

DEFRA & Wrap Waste Strategy

(Not applicable to companies that upset our donors)

Recommendation 3: Defra and WRAP should consider the options for increasing incentives for the re-use of goods. More work is needed to assess the preferred means for different products and to establish where the impact on the waste stream would be greatest.

The Government believes that reuse of products is desirable where this is the most environmentally beneficial and cost-effective option. This will not always be the case, but for some products, a move to reuse systems is clearly possible; we have seen this happen already in some sectors under the impetus of the packaging Regulations.

The Government understands that the Advisory Committee on Packaging (ACP) will be setting up a Task Force to look further at reuse and minimisation of packaging and packaging waste. The Government looks forward to working with the industry in this forum, particularly with a view to participating fully in the discussions of how to encourage reuse (and minimisation) which will follow in the second part of the review of the EC Directive on Packaging and Packaging Waste. Reuse of Waste Electrical and Electronic Equipment (WEEE) is addressed in the WEEE Directive, and reuse of End of Life Vehicle (ELV) components is addressed in the ELV Directive. The provisions of both of these Directives are in the process of being implemented in the UK.

The Strategy Unit has suggested deposit refund schemes as one way of encouraging individuals to participate actively in reuse and recycling. Defra is commissioning a joint study, with other interested departments, to update previous work on the benefits and costs of such schemes with a view to identifying the contribution they could make to increased reuse and recycling.

As to reuse of other products, a considerable amount is already being done through organisations such as CREATE and the Furniture Recycling Network, Government will discuss with these and other organisations in the voluntary sector, as well as with the Waste and Resources Action Programme (WRAP), what scope there is for further action to encourage reuse of products.

www.defra.gov.uk/environment/waste/review/strategyunit_response.pdf

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This Policy**

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