From waste to resource
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FCC Environment

Delivering change



Pushing forward

With a new government, comes a renewed sense of energy. It is vital that the sector uses this to push on and embrace change.

Despite Labour's manifesto being fairly light on detail, particularly on waste and recycling, with the only reference being that "Labour is committed to reducing waste by moving to a circular economy" there has been positive noises in these first months of the new administration.

During a speech at the Garden Museum in Lambeth, the new Secretary of State for the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (Defra), Steve Reed, set out his five key priorities. The second of which, was that "we will end the throwaway society and work towards a zero-waste economy where resources are reused and recycled, creating new jobs and investment, but also protecting nature."

Further down the Ministerial pecking order, there has also been encouraging sounds from the new Minister for Nature, Mary Creagh – a former chair of the Environmental Audit Committee – now responsible for circular economy, which involves piloting Defra through waste policy reforms and creating a roadmap to move Britain toward a zero-waste economy.

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When asked whether Defra has plans to introduce a deposit return scheme (DRS) for drinks containers before October 2027, Creagh said "Yes. This government is committed to creating a roadmap to a zero-waste economy – a future where we keep our resources in use for longer; waste is reduced; we accelerate the path to net zero, we see investment in critical infrastructure and green jobs; our economy prospers; and nature thrives... We are reviewing the suite of packaging reforms and are going to work with our devolved government counterparts, industry and other stakeholders to determine the next steps for the DRS. I would be happy to update the House in due course."

To hear this positive signalling around recycling, investment and jobs from the Department is a welcome signal of intent towards the industry. It is vital that we build on this enthusiasm to push on, in a sector that has often seen progress stalled.

It very much seems as though Labour are not going to be overly radical when it comes to waste and recycling, but instead progress policies that are already in flight. Given that we are already someway down the line with the policy measures outlined back in 2018 in the Resources and Waste Strategy, this is not necessarily a bad thing.

However, one particular policy we are yet to hear further detail on is the Emissions Trading Scheme (ETS). If the sector is to commit to national and sector-specific net-zero carbon objectives, we hope the Government will actively advance energy recovery within the ETS. Not doing so could have a profound impact on our ability to achieve sectoral decarbonisation and impede our capability to achieve national net-zero targets by 2050.

We recognise that the Government has a significant in-tray, and a variety of competing priorities. Whilst we realise that waste and recycling may not be forefront of Minister's minds, it's important that it's not forgotten – and early signs show it has not been – as small interventions can allow our sector to thrive.

Our sector, like many others, is made up of a variety of different businesses, and what almost all businesses seek is certainty and stability, providing a stable bedrock for investment.

There has been steady policy progress in our sector – but we now need the new government to make rapid progress, in order to foster suitable conditions for investment, create new green jobs, help to deliver much needed infrastructure, and ultimately lead to a less wasteful, lower carbon and more circular economy.

So much of the policy work in our sector is done by officials and stakeholders, rather than politicians themselves, and so it is vital that this work can be built upon. The new Government must now make rapid progress to provide a stable environment for further investment so the sector can play a key role in moving towards a more circular economy.



FCC Environment
Our recycling teams





FCC is a world leader in delivering public services that don't cost the earth. Our municipal teams are driven to deliver more for less. They are helping councils make unprecedented progress through detailed route optimisation, alternative fuel vehicles and strict emissions monitoring. Our investments in research and innovation mean we can run clean fleets and share the benefits with residents who experience better air quality and a top-notch service. At our award-winning household waste recycling centres, our focus on re-use is both climate and community friendly, reducing waste and providing training opportunities, as well as offering repaired goods at a fraction of their normal price. Not only that, but improved layouts and enhanced technology mean customers don't wait so long with idling engines contributing to local air pollution. We ensure maximum diversion from disposal, reducing the need for further fossil fuel extraction and keeping materials in the loop for longer. Unrecyclable waste is also a precious resource and we continue to invest in world-class energy recovery technology to make the most of the power and heat available from residual waste treatment. Our national network of energy from-waste facilities is significantly reducing potent methane emissions from landfill, offsetting fossil fuel dependence and providing a renewable energy supply for Britain. These are all important steps in reducing global atmospheric carbon levels and our partner councils benefit from having these choices. This is an exciting time in the resources and waste sector. With increased public interest and scrutiny in all aspects of waste management, the ambitions a new Government picking up the reigns of the Resources and Waste Strategy, the Industrial Strategy, Clean Growth Strategy and the 25-year Environment Plan, now is the time to take action, stimulate discussion, assess priorities and commit to the vital changes needed to make a real and long term impact in reducing carbon emissions. We want to work in partnership with local authorities to shape the changes that the UK needs to make as part of a global community. There are many challenges ahead. There are important decisions that need to be made, and FCC has the expertise, experience and insight local authorities need to plan and deliver new services for future generations.

We currently have a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity to deliver a revolution in our sector. If we get it right now, we can support the new Government's ambitions to drive growth and investment making the UK a world leader in resource efficiency.

Steve Longdon
Chief Executive, FCC Environment



We are one of the UK's most trusted **resource and waste management businesses**. Alongside the new members of our FCC family – J&B Recycling, Wastewise and Severn Waste Services – we now hold **over 100 contracts** with some **138 local authorities** up and down the country, **recycling** more than 1.5 million tonnes of waste each year.

4,222

FCC Environment employs 4,222 people in England, Scotland and Wales



Fully operational

We have operational energy from waste facilities in Lincolnshire, Buckinghamshire, Nottingham, Kent, Edinburgh/Midlothian, Gloucestershire, Worcestershire and Dudley diverting waste from landfill converting it into energy.

In Lincolnshire, this has reduced the amount of waste going to landfill by around 93%, converting it to 734,907 MWh of energy for the Lincoln area, enough to power 29,000 homes across the county. At Greatmoor, the plant has welcomed more than 7,000 visitors, with over 8,500 children and adults engaged through their community outreach programme.

Our plant in Allington, Kent, has achieved 1.1 million tonnes of waste processed and has generated 562,000 MWh electricity with two major turbine outages in between. Our plant at Millerhill, Midlothian, has achieved approx 550,000 tonnes of waste processed and has generated 330,136 MWh electricity.

We recycled

1.5m

tonnes of waste in 2023

In numbers

327

UK sites, of which 218 are operational



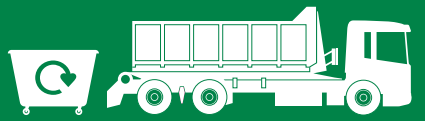


2.8m

We collect **waste and recycling** from 2.8 million people in the UK

7,754

Business waste customers



2,190

Customer accounts

2,949

Customer sites

8

PFI and PPP contracts (Wrexham, re3, Lincolnshire, Mercia, Buckinghamshire, Allington, Edinburgh and Midlothian)

4,222

Employees



167MW

Our facilities generate 167MW of **green energy**



885k

We recycle 885,000 tonnes of **wastewater** every year

>100

Over 100 **major contracts** with a total of **138 local authorities**



1.5m

Tonnes of **waste recycled** in 2023

FCC Environment

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