

WORKPLACE RECYCLING IN WALES



A guide to the latest recycling news and where to start

Commercial and municipal facilities such as businesses, public sector, and charitable organisations in Wales must ensure they offer multi-stream recyclable waste at the point of collection for processing. These rules also apply to NHS hospitals and private hospitals from 6th April 2026.



IMPORTANT PROCESS CONSIDERATIONS

- The requirement to arrange waste into separate streams falls on those collecting or arranging the waste. In most cases, this is the business generating the waste, rather than the waste handling organisation.
- Once collected, multi-stream waste is kept separate in order to protect it from contamination so that the largest majority of it can be recycled.
- The earlier the multi-stream splitting of waste occurs in the process, the less need there is for work splitting waste at a facility, prior to collection for processing.

	FOOD WASTE – for any facility creating more than 5kg of organic waste per week
	PAPER AND CARD
	GLASS
	MATERIAL WASTE – includes metals, plastics and other packaging of a similar composition
	SMALL ELECTRICALS – items with a plug, battery or cable which measures 50cm or less on every side.
	UNSOLD TEXTILES

Separation requirements

The law means all workplaces such as businesses, public sector organisations and charities need to separate their recyclable materials in the same way most households already do or face costly fines and, in some cases, civil sanctions.

There are six streams of recyclable waste defined within the legislation which are referred to as a facility's "separation requirements".

In addition to these requirements, workplaces are banned from disposing of food waste into the sewerage system, including through macerators, and from allowing certain specified waste streams going to incineration or to landfills.

Full details of commercial requirements can be found on the Welsh Government website [here](#).

Source: Separate Collection of Waste Materials for Recycling
– A Code of Practice for Wales

GET SUPPORT ON YOUR JOURNEY
TO COMPLIANT RECYCLING

Our team of waste and recycling experts are on hand to help you understand the impact of legislation changes on your business, and how you can implement an efficient recycling system in your facility.

GET IN TOUCH