

AVA ENVIRONMENT & SUSTAINABILITY COMMITTEE NEWSLETTER

Issue No 3

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Welcome to the AVA Environment & Sustainability Committee Newsletter. We hope you will find it interesting and useful. We would also appreciate any comments or suggestions for items to be covered in future newsletters. If you or your colleagues would like to receive future copies of the Environmental Newsletter, please email Penny.Rowell@the-ava.com

The AVA has responded to many Government & Ministry consultations this year. Covering everything from banning of energy drinks to different Single Use Plastics legislation in each of the Home Nations. Details of each of these can be found in the 'Lobbying' section of the Members area [HERE](#)

If you want to find out more - come and see us at **VENDEX NORTH** in Leeds on 10th November. You can register to attend [HERE](#)

There is a lot of detail below – but please read through – as all the items could have a cost impact on your business at some stage. If you need further clarification or detail – please get in touch.

Single Use Cup Levies



Each of the Home Countries are in the process of reviewing the need, or how to implement, a 'consumer point of purchase' levy (around 20p-25p) per cup. As part of Environmental or packaging legislation.

Scotland: Lorna Slater MSP (Minister for Green Skills, Circular Economy and Biodiversity) has declared the intent to introduce a 20p levy on cups. The Single

Use Disposable Cup Levy Implementation Group (SUDCLIG) has held several meetings to discuss implementation of a charge for all 'single-use' cups, no matter what they are made of. The AVA has been a part of these meetings and has made a case for exemption for vending (as we did for Scotland's DRS) – although no decision has been made as yet.

- Timings
 - Summer 2023: Introduce bill to enable levies

- Early 2024: Publication of proposed legislation and consultation
- Final regulations introduced 2025

Northern Ireland: DAERA recently held a workshop on a number of issues. They intend to exclude glass and HDPE from deposit return and are closely following the digital kerbside project in Wales. They made no reference to progress on their proposal earlier this year to ban certain single use items. However, there is currently no functioning assembly in Northern Ireland and this situation could continue for some time.

England – Defra has proposed a ‘mandatory cup takeback scheme’ as part of EPR (see below) which “would require businesses selling filled disposable paper cups to provide for the separate collection of used cups (either generated in-store or consumed ‘on-the-go’), through both instore and front of shop collection points, and to arrange for the collection and recycling of these cups.” (full details can be found [HERE](#)). Defra also reserved the right to ‘consider’ charges for ‘problematic litter’ i.e. cups, as part of their February consultation.

Ireland – The bill to introduce a 20c cup levy has been passed but there is no information on how the levy will be introduced – as yet.

Deposit Return Schemes

Scotland – continues to drive towards their implementation date of 16 August 2023. Whether you are a manufacturer, wholesaler, or vending operator you will be charging an additional 20p per container for PET, Cans and any glass bottles. And paying an extra 20p when buying the product. Details can be found in the AVA summary [HERE](#).



One of the key ‘wins’ from our discussions with Zero Waste Scotland is that vending machines will not be legally required to provide a return point or rebate system for ‘in scope’ container.

Further details of the scheme, how it will work and who is affected can be found on the Circularity Scotland website: <https://circularityscotland.com/>

Circularity Scotland are holding a two-day exhibition and conference on 22 – 23 November in Glasgow for all those wanting to find out more about the scheme. Keep an eye on their website for details.

England & Northern Ireland: After making our initial submissions to the Defra consultation 18 months ago, the Ministry has recently issued a statement that the next stage will take place ‘before the end of 2022’. As soon as details are available, we will let our members know.

Wales: are currently trialling a kerbside digital deposit return scheme which has boasted a 97% 'engagement score'. This requires a unique QR code on each bottle or can – meaning yet more SKUs for those trading across the border.

Eire: The legislation is in place and a DRSI scheme for a 10c deposit on plastic bottles and aluminium cans is expected to be in place for registration this month and implementation during 2023: [gov.ie - Regulations signed for a Deposit Return Scheme for plastic bottles and aluminium cans \(www.gov.ie\)](https://www.gov.ie/en/regulations/2023/06-2023-regulations-signed-for-a-deposit-return-scheme-for-plastic-bottles-and-aluminium-cans/)

Plastic Packaging Tax



HM Treasury

Very few manufacturing and importing businesses have registered under the Plastic Packaging Tax (PPT). The Treasury's own survey suggests that only 10% of businesses are aware of the tax. However, the Act includes a joint and several responsibility clause, which means that companies using taxable plastic could be liable for the tax if the manufacturer does not pay.

Under due diligence – and to avoid a nasty additional tax bill - vending operators should contact your suppliers of liable products to check that they have registered paid any necessary tax. Then should ensure that you receive and hold these details on file.

More details on liability can be found [HERE](#)

Single Use Plastics Legislation

Scotland: The SUP ban on selected items (details [HERE](#)) became fully effective from 12th August this year, after the Scottish Parliament requested amendment to the [UK Internal Market Act](#). This therefore forbids companies in Scotland holding stock, manufacturing, or distributing these items. Or donating them. Or shipping them to customers outside Scotland.



Wales: The SUP Bill is currently with the Senedd. The list of products in line for a ban appears to be unchanged from the consultation. Although Plastic cup lids have been added to

the 'banned' list. Before any ban can be introduced Wales will also have to apply for an exemption to the Internal Market Act. Although, we have stressed in our consultation submission, not to the same extent as Scotland – as there are five manufacturing facilities in Wales. Details of the bill and proposed banned products can be found [HERE](#).

England: SUP restrictions were part of the 'commonly littered or problematic single-use items' consultation in February. We are awaiting the outcomes. The AVA Submissions can be found under 'Lobbying' in the [Members](#) section of the AVA Website

DEFRA - Extended Producer Responsibility



Although the wider issues of Waste Consistency and a DRS next stage consultations have been deferred to 'the end of the year'. Defra has issued an update on how UK businesses can prepare for Extended Producer Responsibility. The guidance aims to make clearer the collection and submission of the correct packaging data required from 1 January 2023

Details of which business will be liable (most of you!) and what data you will have to collect and report can be found [HERE](#).

Measuring your carbon Footprint

In June last year (2021), the UK Government published a policy note which requires companies bidding for projects over £5 million to provide a carbon reduction plan as part of the bid.

Increasingly, AVA members are being asked about their environmental credentials within tenders, as the Government and businesses become more aware and conscious of their environmental impact. It is important that you can provide information about your company carbon footprint, so the AVA has collated some advice on how to do this. If you would like further assistance, please do get in touch or read our [member guidance](#)



PS - the AVA is hiring!

With the planned retirement of Steve Collins as **Membership Services Manager** at the end of this year the AVA is looking to recruit a replacement.

Details of the role can be found on the AVA News pages [HERE](#).

If you would like to be considered for the role - or know anyone who should be - please get in touch.

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