

England's Environment Agency Turns AI on Waste Crime — Targeting the 73% of Cases Nobody Reports

AI in the Public Sector · Good practice · United Kingdom

Quality score: 47/100

Evidence strength: Moderate

Summary

The Environment Agency is embedding machine learning into its compliance analytics — flagging anomalies in waste returns and prioritising inspections — after its own 2025 survey found only 27% of waste crimes are ever reported to the regulator.

Key dimensions

Dimension	Score
Evidence of impact / measured public value	0/3
Transparency, fairness & accountability	2/3
Transferability / demonstrated replication	1/3
Scalability beyond pilot	2/3
Governance, capability & sustainability	2/3

Evaluated by C-NAPSE

Data sources

[C-NAPSE web research](#) — accessed 2026-08-27

[Environment Agency \(England\) — Regulatory Compliance Service & Operational Waste Intelligence and Analysis Unit](#) — accessed 2026-08-27

[Envirotec: Environment Agency to deploy AI to target waste crime and non-compliance](#) — accessed 2026-08-27

[GOV.UK: Waste Crime Action Plan](#) — accessed 2026-08-27

[Environment Agency blog](#) — accessed 2026-08-27

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