

British Metals Recycling Association:

The voice of the UK metals recycling industry



Why join the British Metals Recycling Association?

Running a metals recycling business today is increasingly complex. Whether you operate a small, one-person yard or a large multi-site organisation, you constantly face regulatory, environmental, and operational

challenges. In these times, you need strong representation, trusted expertise, and a collective voice to advocate for your business. The British Metals Recycling Association (BMRA) provides that essential support.

Supporting you and representing your interests

BMRA represents and supports its members on a wide range of environmental, regulatory, and legislative issues that directly impact metals recycling businesses. Members have access to in-house subject matter experts who can provide guidance on:

- Environmental permits and compliance
- Regulatory and technical issues
- Paperwork, inspections, and enforcement matters
- Key legislation, including the Scrap Metal Dealers Act 2013 and the Air Weapons and Licensing Act 2015.

This practical support helps members remain compliant, well-managed, and prepared for regulatory changes, while a strong and united membership enhances the industry's ability to advocate for government support, influence policy, and shape future regulations.

Additional member benefits

BMRA membership includes access to an array of benefits, often offering members reduced rates and discounts, including:

- An employment helpline for HR and personnel support
- Regular email updates on regulatory, policy, and industry issues
- Member magazines highlighting key developments and insights.





Run by members, for members

BMRA is led by the industry it represents. The Association's priorities are shaped by its Board and Committees, composed of member companies of all sizes. These priorities are translated into focused lobbying and engagement with key decision-makers, including:

- Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (Defra)
- The Environment Agency (EA)
- British Transport Police and Police Scotland (who enforce the Scrap Metal Dealers Act 2013 in England and Wales and the Air Weapons and Licensing Act 2015 in Scotland, respectively).

Global representation

Approximately 80% of UK recycled metal is exported. Alongside this, much of today's regulation is set at an international level. To ensure the UK industry's voice is heard, BMRA is a member of:

- Recycling Europe (formerly EuRIC)
- The Bureau of International Recycling (BIR).

This international engagement ensures UK recyclers remain informed and represented.

Networking events

BMRA hosts a programme of well-attended networking events throughout the year, including:

- The Golf Day and Summer Dinner
- The Annual Dinner.

These events provide valuable opportunities to connect with peers, suppliers, and decision-makers.

Young British Metals Recyclers (YBMR)



BMRA's Young British Metals Recyclers initiative is designed for the next generation of industry professionals, typically aged 40 and under, who work for BMRA member companies. YBMR supports career development through:

- Educational events and site visits
- Professional and social networking opportunities
- Industry-focused learning and discussion.

The group also hosts the YBMR Rising Star Award, presented at the BMRA Annual Dinner.

"The Young British Metals Recyclers (YBMR) initiative is an invaluable part of BMRA membership. It gives the next generation of metal recyclers a platform to develop industry knowledge and form lasting professional networks. It hosts tours and visits to a wide range of places like the London Metal Exchange and the Royal Mint, along with facilities from across the metals recycling supply chain. YBMR is a must for anyone in the industry who is 40 and under."

Craig Walsh, YBMR Committee member

Key activities and work undertaken by the BMRA:

Lobbying Government

Advocating for policies that recognise the metals recycling industry's contribution to the UK economy, society, and the circular economy.

Permitting

Engaging with the EA on permitting delays, exemptions, compliance issues, and taking action against illegal operators, whether meeting representatives directly or via its Regulated Business Forum.

Scrap metal fires

Raising awareness and lobbying for support regarding fire risks — particularly from lithium and lithium-ion batteries — and providing sector-specific Fire Prevention Plan (FPP) guidance.

Enforcement

Working with enforcement bodies and participating in working groups to prevent metal theft and enforce the Scrap Metal Dealers Act 2013 and Air Weapons and Licencing Act 2015 (cash-payers and unlicensed operators).

Waste classifications

Working on the waste classification and Persistent Organic Pollutants (POPs) status of wastes while ensuring they can continue to be treated appropriately and recycled. BMRA is advocating for a risk-based approach to waste classification in the UK.

Decarbonisation

Supporting members in reducing carbon emissions through guidance, suppliers, and a sector-specific carbon calculator, while informing them of government funding opportunities for decarbonisation and energy efficiency projects.

The UK metals recycling industry:

- Contributes approximately £9 billion in gross value added to the UK economy
- Employs over 15,000 people
- Operates across around 2,000 businesses.

The industry processes both ferrous and non-ferrous metals, such as steel, aluminium, and copper, from sources including vehicles, packaging, batteries, appliances, construction materials, and electronic goods. It comprises businesses of all sizes, from small, family-owned operations to large international companies. Activities include collecting, sorting, shearing, baling, and recycling metals.



Our members say...



"Being part of the BMRA gives our business a strong collective voice and practical support in a highly regulated industry. BMRA membership helps us stay ahead of legislative change, access expert technical and compliance guidance, and engage directly with policymakers on the issues that matter most to metal recyclers. Equally important is the sense of community, sharing knowledge, developing skills, and opening opportunities that strengthen our businesses and the wider UK metals recycling sector."

FJ Church

The BMRA is a valuable contributor of insight in our industry and offer wise counsel to anyone who seeks it. They work tirelessly to raise awareness and promote responsible recycling and provide a platform for industry professionals to come together to share their experience and network.

**SWM & Waste
Recycling Ltd**

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BMRA receives tens of thousands of visits to its online directory from members of the public seeking a local metal recycler and also handles a high volume of phone enquiries, directing callers to **BMRA** member listings on the website.

"Being run by members for members, the BMRA is an association that understands the challenges faced by the industry regarding key operational issues such as regulatory bodies and compliance. As a member of the BMRA, we have gained access to opportunities that would have been restricted to larger multinational companies."

Rogers Metal Management LLP

"Through its expansive lobbying work and ongoing engagement with policymakers, regulators, and stakeholders, the BMRA helps ensure that businesses can influence policy and regulatory decisions. It also creates valuable opportunities for metal recyclers to connect through its popular networking events, as well as via its dedicated group for those 40 and under, the Young British Metals Recyclers."

Mellor Metals

How to join BMRA:

By becoming a member of the British Metals Recycling Association (BMRA), you agree to abide by the Association's Code of Conduct, which reflects a commitment to professionalism and responsible practices.

BMRA membership is available to metals recycling companies that meet the following criteria:

- Have been in operation for at least two years
- Hold valid licences and permits
- Can provide two references from current metals recycling members.

Membership fees are based on your declared tonnage and/or turnover, which encompasses your total annual ferrous and non-ferrous recycling volumes.

To apply for membership, please submit the following:

- A completed application form
- A tonnage declaration.

You can download the application form at: www.recyclemetals.org/whyjoin

For further inquiries, please contact us via:

Email: admin@recyclemetals.org

Phone: 01480 455249



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