

Dear Sir/Madam

The Advisory Committee on Packaging has now finalised its report on its work for last year.

It was a year of substantial input from many organisations as well as Committee members. Over the year the Committee established four task groups covering market development, legislation, the sustainable supply chain and plastics. As a result the report is well informed with evidence on future trends for packaging as well as the challenges in meeting new targets.

What emerged during our work was the importance of the supply chain working together and a focus on making the value in materials the prime economic driver. In a recovery system which is fragmented at the point of collection in the domestic sector by public sector statutory roles it is easy to see that this creates a challenge in a market driven system. Thus one of our recommendations is to suggest that local councils be given a statutory role to play a role of supplier of materials to the market as well as its role to provide general services for waste and recycling. Furthermore the ACP encourages councils to use the services and products of WRAP and the contracting framework developed by IESE.

A more collective approach to communication across the country, even allowing for different methods of collection, will help householders contribute more effectively to the recovery process. The work of WRAP and retailers will be critical.

The collection of plastics is a challenge because of the complexity of the range of products used. However, the ACP has considered the material in three core areas; bottles, rigid containers and films. Each has different issues in collection, sorting and markets to be resolved and we know that there is increasing public demand for more to be recycled as well as higher targets to be met by 2017. The industry has been very positive about the challenge and the report provides a route map for bottles and rigids and recommends that more work is undertaken this year by an industry led films group so that the ACP can be informed of the optimum routes for this material and the practicalities of collection.

The legislation group has looked at ways of reducing the burden on industry especially small businesses and also at how to ensure that the obligations can be made more inclusive. It has also suggested that the PRN/PERN system be reviewed as there is evidence that there are differences that disadvantage UK based reprocessors.

The Committee has developed a work plan for the next twelve months which is included in the report and which will contribute to the review of Producer Responsibility processes as well as continuing the work on plastics and supporting the supply chain in joint working.

Yours faithfully

Mr Bob Lisney OBE
ACP Chairman