

Submission by Pamela Oates-24 August 2025

A soft plastic recycling scheme must be independently run and encourage hefty reductions in soft plastic use. It must not be a money making vehicle for business, or greenwash the public for PR. Ambitious targets for reductions & recycling must be met. Extended Producer Responsibility must ensure producers alone are responsible for the costs associated with recycling to encourage them to redesign both packaging and delivery systems (business to business and business to customer) for less packaging. Packaging redesigns should focus on increased durability and ease of washing to fit with supermarket refill systems, thus reducing total packaging and the need for recycling. Further packaging redesigns can increase recyclability by limiting colours, small sizes, types of plastic, and plastics combinations with lower recycling rates. Any new recycling scheme should encourage innovative approaches to packaging reduction, reuse, and recycling via research and development with the goal being very little needing to be recycled. Recycling processes and end markets for recycled materials must be found and must not cause further environmental harm. A method that only focuses on collection of packaging is not a solution.