

Lessons from the front line

A waste manager's take on circular materials, packaging and systems....



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CIWM



suez



Good morning packaging enthusiasts & professionals

SUEZ in the UK

£1.2_b

**2025
revenue**

c. 37,000

**industrial and
commercial customers**



350

**operational
sites**

>7,000

employees



**12
million
tonnes**

**waste
managed
per year**

1.4

**million
tonnes
waste
recycled**

2 TWh

**energy and heat
production**

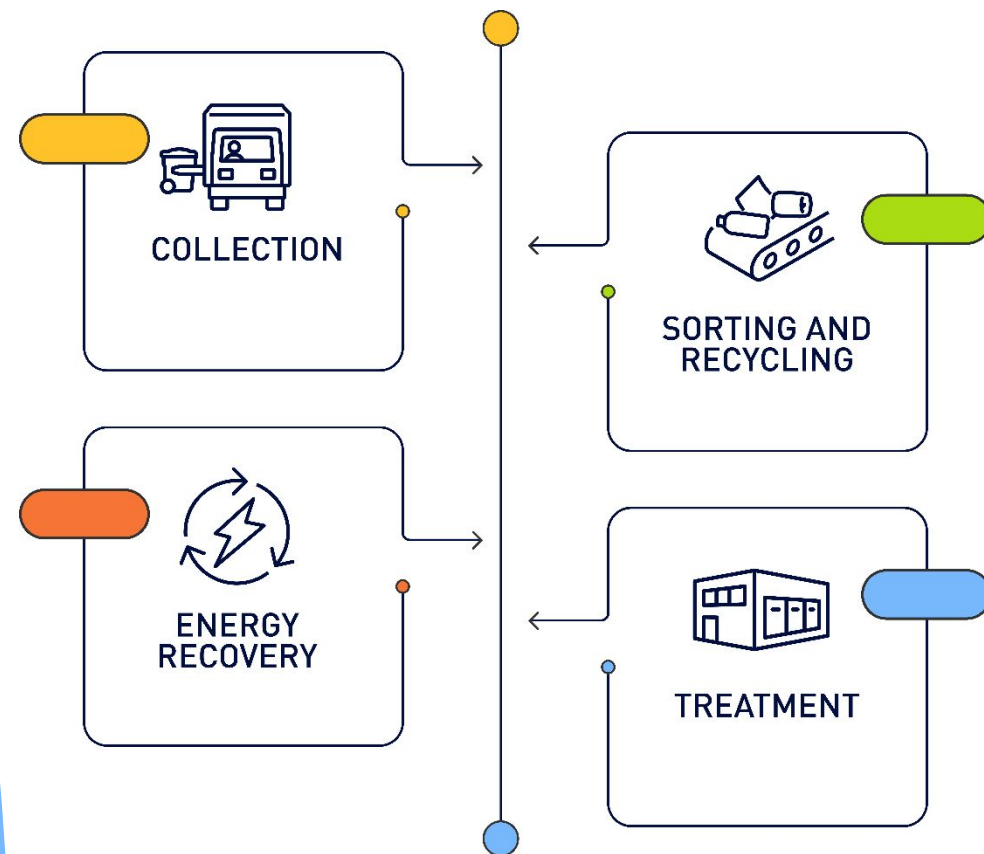


c. 32%

UK household coverage



A presence through the value chain





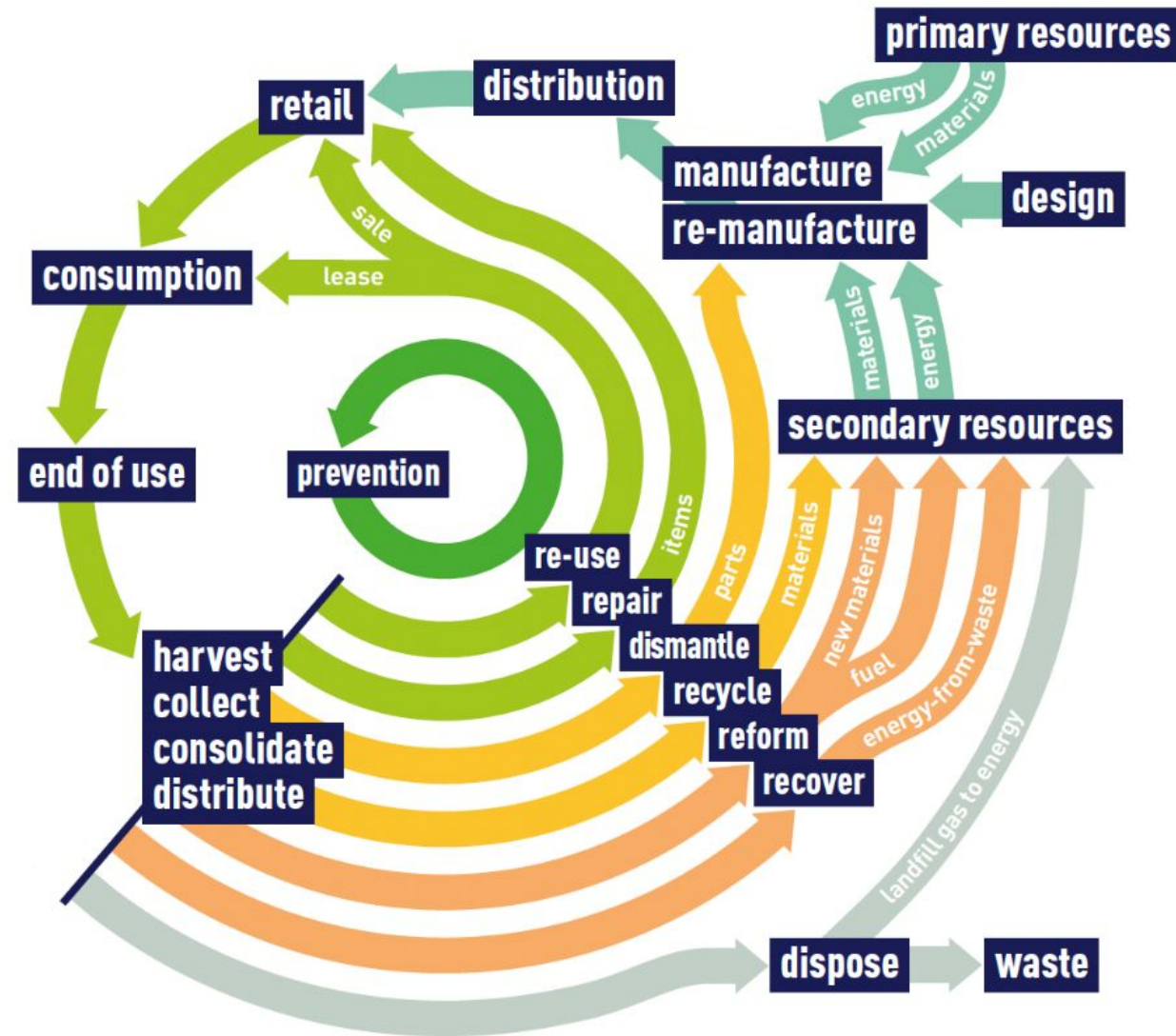
Managing post-consumer 'mis-placed' resources – it's what we do!





In 2027-28
More source
segregation, more
mono-stream
management,
materials
recycling
facilities begin to
be re-aligned,
organics are being
targeted and
energy-from-wast
e feedstocks are
under scrutiny
Plus, much more
re-use and repair

The circular economy model



The changing policy context

DESNZ

Department of Science, Innovation and Technology

Department of Transport

Department of Energy Security and Net Zero

Department of Business and Trade

Energy bill - Heat Zones 2025

CCUS - CfD (2024 onwards)

Electricity Generators Levy (2023-2028-30...)

Renewable Transport Fuel Obligation (RTFO) (current)

Recycled Carbon Allowance RTFO-RCA (exp 2024)

Sustainable Aviation Fuel mandate (2025)

ETS for energy-from-waste (2026 vGHG permits -2028 cost ?)

RHI, capacity mechanism, Renewables Obligation

Extension/replacement for the Green Gas Support scheme

Carbon budget delivery plan

Waste

BICS

Landfill tax

Recycled Content Plastic Tax

VAT

Resource productivity

Circular Economy

Treasury / HMRC

Waste Exemption reform 2026/27

Waste Crime initiatives (£45M on top of £10M., new punishments)

Deposit Return Scheme (2027) UK (exc Wales), Wales

New Packaging EPR scheme (2025 onwards)

Simpler Recycling (2024-2027) / Welsh Blueprint / Scottish Charter

Organic to landfill ban (~2028 England, 2025-27 Scotland)

Reduction in residual waste (2042 – 50% reduction based on 2019)

Digital waste tracking 2026 / 27

Waste carrier changes 2026

EPR small WEEE and batteries revisions –kerbside collections?

Persistent Organic Pollutants (2023/4)

Circular economy plans (England, Scotland & Wales)

Defra and Devolved Administrations

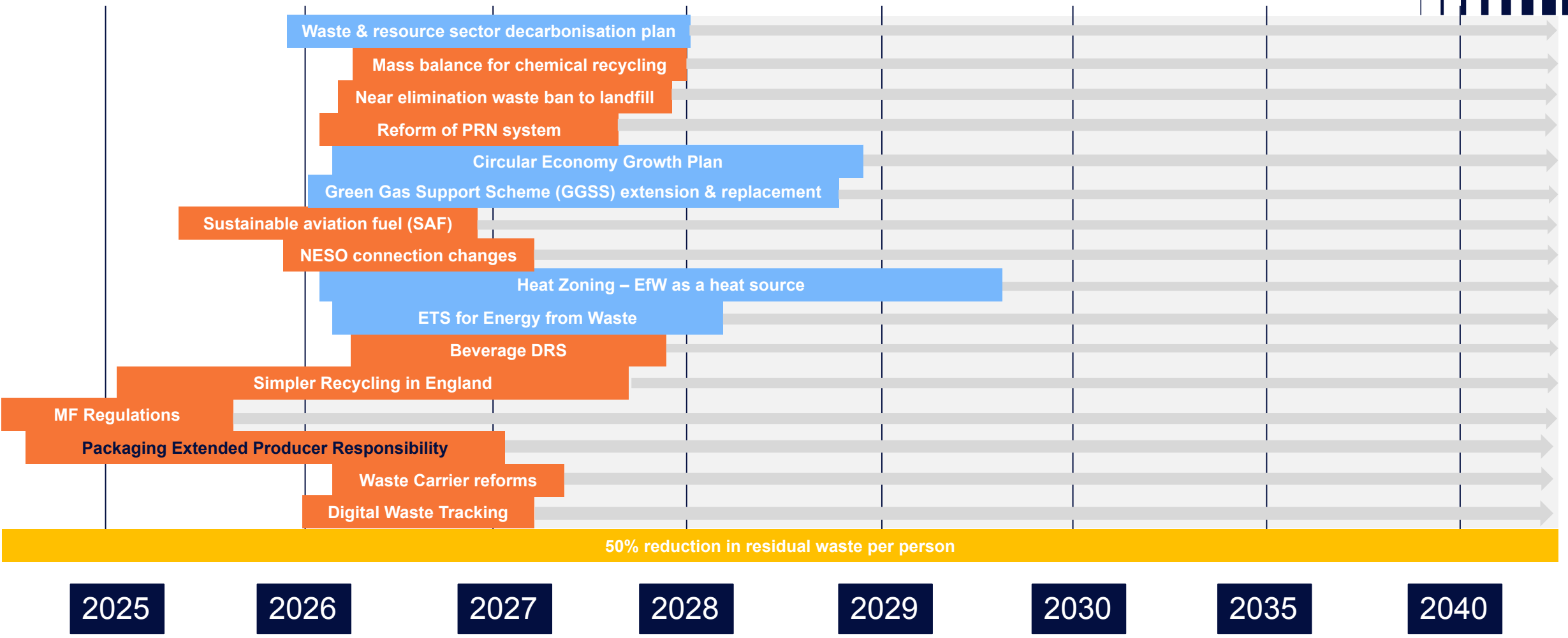
England's policy timetable

LACAP 1

LACAP 2

LACAP 3

LACAP 4





A sensible guiding principle

***Waste is simply resource in the wrong hands,
wrong place or wrong time***

***So the answer's simple, change the material,
the ownership or the geography and
that's what we do!***

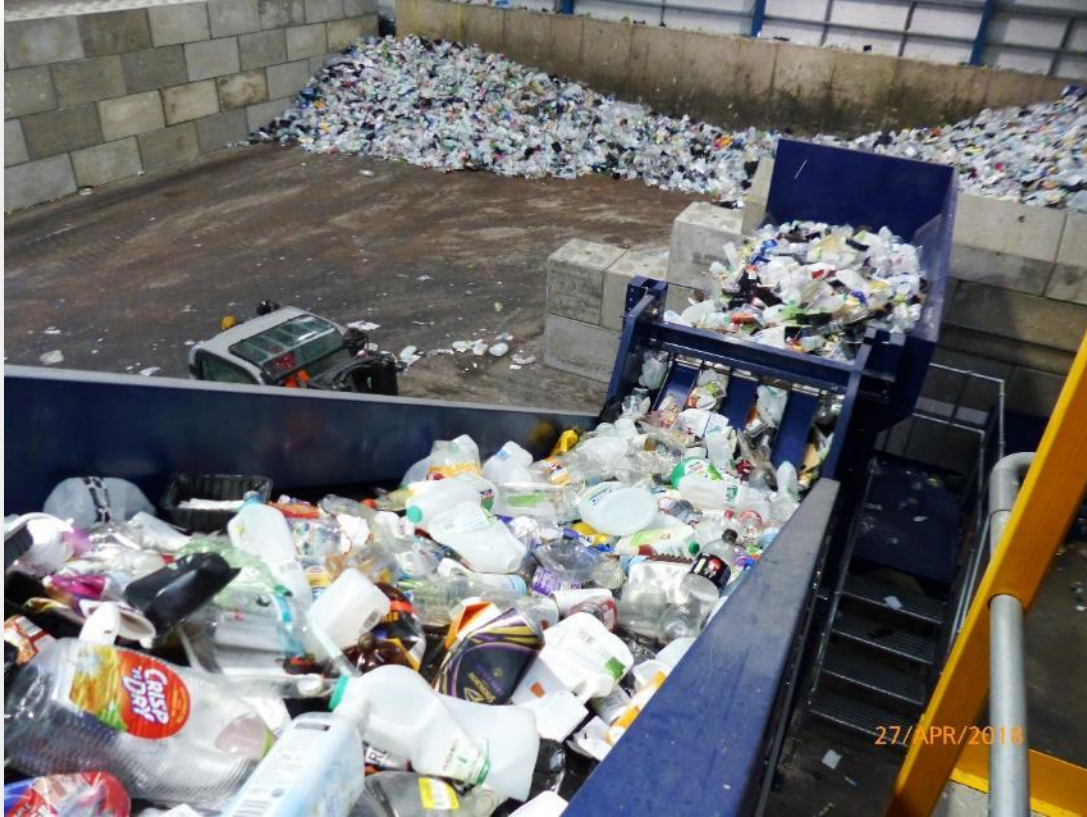
Collections & Harvesting



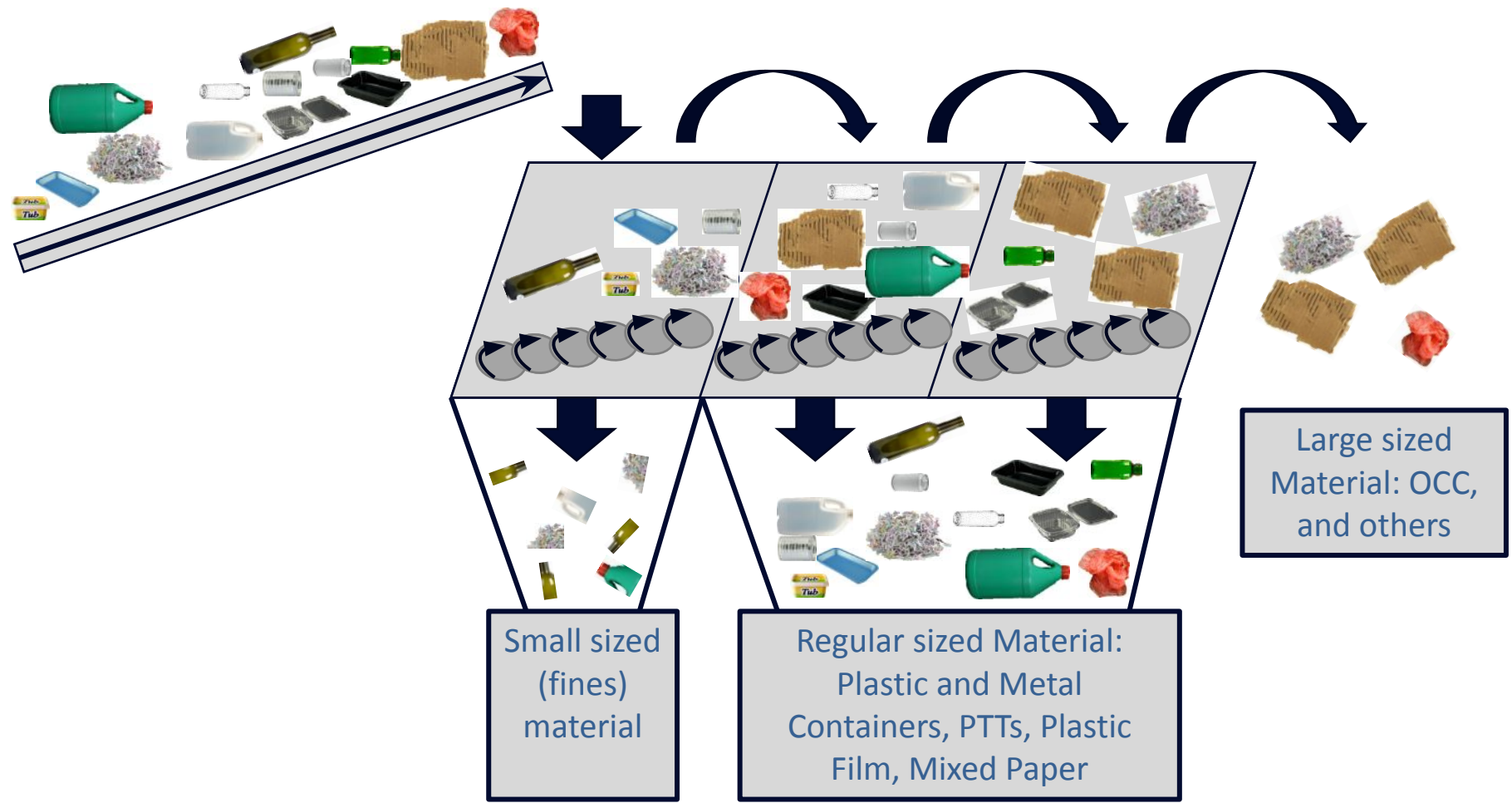
Source segregation or commingled?



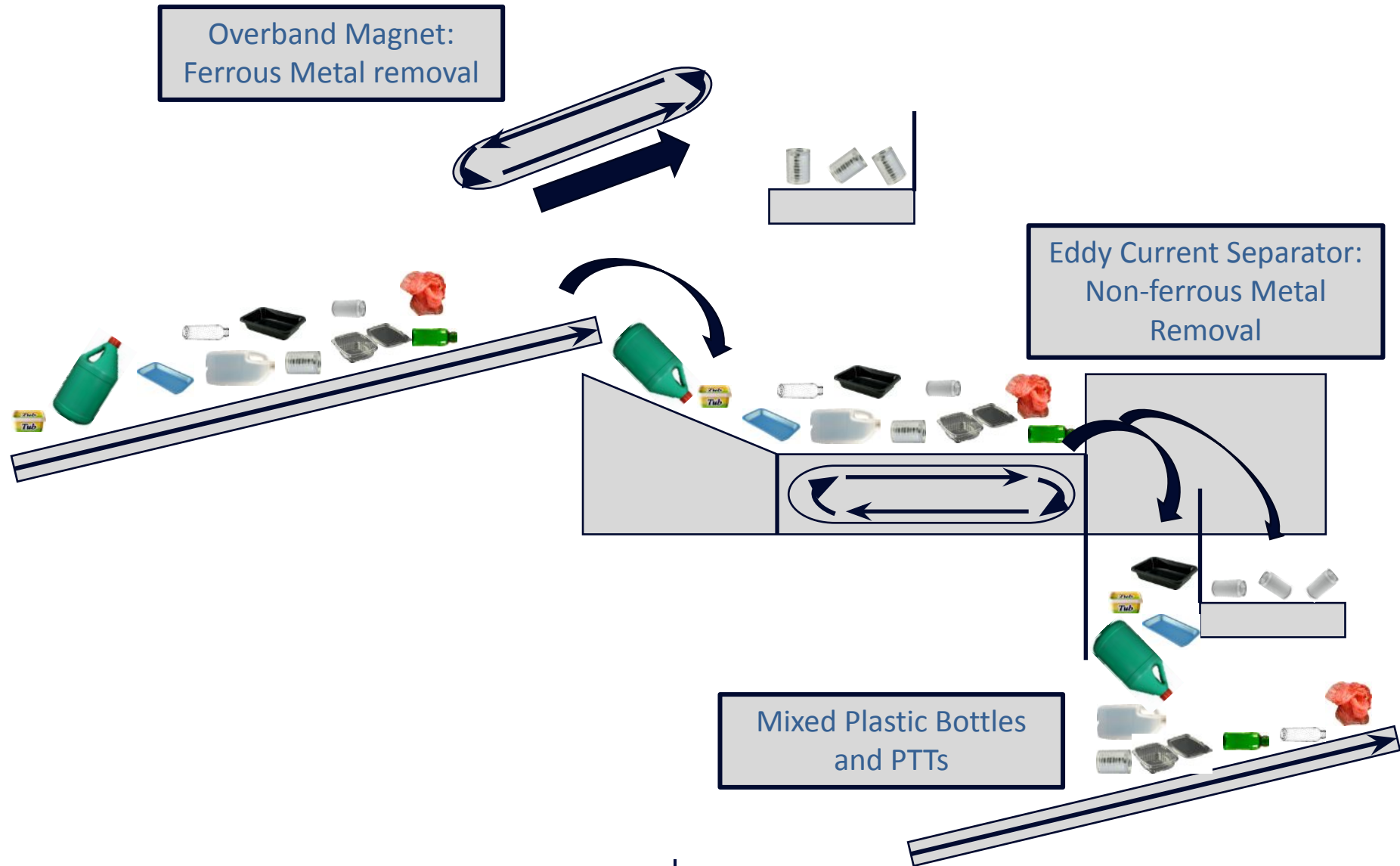
MRFs can work miracles (almost!)



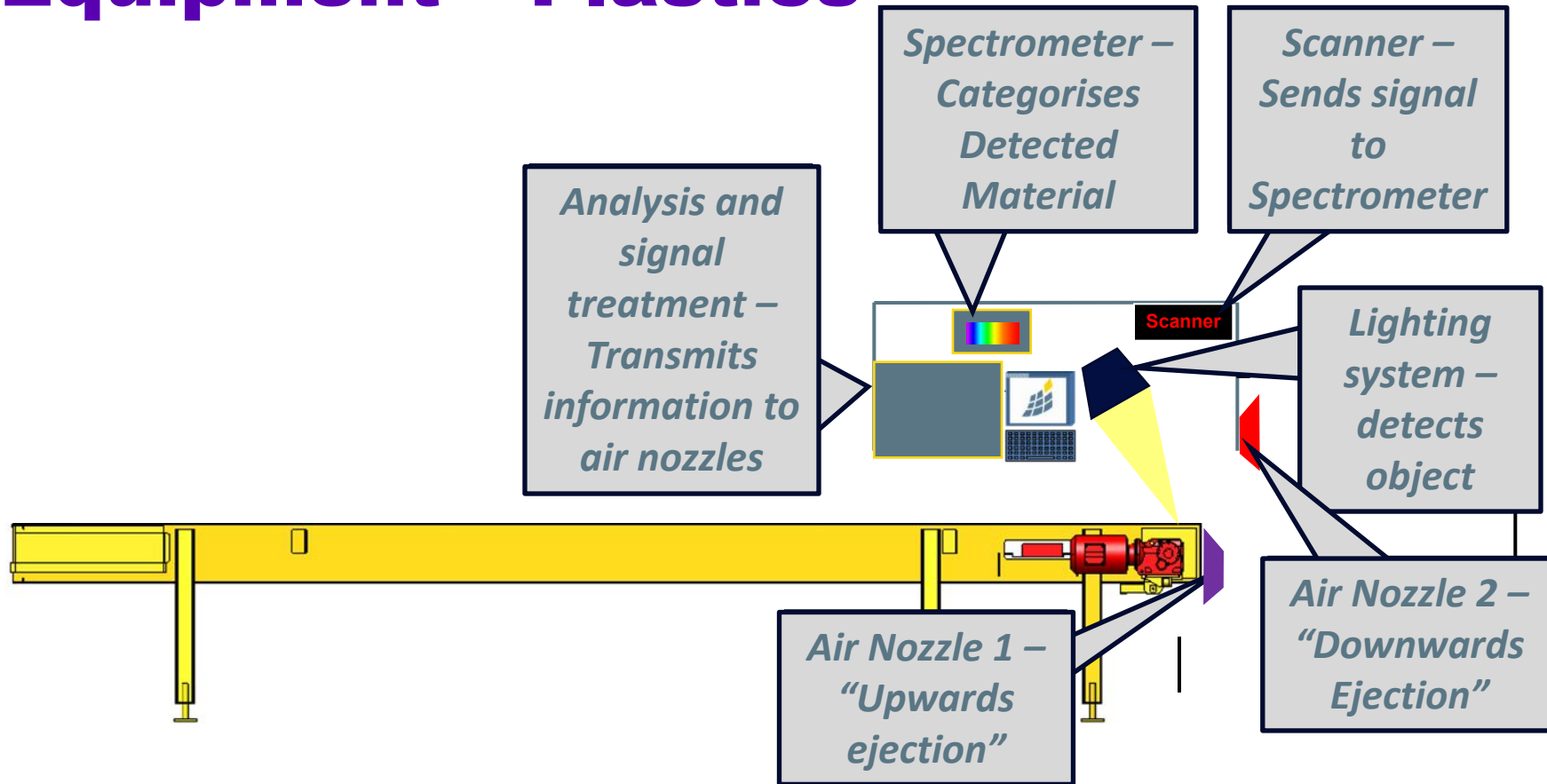
Sorting Equipment – OCC screens



Sorting Equipment – Magnetic separation



Sorting Equipment – Plastics



□ The different types of plastic are separated by a Near Infrared detector

We can adjust the MRF to suit



Its not easy....

COMMON ITEMS OF CONFUSION

- Toothpaste tube
- Pill blister packs
- Bubblewrap
- Cleaning products, trigger and pump sprays
- Bottle tops on or off
- Black and coloured plastics
- Plant Pots
- Film lids and absorbent layers



"Why can't I put ALL my plastic in the recycling bin?"

"What's this swirly dot thing about? If it doesn't mean anything in the UK why is it on there?"

Why can't all Councils agree?

"Doesn't it all go abroad to be burnt!"

"How clean is clean, what about the shampoo left in the bottle?"



So who's a good recycler? STAND UP!



#CONFUSION | Do you know what these symbols really mean?



- 2,300 supermarket shoppers surveyed (November 2020)
- 61% of Britons do not understand basic recycling symbols
- 25% did not know the 'Tidy Man' figure!
- Most were confused by the 'alu' symbol for recycled aluminium products!

The 5 90's (and potential measures)

The need for full value chain collaboration to recycle packaging (excellent performance)



© SUEZ recycling and recovery UK

And
we

nee

d to

Cost of collection

k

Cost of Processing

abo

Savings in disposal

the

Income from Materials

nce

Possible carbon savings (ETS)

S ...





Niche end markets ... this isn't really a scalable end market for plastics





**We handle all sorts
of packaging ... and
stuff!**





Vapes!





**But not everything
we get is 'fit for
purpose'**





**Wish Recycling ...
No!**



Contamination costs ...





**Biodegradable
packaging rocks!
Not really ...**





**Complexity costs
time & money!**





Material substitution concerns





**Under EPR collection and
processing must be
effective and efficient
and must enable closed
loop uses!**



Are bioplastics a good idea?

Today = NO!
#contamination

Next 5 years = PROBABLY!
#capturefoodwastefirst
#triggerpoint
#keepitpink

Longer term = YES!
#foodcontactpackaging
#nutrientrecycling





So what can we do next?



COLOURS TO INFORM PURCHASE



NUMBERS TO RECYCLE BY





**Co-design the system
(flexibles)**





Understand costs better





**Test new packaging
formats / materials
with us early**



**Appreciate the other
stakeholders /
actors in the
complex supply
chain**



Systemic change is needed

We must come together



Attitude is everything

.....

"Just because you're trash doesn't mean you can't do great things.
It is called garbage can, not garbage cannot." - Oscar, the grouch



**Questions,
Thoughts,
Criticisms?**

Thank you & chat later

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