

Extended Producer Responsibility: Recycling Glass Right



British Glass

The UK glass sector has an excellent recycling record of 68.8%, one of the highest rates of any packaging material. At British Glass we know more can be done, which is why we have set out our ambition to achieve a 90% collection rate for recycling by 2030 – to create a truly circular economy for glass.

We believe this can be achieved through Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR) and consistent household collections, but crucially, not through a damaging Deposit Return Scheme (DRS).

What is Extended Producer Responsibility? We already have a system of producer responsibility in the UK where companies pay an amount for every tonne of packaging they put on the market which is used to support the collecting and reprocessing of materials. The UK Government are proposing to extend this so producers and retailers pay the full cost of recovering materials for recycling.

What does this mean in practice? There will be more funding available to collect and process materials for recycling, and importantly promote good recycling practices.

Are we supportive of EPR? Yes. Done correctly, EPR will ultimately lead to more investment in recycling infrastructure across the UK, both for products recycled at home and on-the-go. It will also promote better recycling through improved communications to ensure the glass industry achieves our ambition of a 90% glass collection rate for recycling by 2030.

Keeping all glass packaging in EPR would deliver...

- ✓ **More recycling bins on the go**
- ✓ **More bottle banks**
- ✓ **More communications promoting recycling including early years education**
- ✓ **More recycling infrastructure and capacity**

It is vital that the new system of EPR is underpinned by consistent household and bottle bank collections across local authorities

An approach supported by consumers

73%

Of consumers believe more household collections would improve glass recycling.¹

69%

Of consumers agree more bottle banks would increase the recycling of glass.¹



Glass recycling done right : A Welsh case study

- Wales has been consistently ahead of the rest of the UK when it comes to recycling rates, with the **third highest household recycling rate in the world**.
- The example of Wales is proof that increased investment through a scheme such as EPR, alongside consistent collections and communications campaigns, can create a **national culture of recycling** that could lead to a significant rise in recycling at the kerbside.
- The current capture rate of glass in household collections is **87.3% in Wales**, the highest of any widely recyclable material.

Improve household collections. Increase glass recycling. Create a truly circular economy. #RecycleItRight

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¹ Glass recycling (England and Wales), Toluna Surveys, Feb 2020