



Press Release

5 January 2018

INCPEN statement on the Environmental Audit Committee (EAC) report on ‘Disposable Packaging: Coffee Cups’.

The EAC’s report published today explored a number of areas where the Committee and INCPEN are agreed that action is needed.

Chief Executive Paul Vanston commented: -

‘INCPEN welcomes the Committee’s agreement that citizens need good access to easy-to-use, and widely available, recycling infrastructure that fits with how people organise their daily lives. Recycling infrastructure does differ markedly between localities, and on-the-go recycling opportunities tend to be sparse. On coffee cups specifically, we note there is encouraging work to promote re-usable cups by major companies and independent providers, as well as industry initiatives to capture cups for recycling in-store and at home in accord with customers’ preferences. We wish to get behind these efforts and see good results, not just on quantities collected but also on quality.’

‘The Committee rightly highlights money is needed on a sustained basis to pay for the added value to be gained from improvements to recycling infrastructure whether at home or away from home. The existing system for ‘extended producer responsibility’ for packaging is beneficial in that it already provides a funding route to improve recycling infrastructure and supporting activities including communications with citizens.’

‘It is a major plus right now that there is widespread support for truly meaningful reforms to the packaging system across four sectors: the packaging supply chain, local government, waste & resource management; and reprocessors. In our minds, reform of the single existing system in place for all packaging is a better option than bringing-in multiple and differing taxes, charges or levies for individual types of packaging.’

‘INCPEN is ready and willing to engage with leaders of the sectors identified to get down to the hard yards of drawing-up an agreed set of reforms within months that could, given a fair wind, be passed to the Secretary of State at Defra for his consideration. Given the existing serious pressures on Parliamentary time in 2018 and 2019 owing to the UK’s exit from the EU, the cross-sector reform process suggested is a superb opportunity to get us closer to the outcomes we all want in the most expeditious way.’

END

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