



Carton Ready Implementation toolkit

Why do local authorities need to be Carton Ready?

In October 2023, the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (DEFRA) published its Simpler Recycling reforms, introducing new statutory duties for local authorities. Its key relevant features are:

1. New collected materials

All local authorities in England are required to offer consistent kerbside collections of a mandated core list of materials, including **liquid cartons**, alongside **glass**, **paper** and **card**, **steel** and **aluminium** cans, and **plastics**.

2. Implementation timing

Local authorities are required to begin **businesses collections from April 2025** and **households from April 2026**. With less than 2 years to implement Simpler Recycling reforms, local authorities must start planning now to ensure implementation is included in 2025 budgets.

Consistent collections are part of a larger refresh of the UK’s recycling policy framework, supported by:

Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR)

From April 2025, all UK packaging producers will be required to pay the full cost of collection, sorting and recycling of the materials they place on the market. ACE UK is already working with DEFRA to ensure liquid carton collection infrastructure is fully funded across England.

Fibre-Based Composite (FBC) target

From 2026, local authorities will be incentivised to increase their collections of fibre-based composites with a binding target set by DEFRA. Liquid Cartons are anticipated to form a part of these collections.

Together, these policies will significantly increase the recycling responsibilities of local authorities. To help successfully implement these reforms, ACE UK is offering extensive support through its Carton Ready Campaign.

How is ACE UK helping local authorities get Carton Ready?

Our objective is to achieve a 90% collection rate and 70% recycling rate for cartons across the UK by 2030, in line with our [2030 carton roadmap](#). Cognisant that every local authority will face unique implementation challenges, ACE UK is offering tailored implementation support, including:

1. Expert guidance

ACE UK Senior Recycling Manager Mandy Kelly and her team have decades of experience delivering innovative recycling infrastructure and implementation projects. She would welcome the opportunity to meet with your officials and cabinet members to:



Brief them on the DEFRA’s EPR and Simpler Recycling reforms.



Discuss insights from previous successful recycling system transformation projects.



Develop a bespoke carton kerbside collection implementation plan for your Local Authority

2. Additional funding

From investing in new infrastructure (particularly around sorting), renegotiated contracts, and communicating the changes to residents, we are acutely aware of the additional capital costs to local authorities implementing collections. While the ongoing costs of Simpler Recycling will be funded by industry through the EPR system, ACE UK members appreciate that additional help may be needed to support local authority with implementing the new statutory duties under these reforms. We welcome discussions about the financial support that may be available and will be taken on a case-by-case basis.

Please get in touch to understand how we can support implementation in your area. If you would like to learn more, please contact the ACE UK team at enquiries@ace-uk.co.uk.