

# Waste Management and Recycling: Inc Impact of COVID-19 - UK - April 2020

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“The COVID-19 outbreak is causing some disruption to waste services. While operatives have been classified as “key workers” by the government, allowing them to continue working during lockdown, some councils have scaled back recycling collections, and waste recycling centres have been closed to protect the safety of the public and operatives.”

– Claudia Preedy, B2B Analyst – 29 April 2020

This report looks at the following areas:

- The impact of COVID-19 on the UK waste management sector.
- Outlook for UK waste generation taking into account COVID-19.
- How the government plans to achieve its circular economy ambitions.
- Market drivers for investment in UK reprocessing and recycling industry.

The COVID-19 outbreak is set to result in a fall in commercial and industrial waste generation as well as a significant drop in construction waste. In contrast household waste is set to increase with people spending more time at home. As some councils have scaled back on recycling collections and household waste recycling centres have been closed, this is likely to result in lower household recycling rates in the short-term.

This is likely to result in a higher proportion of recyclables ending up in the residual waste stream and a drop in household recycling rates in the short-term, while the economic slowdown will have a major impact on industrial, commercial and construction waste generation, adding further pressure to the sector. Longer-term, though, the government’s plans to support the circular economy should benefit the industry.

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COVID-19: UK context

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