

TOGETHER
WE CAN

**The UK Plastics Pact:
Towards a Circular Plastics System**

**Ian Garner – WRAP
November 2018**

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**THE UK
PLASTICS
PACT**



**A world in which
resources
are used
sustainably**

WRAP is a not-for-profit organisation working with partners in 26 countries



WRAP

Our mission is to accelerate the move to a sustainable, resource efficient economy.

- Food & drink
- Packaging
- Clothing
- Electrical products





The Plastics challenge





Tackling at a global and national level

- Global issue that requires global and national level action
- UK Plastics Pact is the first of a global network of national initiatives
- UK Plastics Pact is supporting Ellen MacArthur Foundation's global initiative – New Plastics Economy.



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**A world where
plastic is valued and
doesn't pollute the
environment**

Scope

- **Plastic packaging focus**
- **Plus single-use non-recyclable items**
- **All plastic packaging placed onto the UK market**
- **All polymers and formats**
- **Whole plastics value chain**
- **Citizen participation is key**

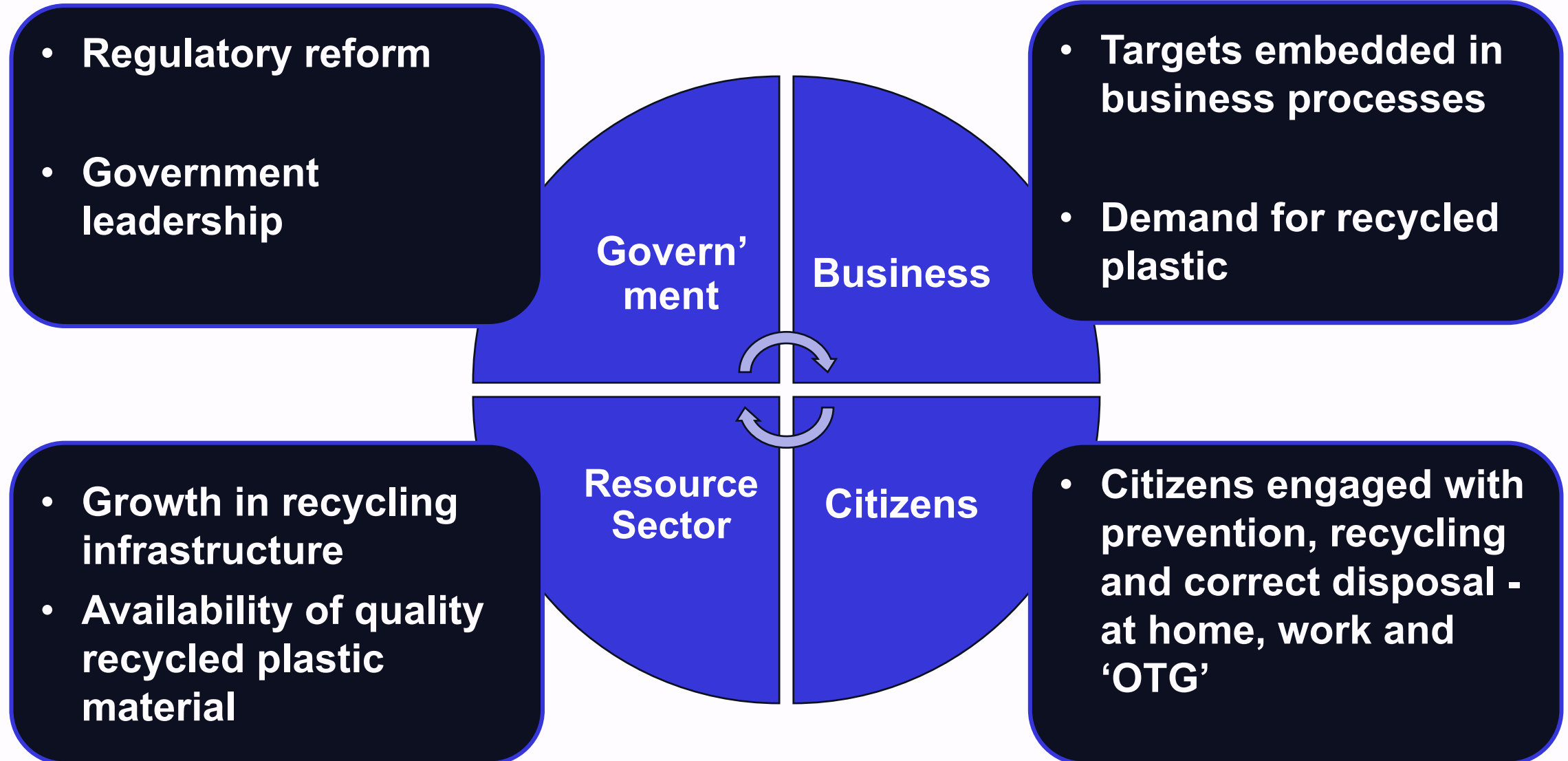


Targets; by 2025

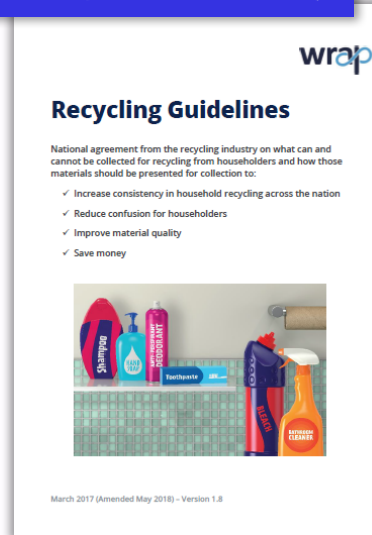
- ❑ Take actions to eliminate problematic or unnecessary single-use packaging items through redesign, innovation or alternative (reuse) delivery models
- ❑ 100% of plastic packaging to be reusable, recyclable or compostable
- ❑ 70% of plastic packaging effectively recycled or composted
- ❑ 30% average recycled content across all plastic packaging



A role for everyone



Some of WRAP's work on plastic packaging...



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70+ businesses across the value chain +
35 supporter organisations

Members are responsible for approx. 85% of the
plastic packaging on products sold through UK
supermarkets

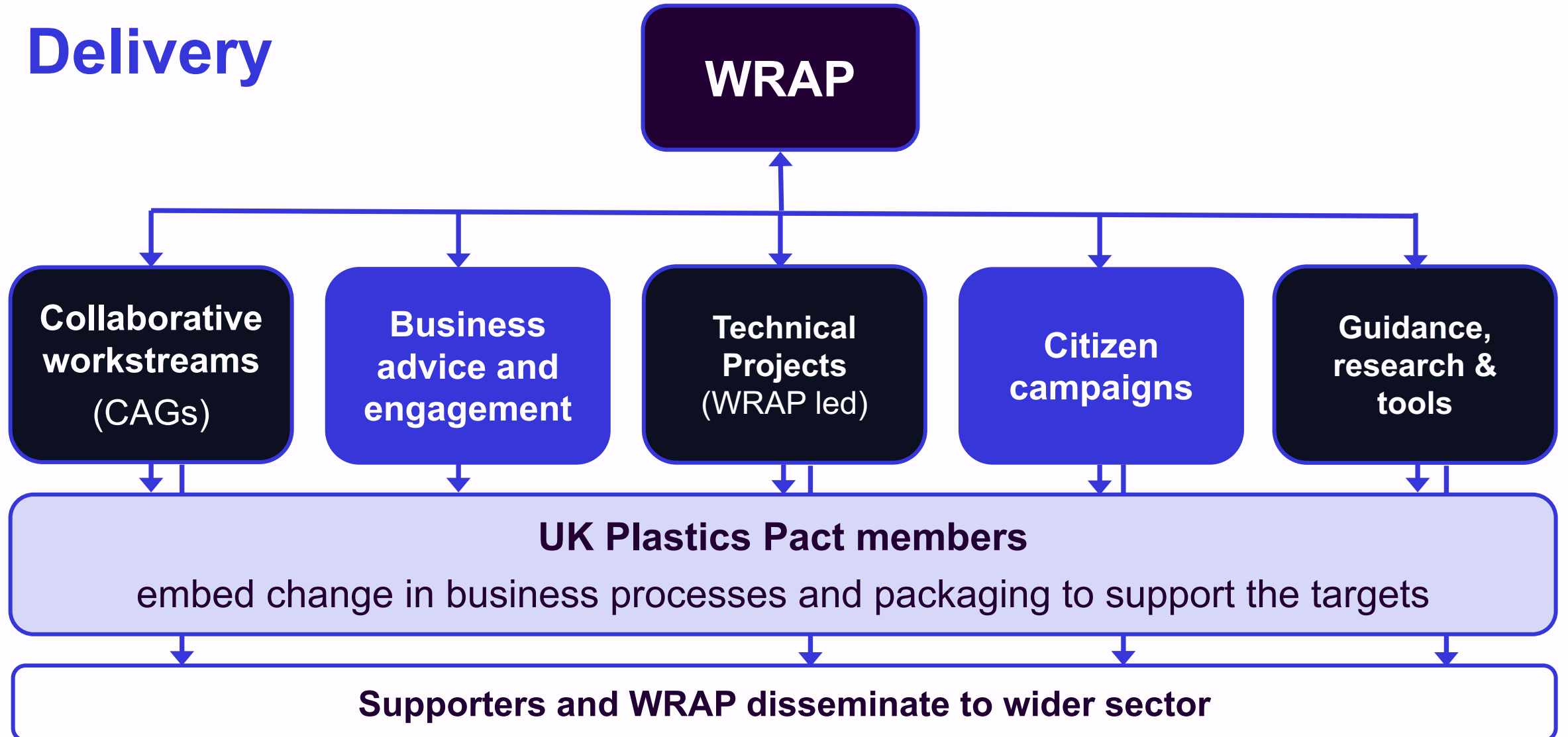


Blueprint for collaborative action

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Delivery



Roadmap for delivery

A ROADMAP TO 2025

— THE UK PLASTICS PACT >>



THE UK PLASTICS PACT PROGRESS TO DATE



Collaborative action is at the heart of The UK Plastics Pact, and mobilisation is in five stages. The first priorities were the inhibition and mobilisation of the UK market. The first priorities were the inhibition and mobilisation of the UK market. The first priorities were the inhibition and mobilisation of the UK market.

Measurements and reporting - agreeing how to report characteristics of packaging placed on the UK market by members, from a 2017 baseline. The final reporting form and guidance are being developed.

Recyclability - defining criteria and guidance for recyclable, reusable and compostable plastic packaging, agreeing what is 'good' in terms of packaging design choices (eg. polymer and decoration choices). Also, considering how to embed this across businesses and improve good practice.

Problematic & unnecessary single use plastic items - developing a criteria for problematic, unnecessary and considering how these problems could be solved e.g. through elimination, re-use models, design, recycling infrastructure, education etc.

Film & flexible recycling - films comprise 20% of all consumer plastic packaging by weight and soon greater by item. This group will focus on: (i) front of store collections, (ii) kerbside collections, and (iii) end markets. WRAP has initiated trials to identify markets for recycled PET/PP films.

We have entered into The UK Plastics Pact without having identified all the solutions to achieve the targets - research and innovation will be essential. WRAP is exploring various sources of innovation funding to support flagship projects that address key barriers to a more circular plastics economy.

These targets will not be achieved without citizens playing their part. WRAP has indicated its recycle-how campaign onto plastic packaging and developed a new campaign booklet for partners. The focused plastics campaign have reached more than 17.5 million people in 2018. Engaging citizens on prevention and reuse will form part of a new citizen engagement strategy.

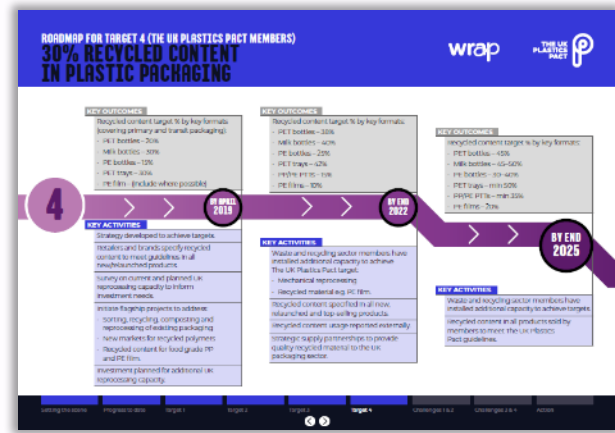
UK consumer plastic packaging composition by format and polymer



Significant advances in recycling of films and pots, lids and trays (PET) are required to meet the UK Plastics Pact targets.

ROADMAP FOR TARGET 4 (THE UK PLASTICS PACT MEMBERS)

30% RECYCLED CONTENT IN PLASTIC PACKAGING



KEY CHALLENGES

- Recycled content Target % by key formats (lowering primary and brand packaging):
 - PE bottles - 20%
 - Milk bottles - 50%
 - PE bottles - 10%
 - PE trays - 10%
 - PE film - (Exclude where possible)

KEY CHALLENGES

- Recycled content Target % by key formats:
 - PET bottles - 30%
 - Milk bottles - 50%
 - PE bottles - 20%
 - PE trays - 10%
 - PE film - 10%
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KEY CHALLENGES

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BY END 2025

Plastics and recycling sector members have installed additional capacity to achieve targets. Recycled content in all products sold by members to meet the UK Plastics Pact guidelines.

The benefits of circular economy for plastics

- **Environmental benefits:** less waste, energy, material extraction.
- **Strategic supply benefits:** less reliance on virgin plastic.
- **Reduced leakage** from the system: less litter, less waste
- A step change in reuse and **recycling rates** for all formats
- Convergence of polymers and eradication of problematic materials
- A **constructive platform** for dialogue across the value chain
- Allows for **positive citizen dialogue** and awareness
- Support **UK reprocessing:** delivering jobs, skills and growth.

Next steps for UK Plastics Pact

- **Embedding change** in businesses
- **Policy landscape** clarification (e.g. DRS, PRN reform, recycled content tax)
- Developing a solution for **films and flexibles**.
- Greater **consistency of collection** for citizens (PRN reform link).
- Unlocking **innovation** (e.g. UKRI innovation funding).
- New **citizen engagement** campaigns beyond recycling.
- New UK sorting and **recycling infrastructure**.

Global network ?



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BRANDS
RETAILERS
MANUFACTURERS
PRODUCERS
RECYCLERS
NGOS
GOVERNMENTS
LOCAL AUTHORITIES
CITIZENS
CAN

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Thank You

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