



# Extended Producer Responsibility for packaging (pEPR)

## Background, Obligations, Compliance & Exemptions



Department  
for Environment  
Food & Rural Affairs



The Scottish  
Government  
Riaghaltas na h-Alba



Llywodraeth Cymru  
Welsh Government



Northern Ireland  
Executive

# Defra's 5 priorities - where pEPR fits...

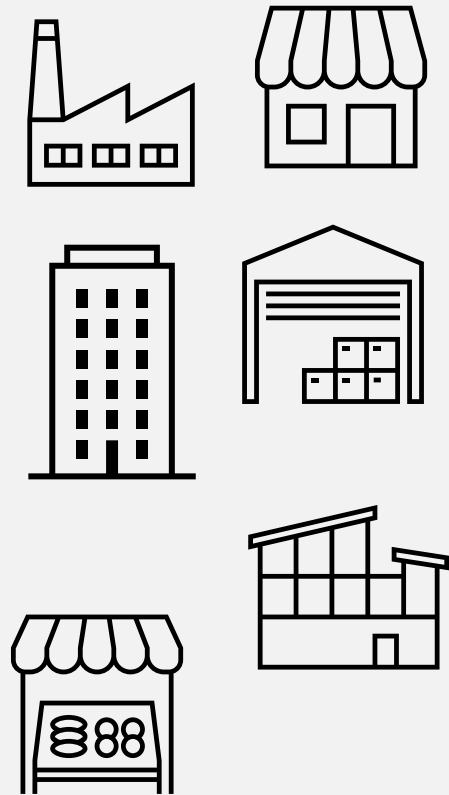
- clean up rivers, lakes and seas
- **create a roadmap to move Britain to a zero-waste economy**
- boost food security
- ensure nature's recovery
- protect communities from the dangers of flooding

# pEPR: How it works

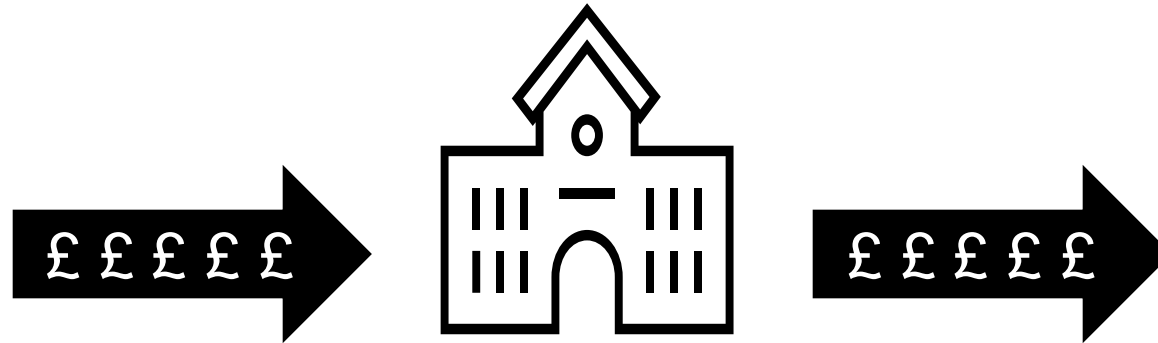
- Costs for disposal of household packaging transferred from taxpayer to producer.
- Packaging producers charged a fee for packaging they place on the market that ends up in household bins. Fee covers the net cost of disposing waste.
- Producers pay more if they use a) more packaging b) more hard to recycle packaging.
- Ensures producers take responsibility for end-of-life costs of household packaging.
- Local authorities receive funds paid by producers to deliver effective and efficient collection & recycling services, delivering improving supply of recycled materials to producers: circular economy.
- All packaging continues to carry a recycling obligation - pEPR introduces an additional obligation which transfer the costs for disposal of household packaging.

# pEPR: The Process

large companies...



pay a fee to the Scheme Administrator - which pays for...



... efficient and effective packaging waste services



Which incentivises packaging reduction & recyclability

Meaning less waste and more recycling

- ✓ More recycling
- ✓ Less waste
- ✓ Lower costs
- ✓ Less CO<sub>2</sub>

# pEPR: Driving Change

- Incentivises better use and design of packaging, stimulating innovation.
- Improved and consistent labelling of packaging, thereby boosting consumer awareness of the recyclability of the products they buy.
- Incentivises & enables improvements in local authorities to improve the effectiveness and efficiency of their collection and recycling services thereby supporting the creation of a circular economy.
- Drives infrastructure investment that supports economic growth.
- Reduced carbon emissions as increased use of recycled and recyclable packaging and therefore reduced levels of residual waste sent to landfill.

# pEPR: Economic Benefits

- pEPR will generate more than £1 billion annually to support local collection and disposal services, including recycling services – benefiting every UK household
- In England, this will fund improvements to household recycling collections, enabling consistent collection of all dry materials (paper/card, metals, plastics and glass) from every household.

pEPR is the cornerstone of the wider packaging reforms which will, collectively,

- support 21,000 jobs
- stimulate over £10 billion investment over 10 years in recycling capability
- present £1 billion worth of investment opportunities in plastics infrastructure

# PackUK: pEPR Scheme Administrator

PackUK, launched in January 2025, is the UK delivery body for pEPR, developed jointly by Defra, Scottish Government, DAERA and Welsh Government - constituted as a public body

## **PackUK focus - delivering real world benefits:**

- reduction in unnecessary packaging
- more recyclable packaging, where it is necessary
- more efficient and effective management of packaging waste by LAs
- more and better-quality recycled content packaging available to industry

## **PackUK governance – recognition business must be at the heart of decision making**

- Defra, DAERA, Scottish Government, Welsh Government led
- Interim Steering Group made up of producers, associations, compliance schemes
- New Producer Responsibility Organisation (PRO) being set up – led by FDF
- 3 new advisory committees being set up to support PackUK - Recyclability Assessment Methodology , Effectiveness and Efficiency , Communications and Behaviour Change committee

# pEPR: Small Business Exemptions

**Thresholds protect smaller businesses from the full impacts of pEPR.**

1. Businesses below the lower threshold (turnover under £1m and supply under 25 tonnes of packaging) per year hold no obligations.
2. Businesses between the two thresholds (turnover £1-2m and supply 25-50 tonnes of packaging per year) will register and report data only and will have no other obligations. Their data will be used to inform future decisions on the approach to small businesses.

Only businesses above the upper threshold (turnover over £2m and supply over 50 tonnes of packaging per year) will have data reporting, recycling and disposal cost obligations.



# pEPR: Producer Thresholds

Producer Thresholds		Turnover		
		≤£1m	>£1m-£2m	>£2m
<b>Packaging Tonnage</b>  This is the aggregated total from ALL packaging activities, including selling, as defined by the Regulations	<25 tonnes	No obligation	No obligation	No obligation
	25-50 tonnes	No obligation	Small producer	Small producer
	>50 tonnes	No obligation	Small producer	Large producer

- Small producers incur no financial obligations to support recycling (i.e., they do not need to pay EPR fees).
- Large producers must submit data every six months on the packaging they have placed on the market.

# pEPR: Data Reporting Deadlines

**If a business is obligated to report packaging data, these deadlines must be met:**

- Large producers [obligated to report data](#) should report it in two batches:
  - Report your July 2024 to December 2024 data by 1 April 2025
  - Report your January 2025 to June 2025 data by 1 October 2025
- If you are obligated as a small producer, you will be required to report your data in one annual submission:
  - January 2024 to December 2024 data by 1 April 2025

**Obligated businesses must register with the environmental regulator by 1 April**

- All obligated organisations, small and large, must register with their environmental regulator by 1 April 2025

**Obligated producers who have not reported data or registered will face enforcement action**

# pEPR: Enforcement

[The Producer Responsibility Obligations \(Packaging and Packaging Waste\) Regulations 2024](#)

details enforcement options available to regulators in the event of offences being committed (i.e. failure to comply with regulatory requirements).

Enforcement action includes advice and guidance, a warning, formal caution, civil sanctions or prosecution.

## **Where non-compliance is identified;**

- in England, the EA will follow the principles set out in their [enforcement & sanctions policy and offence response options](#).
- in Scotland, SEPA may take action in line with their [enforcement policy](#) and [guidance on the use of enforcement action](#).
- in Wales, NRW may take action in line with their [enforcement and sanctions policy](#).
- in Northern Ireland, NIEA will follow the principles set out in their [enforcement policy](#).

# pEPR: Reporting Non-compliant Businesses

To reduce your business's pEPR cost, it is essential that all obligated businesses pay the fees they owe.

If you suspect a business is not complying with the regulations, please report this to the regulators by contacting them directly via the details listed below.

- [Environment Agency \(England\)](#)
- [Scottish Environment Protection Agency \(Scotland\)](#)
- [Northern Ireland Environment Agency \(Northern Ireland\)](#)
- [Natural Resource Wales \(Wales\)](#)

**List of organisations who have submitted their packaging data:** Large organisations who have reported data using the report packaging data service [can be found on gov.uk.](#)

# Questions



**For more information please visit: [www.gov.uk/packuk](http://www.gov.uk/packuk)**