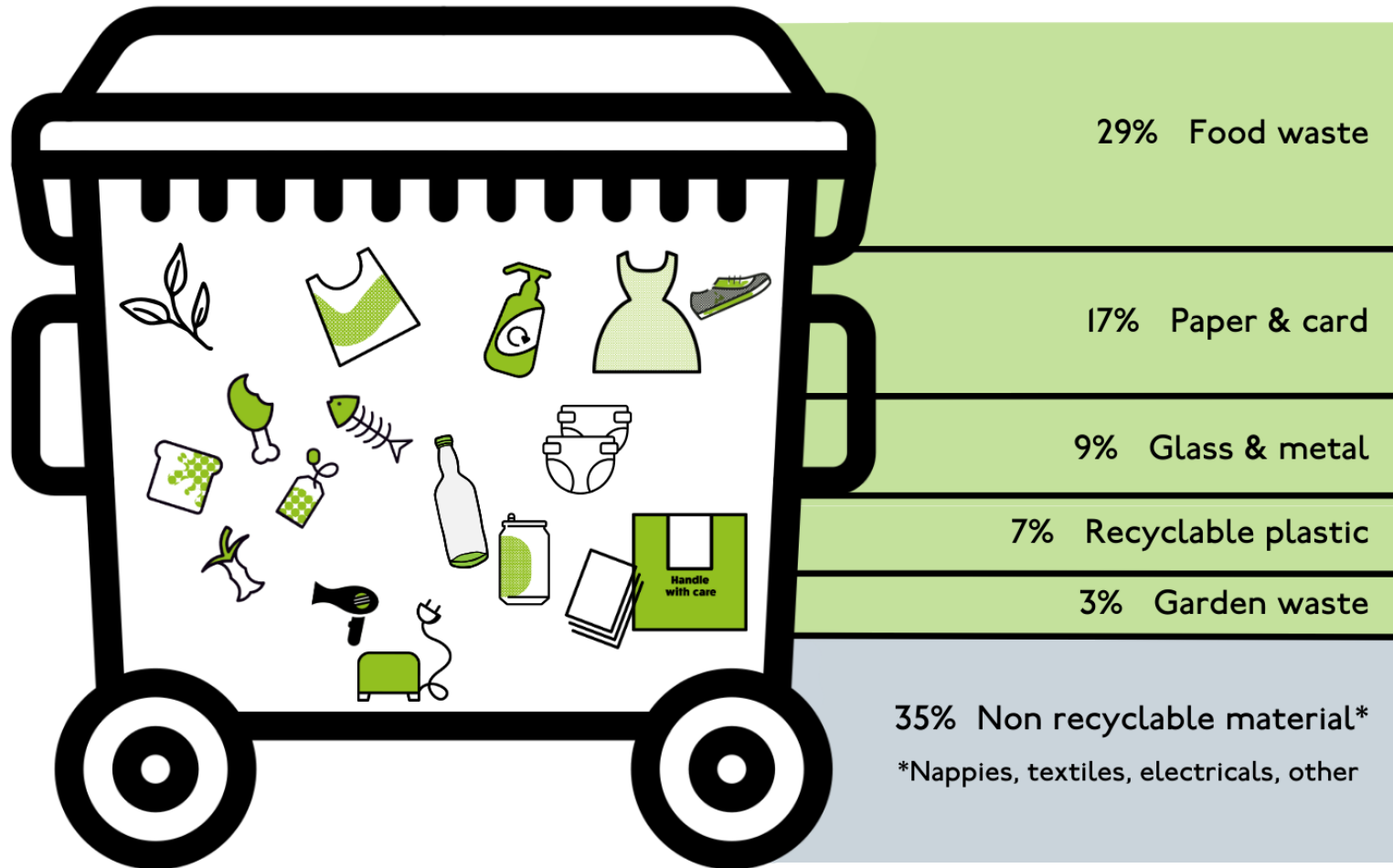
# Simpler Recycling legislation

## What is it?

- From 1 April 2026 every household in England should have a collection service for:
  - Glass, metal (cans, aerosols and foil), plastic bottles pots tubs and trays, paper and card
  - Separation of paper and card from other materials (where practicable)
  - Food waste (a weekly collection)
  - From April 2027 this will also include plastic film (plastic bags and wrapping)
- This also applies to your offices / place of work. Businesses in England (includes office blocks) were required to have these services in place from April 2025, with micro-firms (10 people or less) from April 2027



# What's in our rubbish bins?

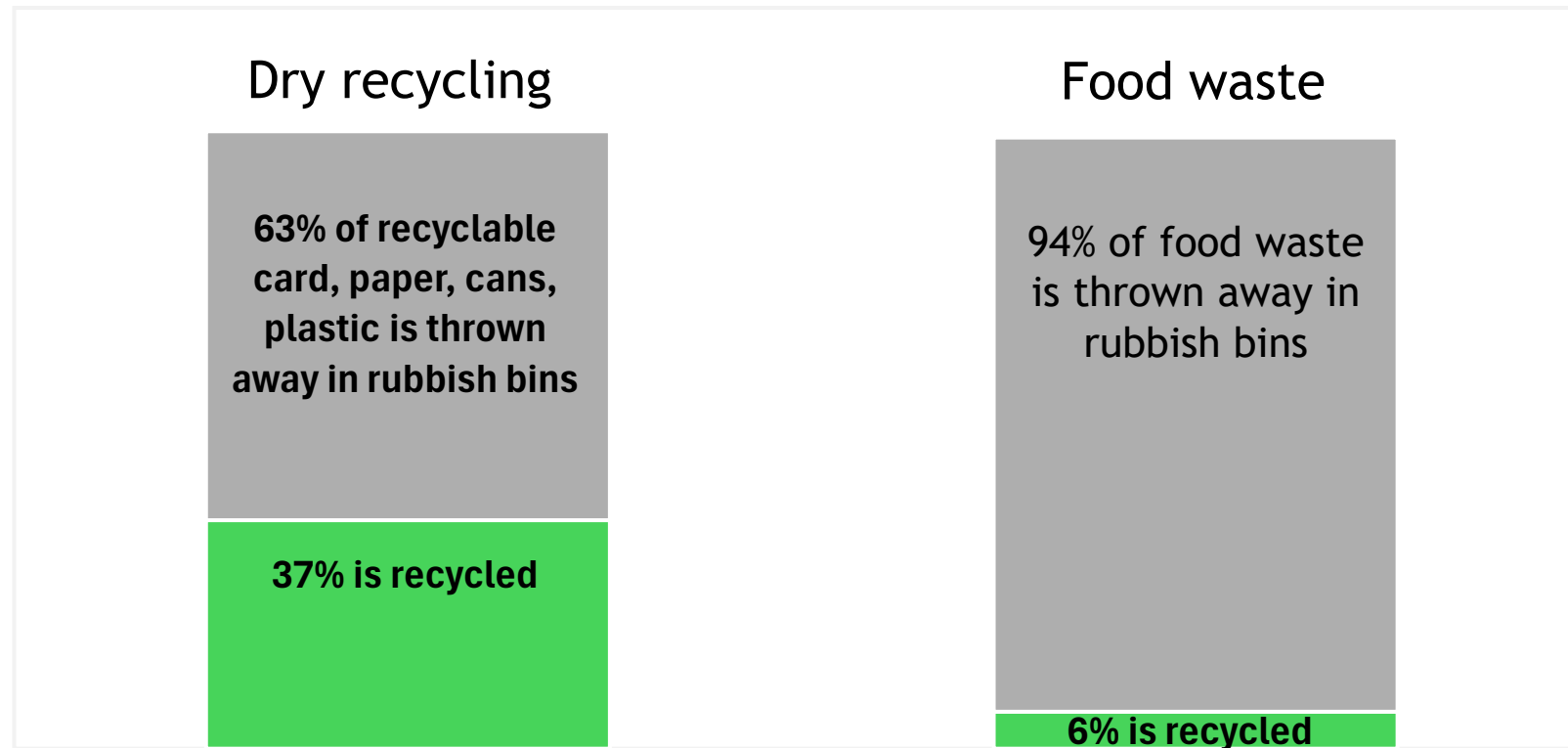


## Key takeaway:

- The rubbish bins are full of items that could be recycled
- Around 60% of items being put in the rubbish bins could be recycled in the food or recycling bins

# Why does improving recycling for flats matter?

Estimated capture of recycling from flats in London



There is a huge opportunity to improve recycling for people living in flats

This would increase recycling rates, reduce carbon emissions and reduce the costs of waste disposal, and improve services for residents.



# Where does recycling and rubbish go once its collected?



**Material:** Recycling (glass, paper, cans, plastics)

**Where:** Materials recovery / recycling facility

**How:**

- Baled into different materials & sent for processing back into new items
- Preserves raw materials, saves energy, water and carbon emissions



**Material:** Food waste

**Where:** Anaerobic Digestion plant

**How:**

- Industrial composting, producing liquid which is used as fertiliser, and energy
- Saves embedded nutrients, energy, and carbon emissions



**Material:** Rubbish bins

**Where:** Energy from Waste plants

- Burns waste, produces electricity
- Burning plastic is a high carbon emission activity



# How might Simpler Recycling affect your properties?

- 1** You will need to have in place a recycling service for glass/plastic/paper etc.  
Some councils *may* introduce a separate card and paper bin
- 2** You will need to have a weekly food waste collection service  
(for *most* councils this is by 1st April 2026)
- 3** Councils will also need to collect plastic film (e.g. carrier bags) (by 1st April 2027)

# How might food be provided to your block? (if not yet provided)

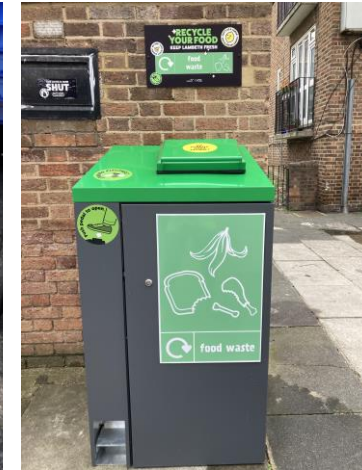
Residents are provided  
with a small indoor food  
caddy  
(liners may or may not  
be provided)



Resident fills the caddy  
with their food waste



Emptied into a larger food waste bin (in the bin area)  
which is collected **every week**

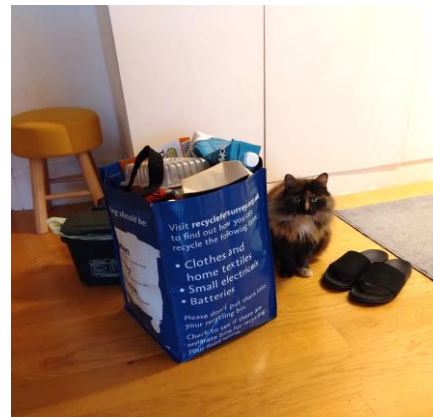


# How might dry recycling be provided to your block? (if not yet provided)

Leaflet on how to use the service and what can be recycled (might be offered a reusable recycling bag).



This is filled with their recyclable items



Recycling emptied into the recycling bins loose.





# What are the benefits to your properties?

## Less confusion

- Residents across all properties will be able to recycle the same items, regardless of location. This may make it easier for you to communicate with your residents about recycling.

## Cleaner bin stores

- Weekly food waste collections means cleaner bin stores - food is not left sat in your rubbish bins causing smells / leaks
- More people are recycling means fewer overflowing rubbish bins

## Corporate Sustainability targets

- Help towards meeting your carbon, waste or sustainability targets



# Other legislation



## Emissions Trading Scheme

- Sending materials made from fossil carbon (plastic) will incur additional charges from 2028 (tbc).
- Applies to any waste sent to an Energy from Waste plant

This will **increase the cost** of sending rubbish to an EfW facility - for example if you pay to have contaminated bins emptied or extra rubbish collections



## Deposit Return Scheme/pEPR

- A small deposit will be placed on all drinking containers which can be redeemed by returning it for recycling
- Producers will pay for the collection and disposal of packaging from households

This might **reduce** the number of drinking cans/bottles in your recycling & rubbish bins, making them less full (helping prevent overflows), and reduce the amount of non-recyclable packaging waste



## Persistent Organic Pollutants

- In 2023, legislation was updated on how soft furnishings - like sofas - have to be disposed of because they contain harmful chemicals.
- This means they now have to be sent to an EfW and not landfill, and cannot be recycled

This may **increase** costs of disposing of dumped waste like sofas or chairs in bin areas

# Support for your blocks

## Managing Agents webinar - most common challenges



## Managing Agents webinar - most common challenges

When you submit this form, it will not automatically collect your details like name and email address unless you provide it yourself.

1. Which of these are challenges at your blocks of flats? (tick all that apply)

- ☐ Residents leaving items in the bin area
- ☐ Unlabelled bins so its difficult to know what bins are for what items
- ☐ Broken bins (lids missing or wheels damaged)
- ☐ Not knowing who at the council to contact when recycling isn't collected
- ☐ Rented properties so our communications don't always reach tenanted flats
- ☐ No directors on site to communicate with us when things go wrong (e.g., missed collections)
- ☐ No caretaker on site to communicate when things go wrong (e.g., missed collections)
- ☐ Other

2. If other, please specify

Enter your answer



# Building an evidence base to help improve recycling



Letters, templates and advice is available to help implement changes at your blocks

# Residents helped us improve recycling for flats



# Ease

*Effective recycling is achieved when...*

Residents find it easy to recycle

*Services that fit with people's existing routines will feel easier to use*

# Knowledge

*Effective recycling is achieved when...*

Residents know how to recycle

*Lack of easy access to accurate information can undermine confidence*

# Motivation

*Effective recycling is achieved when...*

Residents want to recycle

*Poor experiences and an apparent lack of accountability can be demotivating*

# The Flats Recycling Package (FRP)

- The Flats Recycling Package is a set of operational and communications guidelines, based on our research
- Both projects with Peabody Housing
- Evidence based guidance that has been shown to increase recycling by up to 40% and cut the amount of contamination on estates by a quarter



**Making recycling work for people  
in flats: Toolkit for the Flats  
Recycling Package**

Revised 2022





**Before:** Lack of signage, overflows, rubbish chutes on some estates

**After:** All waste streams co-located, chutes closed  
Reverse lids, large apertures for recycling bins, new signage  
New food waste bins and push pedal housing units  
In home storage, communications and engagement campaign





# Council support available to your blocks

## Communications



- Most will provide items such as bin stickers, internal posters or leaflets for free
- Check websites as many have downloadable packs or information for you to share with your tenants

## Recycling containers



- Some boroughs provide funded packages to help upgrade your recycling bins or will swap out older bins with new ones

## Food containers



- Free indoor and external food bins
- Some provide a roll of free food liners
- Some councils may provide free 'housing units' on a first come first serve/needs basis

# Helping maximise success

## 1 **Communicating with tenants:**

Using your channels (WhatsApp groups / emails / newsletters) to inform and promote the scheme or using new tenant packs to explain correct bin use

## 2 **Delivery coordination and identifying space:**

Helping identify where new food or recycling bins can go

Making sure council delivery teams can access properties / bin stores to deliver food caddies / new bins

Helping with deliveries at larger sites e.g., caretakers or on-site concierges

## 3 **Working in partnership:**

Providing boroughs your most recent contact details to be able to coordinate or undertake site surveys

Ensuring codes / keys are up to date and given to the council

Reporting missed collections / maintaining bins / bin stores

Informing on site staff so everyone is aware of the changes



# Summary

- Legislation from April 2026 means that the way councils collect waste from your blocks might change
- Councils can't do this alone - councils, residents, landlords, managing agents and social housing providers are requested to work together to help implement Government changes.
- Remember the principles of *Ease*, *Knowledge* and *Motivation* when looking at where to put new bins and make the service as successful as it can be - all are interoperable and rely on one another to make recycling happen
- Check with your local council what support they will provide - many provide free bins, signage or information for your tenants. Some may have this information ready to download from their website.





# Further support

Managing agents and landlords might need help to implement service changes and improvement projects.

ReLondon offer support packages to help with the implementation of your projects, such as:

- **Recycling implementation at purpose-built flats** including training for your staff
- **Stakeholder engagement workshops** to encourage buy-in from senior leaders, colleagues and external partners

Please let us know if you're interested in indicative costings, or contact us at [hello@relondon.gov.uk](mailto:hello@relondon.gov.uk)

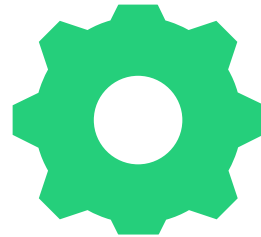


# Free resources available from ReLondon's website



## Reports:

- [Making recycling work for people in flats](#)
- [Making recycling work for people in flats 2.0](#)
- [Flats above shops](#)



[Flats recycling toolkit](#)  
including templates for  
implementation plan,  
improvement plan and  
site assessment.



A full set of down-  
loadable  
[communications assets](#)  
including bin stickers,  
signage, posters and  
information leaflets,  
along with guidance  
for their correct use.



# Thank you

Shelley Holmes and Liz Horsfield

 @relondon\_UK

 /company/relondon

[relondon.gov.uk](http://relondon.gov.uk)