

England Toolkit

Navigating the New Food Waste Legislation in England

On 31 March 2025, new recycling regulations will come into effect, requiring businesses across England to ensure that all food waste is separated out from other wastes and presented separately for collection by an approved contractor.

New mandatory food waste separation coming March 2025!

As per new government legislation, all non-household municipal premises in England, excluding micro-firms (businesses with fewer than 10 full-time equivalent employees), will be required to comply with the following regulations by 31st March 2025:

- Separate food waste collections: You must arrange for separate collection of your food waste, diverting it from general waste streams.
- Compliant waste presentation: Food waste must be presented in a manner that adheres to the new legislation.

Understanding the Legislation

The government is introducing new regulations requiring all businesses, the public sector and third-sector organisations in England to separate recyclable materials like most householders do now.

These regulations are designed to improve the quality and quantity of waste collections across England, most notably by mandating that food waste is separated out and collected separately when any non-domestic property generates waste food. This includes all businesses, prisons, hospitals, care homes, office blocks, schools & colleges, garages and transport hubs.

The new regulations will into force on 31 March 2025., therefore it is important for businesses to familiarise themselves with their implications.



Legislation already in place in Scotland and Wales

- Commercial food waste legislation has been in place in Scotland since 2014, and the legislation was introduced in Wales in April 2024. Businesses generating more than 5kg of food waste every week will likely have to comply with the new regulations.
- By staying informed and acting now, your business can set a positive example and be at the forefront of environmentally friendly food waste management.
- food waste disposal options that align with the Environment Act 2021.



What does this mean for your business?

By 31st March 2025, businesses will need to have implemented separate food waste storage & collection processes. This means understanding what wastes are produced and at what frequency and how these wastes should be stored and collected to be compliant with the new legislation.

Taking action

- Understand what wastes you produce and in what quantity
- Review your current waste management practices and processes.
- Contact approved food waste collection companies to help with configuring the best system for your business.
- Familiarise yourself with the specific details of the new regulations.

Business advantages

An opportunity to review services and save costs by optimising waste collection services
Doing the right thing for the environment by recovering waste food is a key part of improving your sustainability credentials.
Having a compliant system will protect your brand and avoid fines



Benefits of separate food waste collection

- When food waste is mixed in with general waste it is often landfilled or incinerated wasting the food twice effectively. When it is collected separately it goes through a process which generates renewable power and produces an organic fertiliser.
- Contribute to a more circular economy by transforming food waste into renewable energy and liquid fertiliser.
- Potentially lower waste disposal costs as food waste is heavy and can mean you pay more for your general waste collection bins. Food waste collections can be as low as just £5/ bin.

Be prepared: Ensure your business complies

Adhering to the new legislation being introduced is crucial, as it benefits the environment and positively impacts your business. Compliance with these regulations ensures that your business is part of the solution to creating a sustainable future. By taking proactive steps now you can future-proof your business, protect your brand and reputation and be ready for the new legislative changes ahead of the deadline of March 2025.

Avoiding penalties

- Prevent fines and reputational harm through compliance.
- Safeguarding your business from legal and financial risks.

How Keenan Recycling can help

Keenan Recycling is the largest food waste collection business in the UK. We have helped many businesses before in Scotland & Wales comply when regulations changed in those countries. As such we are an experienced and dependable partner in sustainable food waste management, offering sensible, compliant solutions to help you navigate the changes being introduced by the government. Collaborating with Keenan Recycling will ensure your business has the best solution in place for your food waste management.

Ready to streamline your waste management?

Contact Keenan Recycling to discuss your specific needs.

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