DAERA Waste Policy Tracker – April 2026

	2025 – 2026 – 2027
Batteries Implementation of the EU Regulation	Ongoing - Operational from February 2024 – New rules to be introduced gradually over 10+ years
Digital Waste Tracking	Phase 1 Public Beta April 2026, Phase 2 Public Beta expected April 2027
Diverting Biodegradable Waste From Landfill	Public Consultation expected late 2026
Extended Producer Responsibility – Deposit Return Scheme	Expected implementation October 2027
Extended Producer Responsibility – Packaging	Ongoing for 2026
Food Waste	Ongoing
Green Growth Strategy	Ongoing
Plastic Pollution Plan	Consultation complete. Responses under analysis.
Producer Responsibility – Batteries	UK wide consultation expected in Autumn of 2026
Producer Responsibility – End of Life Vehicle (ELV) Review	A review of the current UK regulatory framework is expected to commence in 2026/27
Producer Responsibility – Waste Electrical and Electronic Equipment (WEEE)	New WEEE regulations expected before 2029
Recycling – The Circular Economy Package (CEP) Municipal Waste Recycling Targets	Consultation closed 27 June 2024
Recycling – Climate Change Act (NI) 2022 – Recycling & Net Zero Targets	Finalising CAP for Executive consideration May 2026
Reducing Greenhouse Gas (GHG) Emissions from the Waste Management Sector	Finalising CAP for Executive consideration May 2026
Single Use Plastic Directive	Expected 2027
The Environment Act Implementation	Ongoing - First annual report laid and published on January 2026
The Environmental Improvement Plan	First EIP annual progress report was published 26 January 2026
Waste Management Strategy/Waste Management Plan	Consultation closes on 6 May 2026
UK Emissions Trading Scheme	Voluntary MRV commenced under UK ETS from 1 January 2026. Consultation response work ongoing.
Voluntary Producer Responsibility – Chewing Gum	Funding will be awarded in Summer 2026
Waste Prevention – Waste Prevention Programme	Ongoing
Wet Wipes Containing Plastic	In force by May 2027
Contaminated Land	Ongoing

Department of Agriculture, Environment and Rural Affairs
An Roinn Talmhaíochta, Comhshaoil agus Gnóthaí Tuaithe
Depairtment o' Fairmin, Environment an' Kintra Matthers
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