

PLASTIC

Key to a sustainable economy

Everyone wants to leave the environment in a better state for future generations. The UK plastics industry has a 'vision' for achieving two key goals:

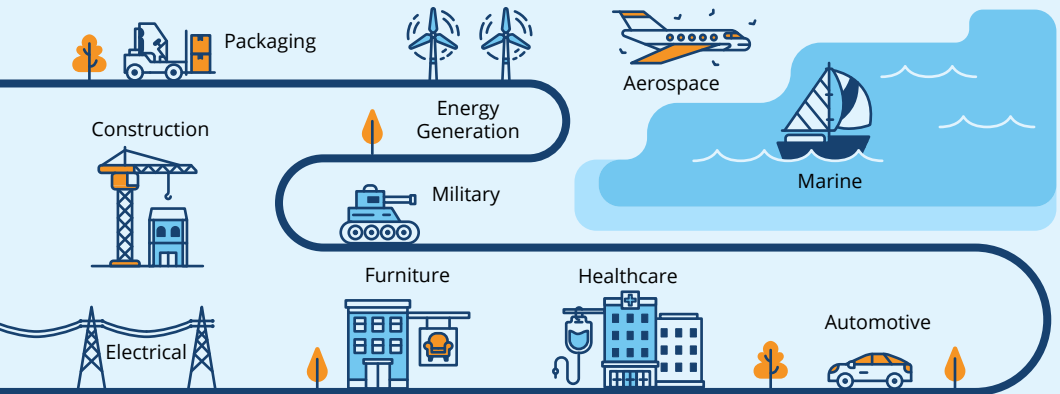


Zero plastic
packaging to
landfill by
2030



Minimising
plastic
entering the
sea from the
UK

Remember: plastics are hugely resource efficient and underpin the economy



The plastics industry is a major employer within the UK, making a massive contribution to the economy. The material is deeply integrated into modern life, with most key sectors requiring plastic to function effectively.

Plastic reduces food waste and protects products in ways no other material can, and the light weight and low volume of the material helps lower greenhouse gas emissions.

As we try to solve the issue of plastic in the sea, we need to ensure we are making the best long-term decisions for our environment.

What is a 'single-use' plastic?

Various definitions of a 'single use' plastic exist but in this debate it is important to distinguish between...



Single-use items

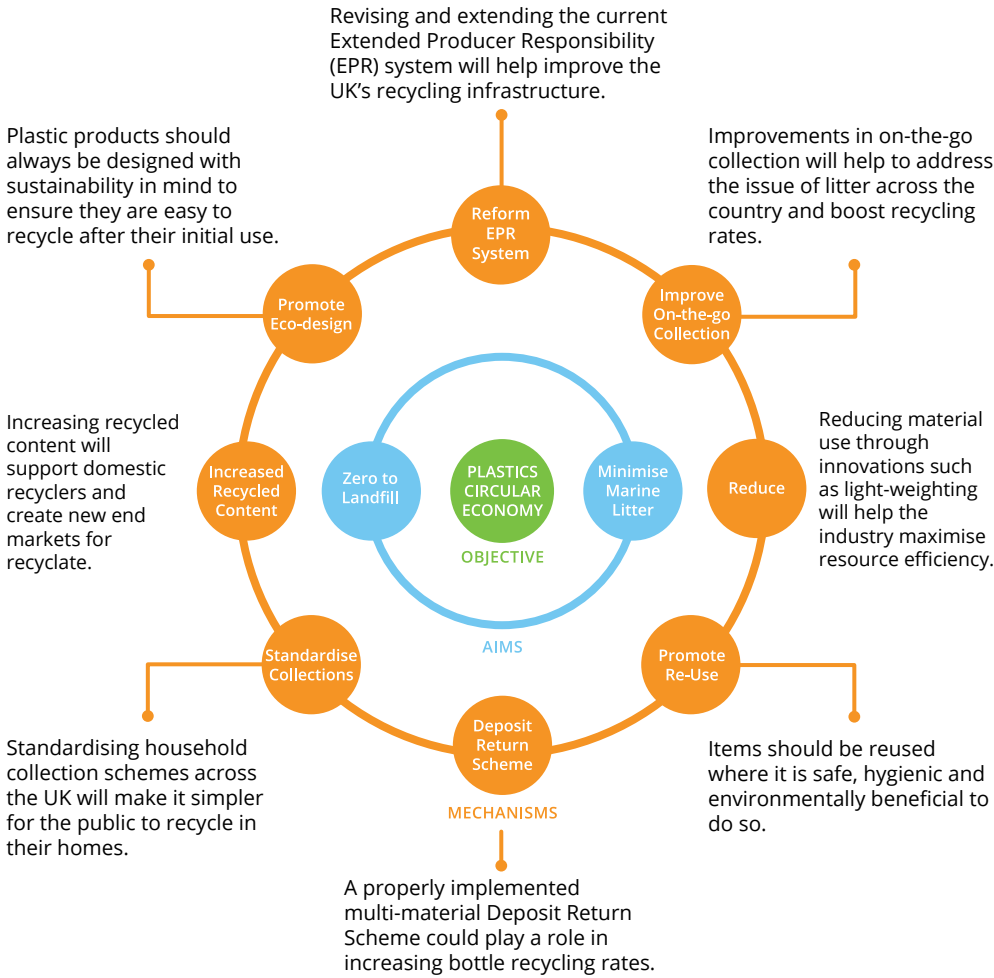
Some plastic items only have a functional use of a matter of minutes and are then discarded, and cannot be recycled.



Functional packaging

Other items are used to protect food or products for weeks, and can be recycled after use.

Industry vision for a plastics circular economy



What is the industry already doing to tackle plastic waste?



The BPF is a founding member of WRAP's Plastic Pact.



The BPF's Marine Litter Platform brings together over 80 leading brands, retailers, plastics companies, and NGOs to work on solutions to marine litter.



The BPF runs Operation Clean Sweep in the UK, which has over 100 companies signed up and committed to preventing plastic pellets from leaking into the environment by following best practice procedures.

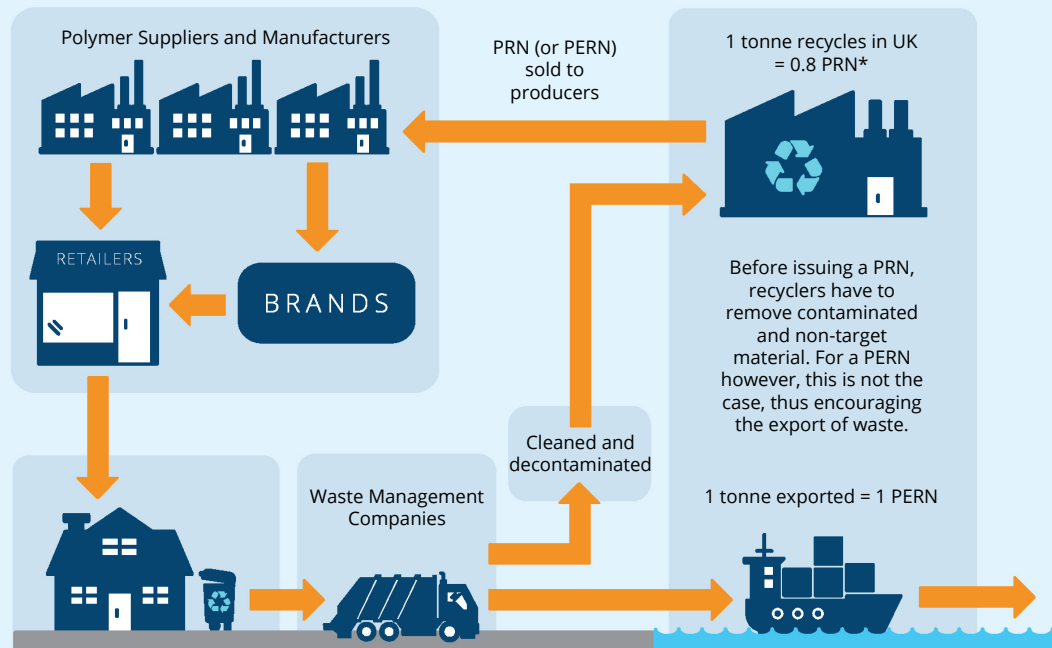


In the UK, we have seen the development of chemical recycling, which will enable even the most difficult materials — including thin films — to be recycled.

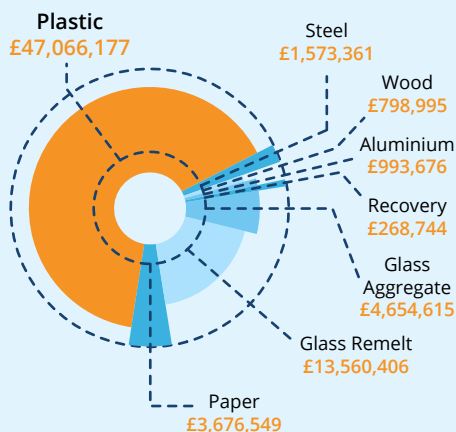
Extended producer responsibility – a plastics tax

The plastics industry already pays what could be called a 'plastics tax'. Under the extended producer responsibility (EPR) system, the industry pays money via a Packaging Recovery Note (PRN) — but this system needs reform. Packaging Recovery Notes and Packaging Export Recovery Notes (PERNs) are issued by recyclers and exporters as proof of recycling, which are bought directly from them (or via compliance schemes) by the supply chain. Reform of EPR will ensure proceeds raised in this system will help improve recycling infrastructure and collections in Local Authorities.

What is the PRN system?



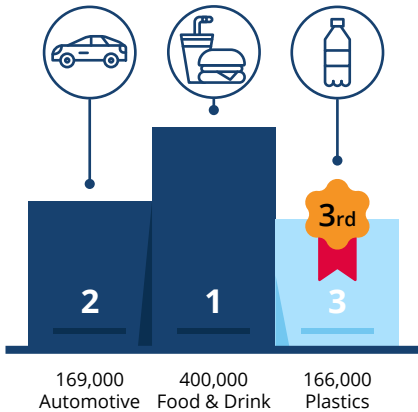
PRN Revenue by Material



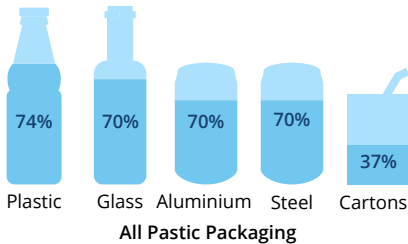
Ideas for PRN Reform

- 1 The fee structure should reward resource efficient, recyclable packaging and the use of recycled content, whilst discouraging more difficult-to-recycle formats.
- 2 Any money raised should be invested in a strategic fund to improve the recycling infrastructure in the UK and to help introduce consistent collections for households and when 'on the go'.
- 3 There should be no de minimis, to ensure the financial obligation is shared more fairly and to generate extra funds.
- 4 A split target between recycling in the UK and abroad should be created to support the domestic recycling infrastructure, creating jobs and keeping valuable material in the UK for manufacturing.

3RD LARGEST EMPLOYER OUT OF UK MANUFACTURING SECTORS



Recycling Rates of Drinks Containers (2016)



All Plastic Packaging



78%
of all plastic packaging is recovered



People employed in 6,200 plastic companies



Plastic & plastics products exported



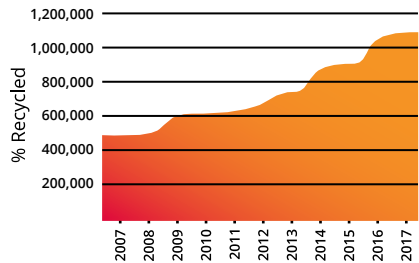
UK export



Value of exports

Every job created in the plastics industry results in an additional 1.64 jobs in the wider economy: in manufacturing, commerce, transport, real estate, R&D and other services.

Plastic Packaging Recycling Rates



Plastic packaging recycling rates have increased by almost 120% over the past ten years.

99% 99% of local authorities are now collecting plastic bottles at the kerbside and 76% collect pots, tubs and trays.

4X Replacing plastics with alternative materials would quadruple the environmental cost.

60% Plastic packaging results in a 60% reduction in greenhouse gas emissions.

25K If the UK's plastics recycling capacity is significantly extended and modernized by 2030, an estimated 25,000 new jobs could be created.

5X Plastics make products lighter. Lightweight plastic parts save 3,000 litres of fuel – from New York to London five times over the life of a car.

Established in 1933, the British Plastics Federation is the most powerful voice in the UK plastics industry, with over 500 members from across the plastics supply chain.

Sources: www.bpf.co.uk/sources/sustainable-economy
www.bpf.co.uk | @TheBPF

BPF
British Plastics Federation