

# Scotland's draft Circular Economy and Waste Route Map to 2030 consultation

To: All Chief Executives, Main Contacts and APSE Contacts in Scotland. For information only to England, Northern Ireland and Wales

## 1 Executive summary

Scottish Government has released a consultation on their proposals for the Circular Economy and Waste Route Map to 2030. Their proposals are designed to set the strategic direction and lay the foundations for their system-wide vision for the circular economy, the priority actions to accelerate more sustainable use of resources and how they plan to reduce emissions associated with resources and waste. The consultation asks questions about the extent you agree with the priority actions as well as further actions the Scottish Government are considering. The consultation closes on **15th March 2024**, [click here](#) to submit your response.

## 2 Background

The Scottish Government is undertaking a lot of work to transition to a circular economy which they believe is critical to meeting the obligations around the climate and nature emergencies, as well as transitioning to a green and sustainable economy. Currently, around four fifths of the country's carbon footprint comes from products and services manufactured for use and thrown away - the government wishes to move away from a "take, make and dispose" model to a circular economy where the materials are kept in use and they are seen as valuable resources.

By 2045, the Scottish Government wants to transition the social and business norms to be focused on responsible production, responsible consumption and maximising the value from waste and energy. Progress has already been made towards this with over 56% of waste recycled in 2021 and a drop in a third of waste going to landfill over the last decade. However, there is a great deal of work and change that must take place for Scotland to transition to a fully circular economy.

### **3 Priority actions**

The draft Route Map is based around the four strategic aims of 'reduce and reuse', 'modernise recycling', 'decarbonise disposal' and 'strengthen the circular economy'. The priority actions for these different areas are

#### **Reduce and reuse - priority actions**

- Develop and publish a Product Stewardship Plan to identify and tackle the environmental impact of priority products (2025/26)
- Deliver an intervention plan to guide long-term work on household food waste reduction behaviour change (by 2025)
- Develop with stakeholders the most effective way to implement mandatory reporting for food waste and surplus by businesses (by 2025/26)
- Support the development of regional Scottish hubs and networks for the reuse of construction materials and assets (from 2025)

#### **Modernise recycling - priority actions**

- Facilitate a co-design process with Local Government for high quality, high performing household recycling and reuse services (2024/25 and 2025/26)
- Review of compliance with commercial recycling requirements (2025)
- Co-design measures to improve commercial waste service provisions (2026/27)

#### **Decarbonise disposal - priority actions**

- Develop and deliver a Residual Waste Plan to 2045 (develop by 2025/26)
- Facilitate the development of a Sector-Led Plan to minimise the carbon impacts of the Energy from Waste Sector (by 2025/26)

#### **Strengthen the circular economy - priority actions**

- Develop a Circular Economy strategy every five years (from 2025)
- Set new circular economy targets (determined from 2025)

### **4 Further actions**

There are also many further actions that the Scottish Government plans to undertake as part of the four strategic aims. They are outlined below:

### **Reduce and reuse - further actions**

- Deliver a prioritised approach to the introduction of environmental charges for problematic products (by 2025)
- Introduce a charge for single-use disposable cups (by 2025)
- Consult on actions regarding the environmental impacts of single-use vapes (ongoing)
- Review the feasibility of setting reuse targets (from 2025)
- Develop restrictions on the destruction of unsold consumer goods (from 2024)
- Develop measures to improve the reuse experience for consumers (ongoing)
- Deliver behaviour change-based approaches focused on sustainable consumption, aligned to Let's Do Net Zero communications (ongoing)
- Identify ways to expand business models that prolong product lifespan (ongoing)
- Strengthen data and evidence (ongoing)
- Review the rural exemption for food waste recycling, as part of recycling codesign process (in 2024/25 and 2025/26)
- Investigate feasibility of action plans (after 2025)
- Deliver enhanced support for businesses (ongoing)
- Develop new and promote existing best practice standards in circular practices within the construction sector, and assess the options for both voluntary and mandatory compliance (ongoing)
- Investigate and promote options to incentivise and build capacity for the refurbishment of buildings (by 2026/27)
- Investigate and promote ways to reduce soil and stones disturbance, movement and volumes going to landfill (by 2026/27)
- Review opportunities to accelerate adoption of climate change and circular economy focussed purchasing in construction (from 2024)
- Consider how devolved taxes can incentivise the use of recycled aggregates and support circular economy practices (ongoing)

### **Modernise recycling - further actions**

- Develop a statutory code of practice for household waste services (by 2025/26)
- Introduce statutory recycling and reuse local performance targets for household waste services (from 2030)
- Strengthen the Householder's duty of care in relation to waste (by 2025/26)
- Give local authorities more tools to support household recycling and reduce contamination (by 2025/26)
- Undertake a review of waste and recycling service charging (by 2024/25)

- Review the monitoring and reporting framework for local authority waste services (by 2025/26)
- Develop options and consult on the introduction of end destination public reporting of household recycling collected (by 2027/28)
- Conduct a national compositional study of waste from commercial premises (by 2025/26)
- Investigate further steps to promote business-business reuse platforms (by 2027)

#### **Decarbonise disposal - further actions**

- Support the inclusion of energy from waste in the UK Emissions Trading Scheme (ETS), and investigate other fiscal measures to incentivise low carbon disposal (from 2028)
- Review and target materials currently landfilled to identify and drive alternative management routes (from 2024)
- Facilitate the co-production of guidelines for effective community engagement (process underway from 2024)
- Increase the capture of landfill gas (by 2025)

#### **Strengthen the circular economy**

- Review and refresh Scotland's Waste Data Strategy's action plan (development alongside new circular economy targets)
- Maintain a programme of research on waste prevention, behaviour change, fiscal incentives and material-specific priorities (ongoing)
- Develop public procurement opportunities to reduce the environmental impact of public spending, including scoping new legislative circular economy requirements for contracting authorities under section 82 and 82A of the Climate Change (Scotland) Act 2009 (ongoing)
- Support greater uptake of green skills, training and development opportunities (ongoing)

## **5 Consultation questions**

1. To what extent do you agree with the priority actions proposed within the Reduce and Reuse strategic aim?
2. To what extent do you agree with the further actions to 2030 listed across the Reduce and Reuse strategic aim?
3. To what extent do you agree with the priority actions proposed within the Modernise Recycling strategic aim?
4. To what extent do you agree with the further actions to 2030 listed across the Modernise Recycling strategic aim?

5. To what extent do you agree with the priority actions proposed within the Decarbonise Disposal strategic aim?
6. To what extent do you agree with the further actions to 2030 listed across the Decarbonise Disposal strategic aim?
7. To what extent do you agree with the priority actions proposed within the Strengthen the Circular Economy strategic aim?
8. To what extent do you agree with the further actions to 2030 listed across the Strengthen the Circular Economy strategic aim?
9. Please provide any further information or evidence that should be considered in the accompanying Equalities Impact Assessment.
10. Please provide any further information or evidence that should be considered in the accompanying Fairer Scotland Assessment.
11. Please provide any further information or evidence that should be considered in the accompanying Island Communities Impact Assessment.
12. Please provide any further information or evidence that should be considered in the accompanying Business and Regulatory Impact Assessment.
13. What are your views on the accuracy and scope of the environmental baseline set out in the environmental report?
14. What are your views on the predicted environmental effects of the draft Circular Economy and Waste Route Map as set out in the environmental report? Please give details of any additional relevant sources.
15. What are your views regarding potential reasonable alternatives, in reference to the approach set out in the environmental report?
16. What are your views on the approach to mitigation, enhancement and monitoring of the environmental effects set out in the environmental report?

## **6 APSE Comment**

APSE encourages our members to respond to the consultation, as these proposals will have a significant impact on the work of local authorities and it is important that local authorities are heavily involved in the design and implementation process of the circular economy.

Some of the areas that are under consideration for further actions to modernise recycling could be actively supported by APSE Performance Networks Data. These existing datasets are a rich source to both monitor and report on performance information in terms of waste and recycling, supported by strong participation across Scottish Local Government. Drilling down this data can also highlight areas of best practice that have and continue to support better waste management, improved recycling rates and ultimately the goals of a circular economy. If your authority is not yet actively

involved in APSE Performance Networks, please email the team on [performance.networks@apse.org.uk](mailto:performance.networks@apse.org.uk) and they will happily get in touch to discuss your data needs.

APSE is naturally keen to ensure that any future statutory recycling and reuse targets for household waste services, alongside a reduction in contamination, is fully supported by genuine consultation with Local Government and representative bodies of frontline services, like APSE. In addition, any new statutory requirements need to be both achievable and properly resourced.

APSE welcomes the proposal to conduct a national compositional study of waste from commercial premises by 2025/26, which is an area where often local authority influence over the choices made by businesses is limited, but which can have a detrimental impact on recycling and reuse levels. Again, APSE would suggest that some initial compositional analysis could be derived from the data available through those local authorities in Scotland offering their own (in-house) commercial waste services. APSE stands ready to assist in that process.

APSE has been actively involved in work with Zero Waste Scotland with the Litter Managers Network and through our involvement in many different working groups. This topic will be a prominent feature of our [Scottish Fleet, Waste and Grounds](#) conference in May where expert speakers will share their views, and we will have several discussion forums that provide an opportunity to discuss the circular economy and waste route map further. [You can access information here about the upcoming seminar, exhibition and trade show.](#)

**Garry Lee,**  
**Research and Coordination Officer**  
[glee@apse.org.uk](mailto:glee@apse.org.uk)

**Louise Melville,**  
**Principal Advisor (Scotland)**  
[lmelville@apse.org.uk](mailto:lmelville@apse.org.uk)

## Sign up for APSE membership to enjoy a whole range of benefits

APSE member authorities have access to a range of membership resources to assist in delivering council services. This includes our regular advisory groups, specifically designed to bring together elected members, directors, managers and heads of service, together with trade union representatives to discuss service specific issues, innovation and new ways of delivering continuous improvement. The advisory groups are an excellent forum for sharing ideas and discussing topical service issues with colleagues from other councils throughout the UK.

Advisory groups are a free service included as part of your authority's membership of APSE and all end with an informal lunch to facilitate networking with peers in other councils. If you do not currently receive details about APSE advisory group meetings and would like to be added to our list of contacts for your service area please email [enquiries@apse.org.uk](mailto:enquiries@apse.org.uk).

Our national advisory groups include:-

- FM and Building cleaning
- Catering (School Meals)
- Cemeteries and Crematoria
- Cost of Providing/Cost of Living Network
- Highways and Street Lighting
- Housing, Construction and Building Maintenance
- Local Authority Commercialisation, Income and Trading Network
- Parks, Horticulture and Grounds Maintenance
- Recovery and Renewal
- Renewables and Climate Change
- Roads, highways and street lighting
- Sports and Leisure Management
- Vehicle Maintenance and Transport
- Waste Management, Refuse Collection and Street Cleansing

Visit [www.apse.org.uk](http://www.apse.org.uk) for more detail



Association for Public Service Excellence  
3rd floor,  
Trafford House,  
Chester Road, Manchester M32 0RS.  
telephone: 0161 772 1810  
fax: 0161 772 1811  
web: [www.apse.org.uk](http://www.apse.org.uk)

**NEW MUNICIPALISM**  
Delivering for local people and local economies