Clean Planet Energy secures major regulatory milestone for UK’s non-recyclable plastic waste.

Monday 23 February, 2026

Following an application and sustained technical engagement by Clean Planet Energy (CPE), the UK Department for Transport (DfT) has determined that fuels produced from genuinely non-recyclable post-consumer plastic waste will be eligible under the UK’s existing recycled carbon fuel framework, subject to meeting defined criteria.

This key milestone provides important clarity for the UK’s recycling and advanced materials sector. Plastics that cannot be mechanically recycled — and which would otherwise be sent to landfill or incineration — can now be used to displace fossil-derived fuels, supporting the UK’s circular-economy and decarbonisation goals.

More formally, the determination clarifies that **Non-Recyclable Post-Consumer Plastic Waste (NR-PCPW)** is a recognised subset of **Municipal Solid Waste (fossil portion)** — a feedstock category already designated under the RTFO and SAF Mandate for the production of recycled carbon fuels.

CPE submitted the original application and supporting evidence as part of its ongoing work to develop advanced recycling facilities capable of handling hard-to-recycle plastics responsibly. CPE’s strategy already incorporates the conversion of waste plastics into circular oils that can be used to create recycled plastics within its ecoPlants. Following this determination, the same waste streams may also be used to produce lower-carbon fuels, subject to regulatory requirements.

Importantly, this outcome provides regulatory certainty not only for Clean Planet Energy’s projects, but for the wider UK chemical recycling and recycled-carbon-fuel sector, helping to unlock responsible investment and innovation across the advanced recycling market.

Dr. Katerina Garyfalou, Head of Offtake at Clean Planet Energy, said:

> “We welcome the determination from the Department for Transport and the clarity it provides to our industry. This marks an important milestone for the UK’s advanced recycling and recycled-carbon-fuel sector and contributes to the UK’s Net Zero targets.
>
> Genuinely non-recyclable post-consumer plastics can now play a role in displacing fossil-derived fuels, for difficult to decarbonise sectors, while maintaining strong safeguards around recycling, traceability and environmental protection.”

The assessment considered environmental impacts, alternative end-of-life routes, and the risk of diverting materials from higher-value recycling pathways. The conclusion confirms that, when appropriately controlled, this waste stream can be used without undermining other industries’ decarbonisation efforts.

Media:



Related Sectors:

Environment & Nature :: Government :: Manufacturing, Engineering & Energy ::

Related Keywords:

Advanced Recycling :: Non-Recyclable Plastics :: Recycled Carbon Fuels :: Regulatory Clarity :: UK Department For Transport :: RTFO Compliance :: DFT ::

Scan Me:

Company Contact:

Clean Planet Group

T. 020 3289 0055
E. hello@cleanplanet.com
W. https://www.cleanplanet.com/

Additional Contact(s):
Sophie Phelps

View Online

Additional Assets:

Newsroom: Visit our Newsroom for all the latest stories:
https://www.cleanplanet.pressat.co.uk