Implementing EPR in the UK – the recycling industry perspective

Introduction of the EPR system in Armenia
15th November 2022

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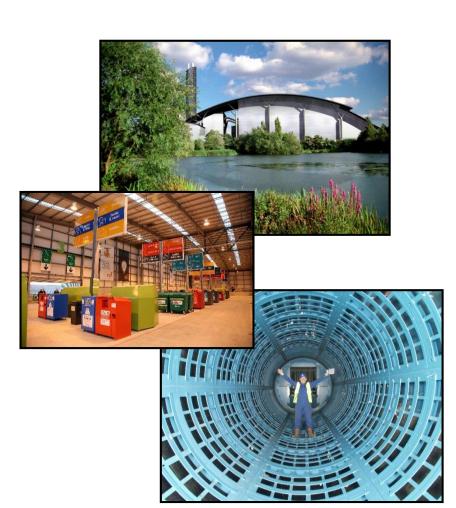
Executive Director

Environmental Services Association



ESA...

- is the trade association for the resource & waste management industry
- members represent the majority of the sector
- is funded by member subscriptions
- works to raise standards





Outline

- 1. Main elements of UK system: modulated fees; standardised payments to LAs; PRNs; I&C
- 2. How did we get here? Policy co-design
- Benefits and opportunities: environmental; efficiency
- **4. Implementation challenges:** disruptive transition



Main elements of UK system

- Modulated fees lower fees for more easily recyclable formats to encourage eco-design
- Standardised payments to Local
 Authorities performance-related pay to municipalities, adjusted by deprivation and density
- Producer Recovery Notes revenue support for material reprocessors
- Commercial waste too difficult to include from outset but commitment to examine case by 2027





How did we get here?

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RWS published in 2018

Initial consultations 2020

 In depth consultations 2021 – multiple sprint groups examining individual areas in detail

Timeline – 2023 reporting, 2024
 basic payments + transfers, 2025 full
 system



Benefits & opportunities

- Incentives in the right place lowering whole-system costs
- Reduced pressure on public budgets
- Private sector control over system design & outcomes
- Demonstrates environmental leadership
- Potential for priority materials access
- Better recyclability design + higher recycling rates



Implementation challenges

- Space for sampling
- Modifying contracts
- Reconfiguring/upgrading existing facilities
- Investing in new sites
- Downtime for plant upgrades
- Procuring vehicles, plant & equipment



Conclusions

- There is a lot of forthcoming environmental legislation in the pipeline
- Early engagement with design of EPR system would bring clear benefits to producers
- Incentives need to be put in the right place with right behaviours rewarded
- Future liabilities and risks from other interventions could be reduced



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