



# The law on waste is changing for every business in Scotland

## Your legal duty as a business

If you run a business in Scotland, you are already legally responsible for safely disposing of any waste your business produces. From **1st January 2014** the law will require your business to take all reasonable steps to recycle as much of that waste as possible. It will also require all local authorities and waste contractors to meet high recycling standards.

Detailed guidance on the new statutory duties, and information on how best to comply with them, is available in the Duty of Care Code of Practice produced by Scottish Government. You can access this guidance via this web link: <http://tinyurl.com/waste-regs-code-of-practice>



## The Waste (Scotland) Regulations 2012 require your business to take the following actions:

- Your business must present metal, plastic, glass, paper and card separately for collection from **1 January 2014**.
- If you run a food business which produces over **50 kg** of food waste per week, you must present it for separate collection from **1 January 2014**.
- The requirement to present food waste for separate collection will extend to all food businesses which produce over **5 kg** of food waste per week from **1 January 2016**.
- Where food collections are available, it will be illegal to dispose of food into the public sewer, for example, by using a macerator.

## Why should I do it?

Aside from the long term economic and environmental benefits, your business risks a substantial fine if it does not take all reasonable steps to recycle the waste it produces. Your contractor may refuse to collect your waste if it is not properly sorted for recycling and local authorities and the Scottish Environment Protection Agency – [www.sepa.org.uk](http://www.sepa.org.uk) – are empowered to deal with companies that flout the new Waste Regulations.

If your business is located in a rural area, you are exempt from all the food waste requirements of the Regulations, however, you may still want to examine the economic benefits of food recycling.

## What should I do now?

While the new regulations don't kick in until January 2014, you'll find it pays to start preparing now. We'll be providing more detailed information throughout the coming year and you can sign up for updates on our website.

It's your duty to ensure your waste is handled in line with the new Regulations so speak to the organisation currently collecting your waste. They should explain how they will collect your waste in a way that complies with the Regulations and the cost of that service. You could also contact other waste management services to see who will offer your business the best value for money.

You can search for waste management services operating in your area in the Business Reuse and Recycling Directory which is available online at <http://brrd.zerowastescotland.org.uk/>

You may secure an even better deal on your waste collection service by joining forces with other businesses in your immediate area.



## Who will help my business comply?

Waste contractors (including local authorities) will also be affected by the regulations which require that they deliver the best recycling service possible and do not incinerate or landfill materials that have been collected for recycling.

This may mean changes to your waste collection service to ensure that your waste contractor collects recyclable materials in the best possible way.



## Do we really need more regulation?

Nobody likes to be told what to do, but the new regulations will benefit everyone in Scotland and it is vital we act quickly.

**Currently, Scotland is spending over £100 million per year to throw away materials that would be worth over £100 million pounds if they were recycled.**

Food and biodegradable material sent to landfill sites gives off methane – a potent greenhouse gas. Diverting this material from landfill will reduce emissions equivalent to taking 166,000 cars off Scotland's roads.

**Processing food waste through modern treatment plants has the potential to generate enough energy to power the city the size of Inverness and supply 10% of Scotland's fertiliser needs.**

Escalating landfill tax means that contractors will have to charge your business more and more to get rid of unrecycled waste at a time when it is vital to keep costs down and remain competitive.

**Recycling makes sense for Scotland both financially and environmentally and we can't afford to wait. Many businesses have already discovered the benefits of recycling and the new Waste Regulations mean that yours can too.**

Embracing the new regulations is just one of the many ways you can make your business more competitive and resource efficient.

Zero Waste Scotland can offer a whole range of advice and support to help your business make the transition to these new ways of working and take further resource efficiency measures to become even more profitable and sustainable into the future.

## Where can I find out more?

If you have any questions about your responsibilities under the new regulations, visit our website

**[www.zerowastescotland.org.uk](http://www.zerowastescotland.org.uk)**

Alongside a Frequently Asked Questions section, a rural business postcode finder and a calendar of events across Scotland, you will find many helpful tips on how to implement the new Regulations and maximise the benefits for your business.

Alternatively, call our helpline on **0808 100 2040**