

Waste (Scotland) Regulations 2012

Help & Support

The Scottish Government established a Zero Waste Plan in 2009, setting out a number of targets to ultimately prevent and reduce waste. Policy has now become legislation with the Waste (Scotland) Regulations 2012 which were passed on 9th May 2012.

The Regulations will support Scotland's ambitious target of 70% recycling rate by 2025 and sending a maximum 5% waste to landfill by 2025 for all of Scotland's waste.

Waste (Scotland) Regulations 2012:

- A requirement for businesses to present segregated recyclable materials for collection by 1 January 2014;
 - Paper, card, plastic metal, glass
- A ban on material collected for recycling going to landfill or incinerator by 1 January 2014;
- A requirement for food preparation businesses (except in rural areas) that produce more than 50kg of food waste per week to present food waste for collection by 1 January 2014. From January 2016 this will extend to businesses producing more than 5kg food waste;
- From 1 January 2014 local authorities will be required to provide householders with separate collection services for dry recyclables and by 2016 for food waste;
- A ban on non-domestic use of macerators and digesters by 1 January 2016;
- A ban on municipal biodegradable waste going to landfill by 1 January 2021.

Key Tips

Reducing your Mixed Recycling

- Switch to a paperless office
- Print double-sided
- Reduce the packaging of products you buy
- Encourage employees to bring their own cups to work instead of using vending cups or plastic bottles
- Cancel magazine and newspaper subscriptions and opt for online versions

Waste Contractor

Choose a waste contractor who delivers high quality recycling and can support you to separate your recycling. Ensure your waste contractor is a registered waste carrier with relevant authorisation from SEPA. All authorised companies should provide your business with a Waste Transfer Note when waste is transferred from one party to another.

If your company currently produces over 50kg of food waste per week this must be presented for recycling. Research companies who can take your food waste recycling if your current contractor does not recycle food waste.

We currently have a number of members who can cater to your waste recycling needs across Scotland in regions such as Edinburgh, Aberdeen, Midlothian and Glasgow, please check our [Directory](#) for more information on these companies or [contact](#) our team directly for more information.

Raising Awareness

- Create posters and place them around the office
- Send out informative emails to staff
- Run tool box training days
- Set up e-learning
- Carry out a survey to see what staff know and what they don't know
- Create training materials and send them to relevant staff

Monitoring & Measuring - *'if you don't measure it, you can't manage it!'*

The Waste (Scotland) Regulations gives your company an opportunity to understand the amount of waste produced in your company in order to begin reducing it.

Auditing waste in your company will show how much waste could be recycled, diverted from landfill and, most importantly, prevented. There are a number of ways your company can begin auditing waste in your organisation:

- Walk around your site, identify areas of waste, take photos
- Write a checklist of problem areas and brainstorm improvement ideas with staff
- Calculate costs of identified waste using invoice data or meter readings
- Estimate potential savings from making improvements
- Identify gaps in data