

Department for Environment Food and Rural Affairs

ACP WORK PROGRAMME

WORKSTREAMS

1. Optimising packaging

Reducing the volume; using more recycled materials and promoting eco design.

Lead organisation(s)

Incpen with retailer representative, WRAP

Brief

Government is seeking advice from the Committee on:

- What the priority areas (sectors or products) are for optimisation – which would benefit from the same level of sector-wide effort as for groceries under the Courtauld commitment.
- What are the barriers to greater optimisation in those sectors and who is best placed to address them?
- In the light of market and technological changes, what design changes would make recovery when packaging becomes waste easier and/or what should the waste industry be prepared to deal with over the next decade? (this is expected to be material-specific)

In this context, the workstream will provide evidence and examples of the extent that design of packaging takes into account functionality, cost, recovery route, whole life environmental benefits of product and where possible the specification of the use of recycled materials.

It will also produce forecasts of the potential for packaging reduction per person equivalent to 2020, show comparisons with EU performance and to explain differences particularly those countries with less per capita than UK.

It will inform the Committee of developments in products that assist better packaging of products and technological improvements likely in the years up to 2020 including potential considerations for return processes for recovery of materials.

Timescales

Commence autumn 2010; initial findings to be produced in October and presented at the November ACP meeting.

Draft report in spring 2011

Final paper summer 2011.

2. Promoting the return of packaging waste material into the productive cycle

2a) On a material by material basis, provide evidence of the optimal potential for return of material from all sources.

Lead

Each material sector to have direct input using British Packaging Federation to assist. Plastics task force will provide specific feedback.

Brief

The overall advice sought by government, in the context of the Review of Waste Policy and beyond, is what the level of ambition for packaging recycling and recovery should be over the next decade. This workstream will derive such advice from:

- quantitative and qualitative data on the range of systems that recover the greatest volumes that meets quality standards and market demand.
- A narrative on market trends expected based on global demand and changes e.g. China and indication of how returned material may find the optimum routes for reprocessing that derives the highest value in cash and carbon terms.
- evidence /estimates of expected tonnages of materials to be placed on market. Based on this and the proposals for best return systems, options for annual targets for obligated industries. This information will be provided with a reasonable degree of accuracy for 2015 and a methodology which can enable a review for targets to 2020 by 2013/14 that takes into account volumes and carbon reduction in order for the ACP to take a view on whether future targets should be weight and carbon focussed.
- quantitative and qualitative evidence on the appropriateness and practicality of return and recovery processes including when and what types of energy recovery are suitable. (NB work on the assumption unless otherwise demonstrated by the environmental/technical/economic evidence, recycling is the preferred option to other forms of recovery, including energy recovery)

Timescales

First cut of key outcomes by April 2011 sufficient to enable wider debate with others

2b) Consider the tactical and practical operational systems and processes that will lead to achieving increases in return of material and other desired outcomes.

Lead

Systems and Process task group

Procuring and delivering services Task Force will provide input for the household waste side.

Brief

Government is seeking the Committee's advice on **how** greater rates of return of waste packaging into the productive economy might be achieved.

This workstream will engage with the waste management, recycling and recovery industries and local government to propose the means by which recovery systems may be improved, and consumers encouraged to participate. This will concentrate on output specifications to provide the best economic return and on ways of deploying producer support; **not** on the intricacies of collection systems.

It will develop a cost effective mechanism whereby producer obligations can be met without unnecessary burdens on them or on local government. Actively seek the means, by which cost per tonne recovery may be minimised, quality can be optimised and high market value income obtained.

Considerations will include how to incentivise for these outcomes.

Timescales

Initial debate to overlap with work in 2a) above to raise issues for resolution. Both networks should feed in current thinking and information as it develops.

Workshop in April /May 2011 to produce recommendations for wider discussion and promulgation

3. To advise on making producer funding more transparent and ensuring that it finances improvements in the recycling system.

Lead

Valpak

Brief

1. To assess the effectiveness of changes made to the Producer Responsibility system from 2011 to improve transparency of funding flows. This will include:-
 - Engaging with local authorities and producers to monitor improvements in visibility of funding flows.
 - Identifying any issues faced by accredited reprocessors and exporters in complying with the changes and to advise on possible solutions.
2. To scrutinise aggregated PRN/PERN revenue returns, analysing the proportion of PRN/PERN revenue spent on activities which are needed to improve recycling rates.
3. To identify and advise on further opportunities to increase transparency of funding flows in the producer responsibility system.
4. To advise on any adjustment as may become necessary to ensure that the PRN/PERN system continues to function effectively alongside possible Responsibility Deals on packaging recycling.

Timescales

To start work in April 2012 following the publication of PRN/PERN revenue data using revised categories.

To produce a paper on the effectiveness of changes with any proposed amendments by June 2012.

To produce a paper identifying any further opportunities to further improve transparency of PRN/PERN spend by September 2012.

5. Review and monitoring of legislation and provision of data from across the supply chain regarding recovered tonnages and carbon metrics.

Lead

EA supported by Defra team and devolved assembly teams

Brief

To ensure the Committee is aware of developments in proposed legislation from EU or national legislation or policy proposals.

To review the achievements of the packaging industry in meeting targets and policy objectives, and bring to government's attention any likely pressures on the producer responsibility system.

Timescales

Ongoing