

Embargoed 00.01, 6 May 2026

The Rt Hon Emma Reynolds MP
Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs
Defra
2 Marsham Street
London
SW1P 4DF

06 May 2026

Dear Secretary of State,

CC Department of Business and Trade, Department of Energy Security and Net Zero, Department for Transport, His Majesty's Treasury and Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government

As businesses, trade associations, multi-stakeholder partnerships and professional bodies, we strongly support the government's intention to create a more circular economy. We see the value of such approaches in our own operations and support steps to expand reuse, repair and more efficient use of materials.

With the right direction and support, this approach will have huge advantages for the UK: it will increase resilience, boost productivity and support new commercial opportunities across the economy. Importantly, at a time when cost of living pressures are high and growing, it will offer consumers more affordable options.

As such, we are concerned at the ongoing delay to the government's promised Circular Economy Growth Plan and are worried that this will harm momentum towards a more resilient, resource efficient economy. We are keen that the plan is published as soon as possible.

A clear and ambitious signal from the government will give us and other businesses the confidence to invest further, scale up what is already working and accelerate a circular economy transition across our operations.

We look forward to supporting the government in delivering this strategy.

Yours faithfully,

Chris Fry, Managing director, Accelar
Ben Powell, Head of external affairs, ACE UK
Andrew Pattern, Business director, ADC Electricals Ltd

Anthony Burns, Chief operating officer, ACS Clothing Ltd

Rachel Solomon Williams, Executive director, Aldersgate Group

Mark Lapping, CEO, Aquapak Polymers

Zoe Watson, Trustee, Architects Declare

Ben Glover, Director, global circularity, resources and waste management skills leader, Arup

Debbie Ward, Director – reuse & circular economy, ASBP

Mark Brady, President, and Thomas Marks, Director general, Association of Electrical and Mechanical Trades

Duncan Baker-Brown, Director, Baker-Brown

Dr Jen Vanderhoven, CEO, BBIA

Carla Brian, Public affairs and partnerships director, Biffa

Sue Riddlestone, CEO, BioRegional

Dr Nick Kirk, Federation director, British Glass

Philip K Law Director-general, British Plastics Federation (BPF)

Shaun Sutton, Managing director, Central Group

Robin Osterley, Chief executive, Charity Retail Association

Tara Page, Chief executive, Chartered Institute of Architectural Technologists

Chris Radway, Director, Circulonomy Ltd

Dan Cooke, Director of policy, communications and external affairs, CIWM

Lucas van der Schalk, CEO, Corplex

David Pinder, Chair, DiscreteHeat

Sophie Walker, CEO and co-founder, Dsposal

Robbie Staniforth, Chief policy and impact officer, EcoSurety

Karl Smyth, Director, external affairs & strategic policy, enfinium

Andy Yates, Director, The Engineers Reuse Collective

Jacob Hayler, Executive director, Environmental Services Association

John Redmayne, Managing director, ERP UK Ltd

Flavie Lowres, Sustainability champion, Finishes and Interiors Sector

Matt Hazell, Owner & group board director, GB Clean Tech

Professor Robert Holdway FRSA FISEP, Managing director, Giraffe Innovation Ltd

Mark Brady, Managing director, Hayley 24/7 Engineering Services Ltd

James McKechnie, Director, Hope Recycling

Mostafa El Garaa, Interim country retail manager and chief sustainability officer, IKEA UK & Ireland

Paldeep Bhatti, Director of research & policy, The Industry Council for Packaging & the Environment (INCPEN)

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Rachel Stonehouse, Head of policy, Institute of Materials, Minerals & Mining

George Knowlton, Managing director, Knowlton & Newman Ltd

David Johnson, Head of public affairs UK and Ireland, Michelin Tyre Public Limited Company

Dick Searle, Chief executive, The Packaging Federation

James Stevens, CEO, Preformed Windings Ltd

Tim Cross, CEO and founder, Project Plan B and the CTF

Trevor Hutchings, Chief executive, REA

Bill Swan, Managing director, Recorra

Dr Emma Wilcox, Chief Executive, Society for the Environment

Professor David Greenfield, Managing director, SOENECS Ltd

Chris Hewett, CEO, Solar Energy UK

John Scanlon, Chief executive officer, SUEZ recycling and recovery UK

Jodi Harford, Chief operating officer, TTB CircularIT

Craig Melson, Associate director – climate, environment and sustainability, Tech UK

Steven Sexton, CEO, Techbuyer

Alan Wheeler, CEO, Textile Recycling Association

Martin Kelly, Chair, Trees and Design Action Group Trust

Adam Mansell, CEO, UK Fashion and Textile Association

Kirsty Girvan, Senior policy advisor, UK Green Building Council

Gavin Anderson, Head of policy and stakeholder engagement, Veolia

Dana Haidan, Chief sustainability officer, Virgin Media O2

Kristina Bull, Co-founder, WEFT

Fraser Lynch, Operations director, Westin Drives Ltd

Toby Moss, Chief commercial officer, Worn Again