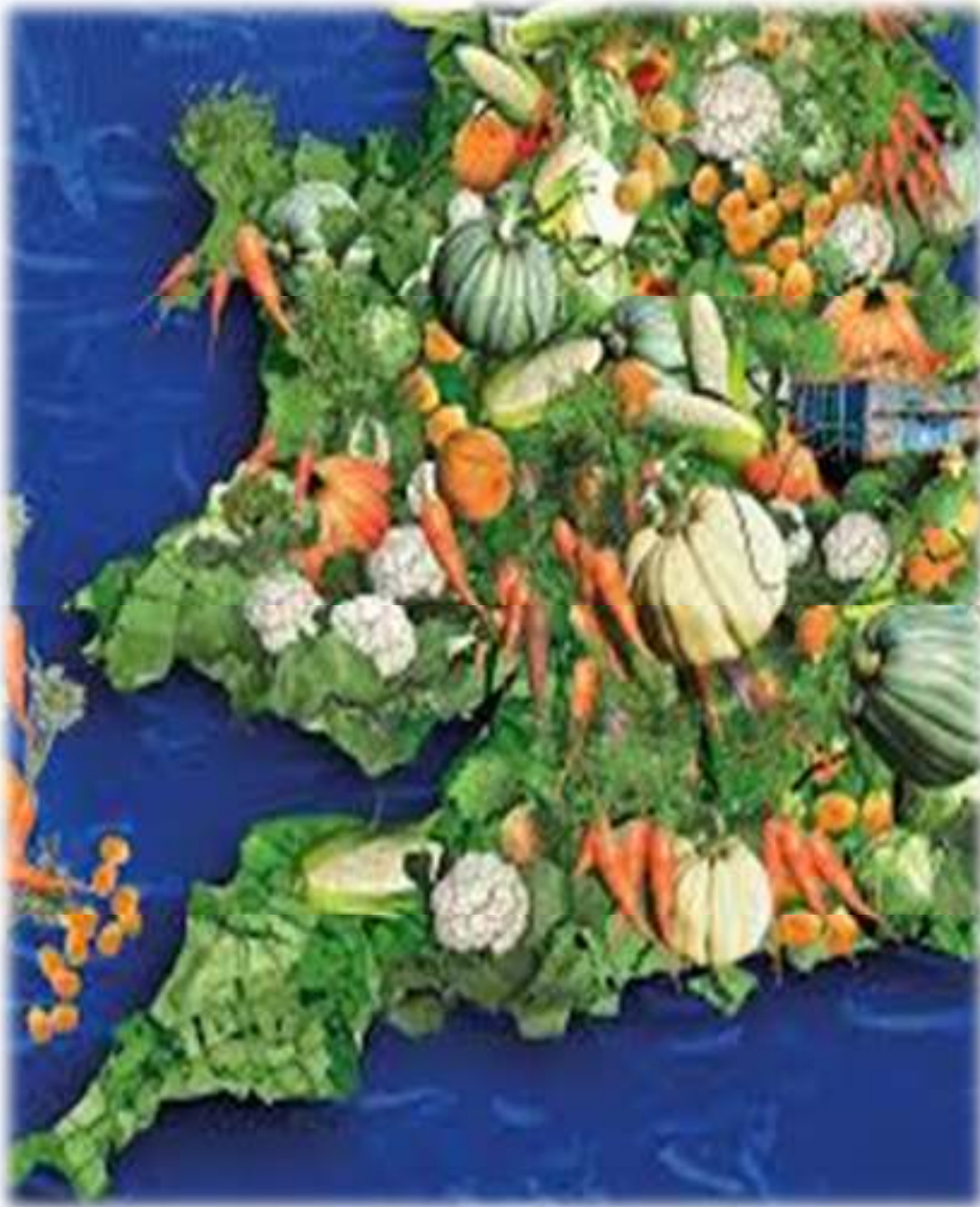


# Update on Food Waste Collections & Anaerobic Digestion

Climate Change Select  
Committee

14 March 2024





Department  
for Environment  
Food & Rural Affairs

Legislative  
Update



**Government announced on 21<sup>st</sup> November 2023 their response from the Consultation on “Simpler Recycling” (formerly Consistency of Collection)**

**Simpler Recycling will enable Households across England to be able to recycle the same materials and introduce weekly collections of food waste**

March 2026						
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Tuesday 31st Mar 2026

Under the new legislation waste collection authorities must provide a weekly collection of food waste for recycling or composting from households by 31<sup>st</sup> March 2026, unless otherwise committed to an existing long-term arrangement





All non-household municipal properties must arrange a separate collection of food waste for recycling or composting from by 31<sup>st</sup> March 2025. This need not be weekly



Micro-firms are exempt from the above until 31<sup>st</sup> March 2027 i.e. firms with 10 full-time employees or less

# Why Recycle Food Waste?

- Food waste is estimated to contribute 8-10% of global man-made greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions
- UK Households produce around 6.4 million tonnes of food waste each year.
- With only half of English Local Authorities currently providing a food waste collection service 79% of the food waste produced ends up in the residual waste stream.
- Approximately 34.8% of a residual bin is made up of food waste

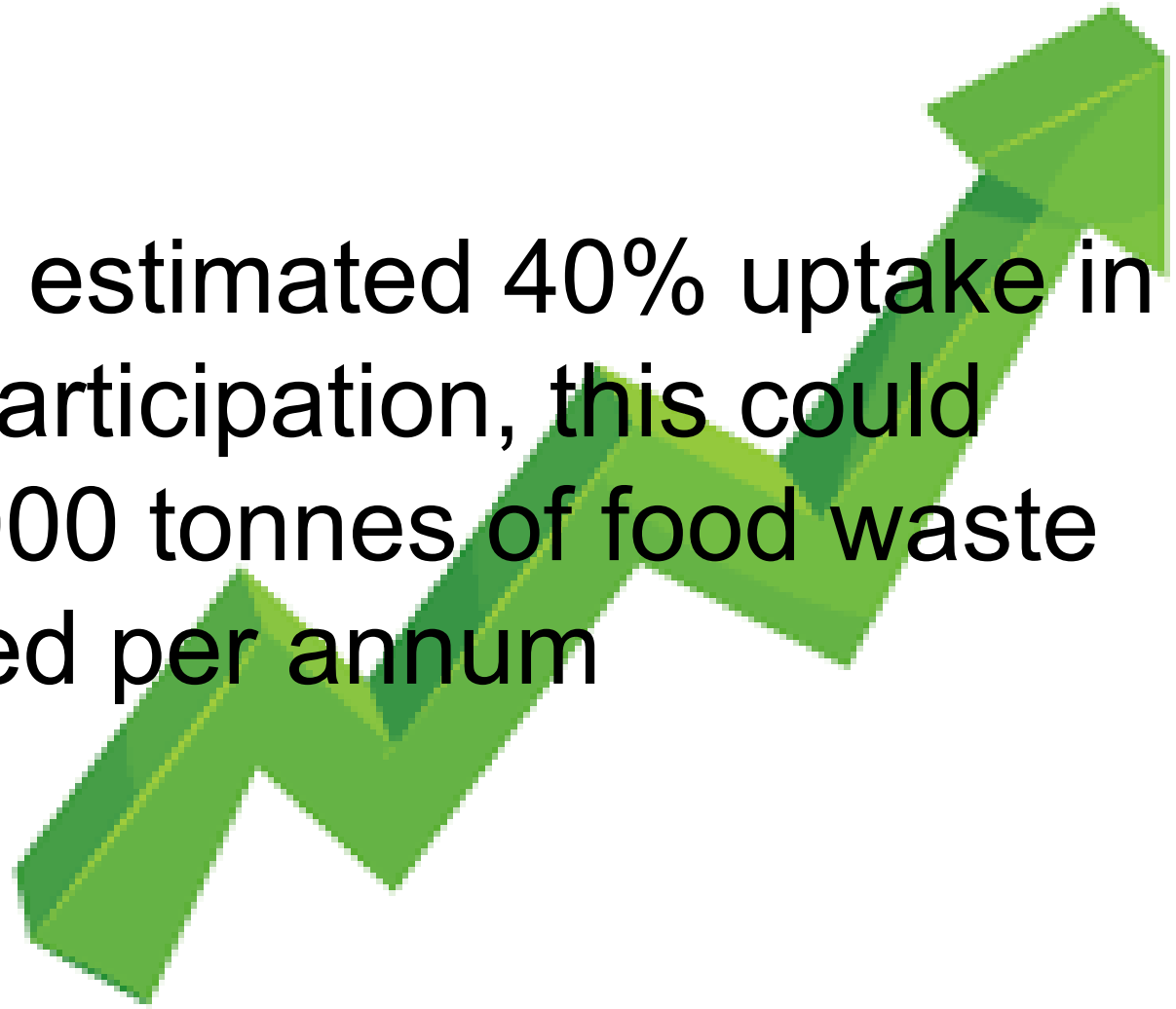


# The Benefits to Collecting Food Waste

- Reduces the amount of greenhouse gas emissions by removing the putrescent content from the residual waste stream.
- Increases recycling rates.
- Produces compost that can be used as a soil improver.
- Produces Biogas (a mixture of methane and carbon dioxide)
- Produces digestate fertiliser.
- It is anticipated that a weekly food waste service would remove 1.5kg from a household residual bin



If there is an estimated 40% uptake in household participation, this could equate to 6000 tonnes of food waste being diverted per annum





# Definitions

Materials that can be considered suitable from households or non-household municipal collections are:-

All food intended for human or household pet consumption

Biodegradable material from food preparation or processing:-  
e.g. bones, egg-shells, tea bags,  
coffee grounds, fruit or vegetable  
skins



# Unsuitable Materials

**Cooking Oils**



**Fats**



**Contaminated Packaging**



**Cat Litter**



# Collections

Kerbside collections will be made via a standard lidded 20 to 23 litre container



With a smaller 5 or 6 litre container to be used indoors

Further guidance is still to be published on the use and provision of caddy liners



DEFRA have announced  
New Burden funding and  
Dudley will receive a total  
of £2,679,480 capital  
transitional funds.





£341,055 for the supply of kitchen caddies



£640,743 for the supply of kerbside caddies

£111,834 for the supply of communal bins



£1,534,500 for the supply of suitable vehicles

# Operating Revenue Costs

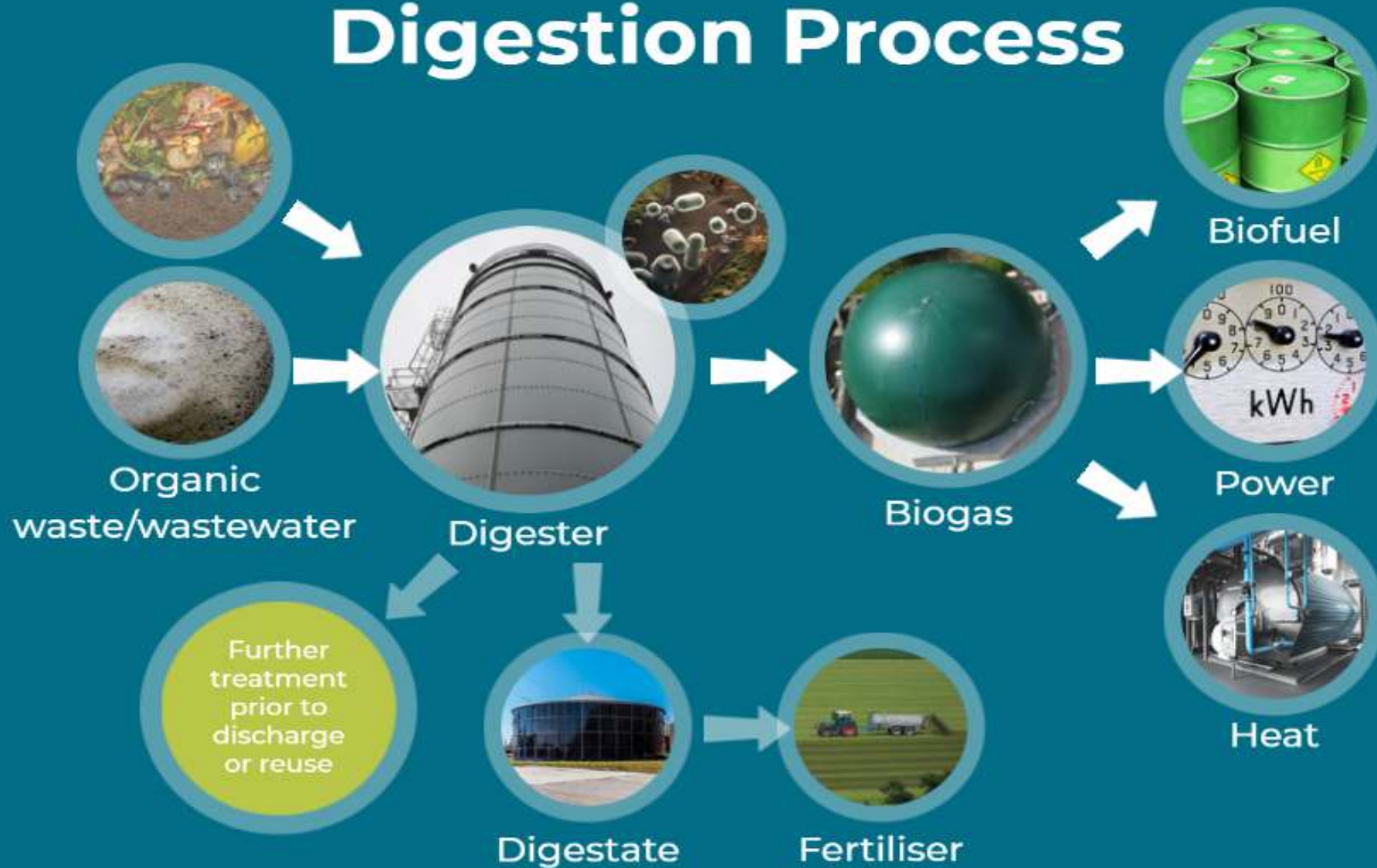
Any operating revenue costs are not included to date and are still uncertain.

Awaiting clarification which is expected later this year.

Preferred method of food waste recycling is via anaerobic digestion so as to generate biogas and a digestate



# Anaerobic Digestion Process





# Advantages of Biogas

100% renewable (no new carbon)

Permanently available

Transportable

Storable

Upcycles low-grade organic waste into a high value energy source

# Public Perceptions

Public support is vital to any food waste collection scheme and how householders view their service has a major impact on participation.

Studies have shown that the key barriers to participating are:-

- Not having the necessary equipment
- Householders not thinking that they have sufficient food waste to make a difference
- The perception that food waste is “yucky”

Non-participation in food waste recycling are typically those who have not tried the service or have given up shortly after the start.

# Communications

Need to provide communications to householders that are:-

- Clear
- Easily understood
- Engaging

It is essential to instil a behaviour change so it becomes the “social norm”

Need to break down the myths through engagement that food waste is “yucky” and is just a slop bucket.



Any  
Questions?