



Waste & Recycling

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The scale of waste dealt with by most small businesses is similar to that of a domestic household, but environmental legislation continues to apply a 'one-size fits all' approach, which presents many barriers for small businesses in their efforts to be environmentally responsible.

Waste & Recycling Facilities

Businesses producing small quantities of waste are often unable to take advantage of the economies of scale available through waste contracts and recycling services are rarely appropriate if the quantities of waste material involved are small.

The FSB calls for local waste infrastructure suitable for small businesses, such as civic amenity sites, to be made available to them or for appropriate alternatives such as bring back schemes to be developed. This would allow businesses to manage rising costs whilst playing a more active role in responsible waste disposal

Duty of Care for Waste

Duty of Care was implemented under the Environmental Protection (Duty of Care) Regulations 1991 (as amended). It requires businesses to be responsible for the handling, disposal or recovery of waste produced, even when it has been sent to another party, such as a waste contractor or skip-hire business.

The FSB calls for an awareness raising campaign aimed at the small business sector to heighten understanding of the responsibilities under the Duty of Care legislation

There should be a review of the need for Waste Transfer Notes for small businesses that produce low volumes of waste. Waste Transfer Notes place a large administrative burden on SMEs and the amount of time involved is often disproportionate to the risk involved. By reducing the amount of administration small businesses will be encouraged to act more responsibly when it comes to the disposal of their waste and help reduce the risk of fly tipping.

Definition of Waste & Resource Efficiency

The Waste Framework Directive definition of waste takes no account of the advances in waste recovery, reuse and recycling over the last 20 years. Uncertainty as to when waste ceases to be waste and becomes a resource remains a significant barrier to achieving a shift in efficient waste resource management.

We need a clarified, risk based and flexible definition of waste that would allow small businesses to make sustainable use of existing resources. This is significant for small businesses for when an item is defined as waste the full administrative burden must be applied to its disposal.

There should also be a thorough review of all waste regulations by Government in order to lessen the administrative burden on small businesses and to allow create greater scope for the innovative re-use of materials.

Key Points

- **Around 70 million tones of industrial and commercial waste is produced in England each year (DEFRA)**
- **The vast majority of business in England have to rely on commercial waste services rather than their local authority (DEFRA research)**
- **Only 148 English local authorities currently offer a trade recycling service (DEFRA)**
- **236 local authorities in England offer a residual trade waste service (DEFRA)**
- **83% of FSB members are now taking steps to minimize and recycle their waste (2007 FSB survey)**

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