



The Recycling Improvement Fund 2021 – 2026, the story so far...

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Investing in a Smart, Sustainable and Inclusive Future

Introduction



- **Our RIF journey - where we started and how did we get here?!**
 - A video
 - Aims and objectives of the RIF
 - Developing applications and applying for funding
- **RIF projects – the story so far**
 - The range of projects
 - Focusing-in - project specifics – interesting stuff!
- **Ongoing work**
 - Monitoring and evaluation



Our RIF journey - where we started
and how did we get here?!





Recycling Improvement Fund video

RIF – The beginning



- **Initial discussion of the Recycling Improvement Fund at a Scottish Government-led Recycling Summit in 2019.**
- **RIF announced in September 2020 as part of £2 billion Low Carbon Fund, within the Programme for Government 2020/21.**
- **The fund was launched in early 2021 with a call for expression of interest.**
- **Current RIF Team recruited in late 2021**



RIF Who's who

RIF TEAM

David Gunn - RIF Manager
Katherine Kennedy – Partner

Stephanie Newstead – Partner

Isabelle Smit – Consultant

Jenny Robinson - Partner

Katherine

Recycling Team (application development)

Communications Team (pre. and post application support)

Procurement Team (grants admin. support)

RIF Board – (SG, COSLA, SOLACE, SEPA, Zero Waste Scotland)

RIF – Aim



“accelerate progress towards 2025 waste and recycling targets and Scotland’s net-zero carbon commitment, by strengthening and improving local authority recycling infrastructure, resulting in increased consistency of collection, improvements to the quality and quantity of material collected, and wider environmental and carbon benefits

RIF – Objectives



- 1. Alignment of kerbside recycling services with the revised code of practice**
- 2. Strategic projects which prepare Local Authorities for the future**
- 3. Introduce/improve collection of problematic/high value materials**
- 4. The development of infrastructure projects at a scale which will improve the capture and quality of recyclable materials at collection and treatment level,**
5. Support innovation
- 6. Action to change the “make, consume and dispose” throwaway culture**
7. Replication of best practice
8. Maximise the value of the funding awards by working with other local authorities and strategic partners

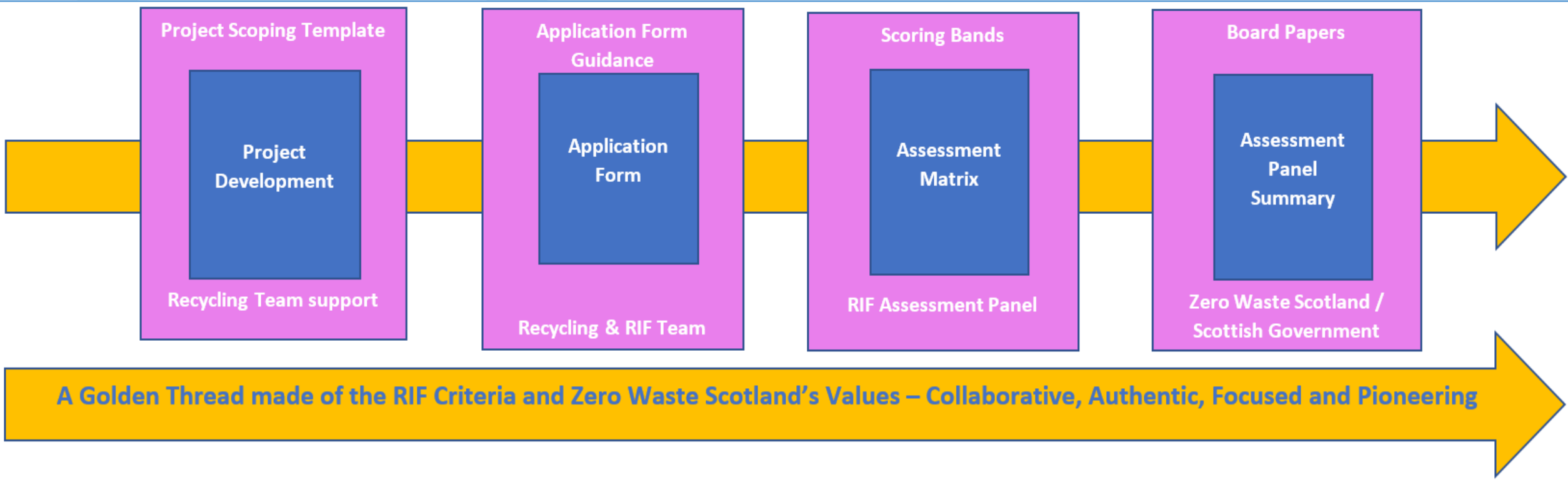
The assessment criteria



- **Evidence Led** – uses data and good practice so that project’s plans and outcomes are achievable.
- **Impact and Transformation** – increasing recycling and re-use and reducing carbon emissions.
- **Strategic and Collaborative** – projects with neighbouring authorities, private sector companies and the third sector are very welcome – discuss your ideas with us!
- **Feasibility** – it must be deliverable!
- **Additionality** – why the Fund’s grant is needed for the project to go ahead.
- **Acceptability** – elected members support + all necessary permissions/permits must be achievable.



'A Golden Thread' from application to award



The story so far

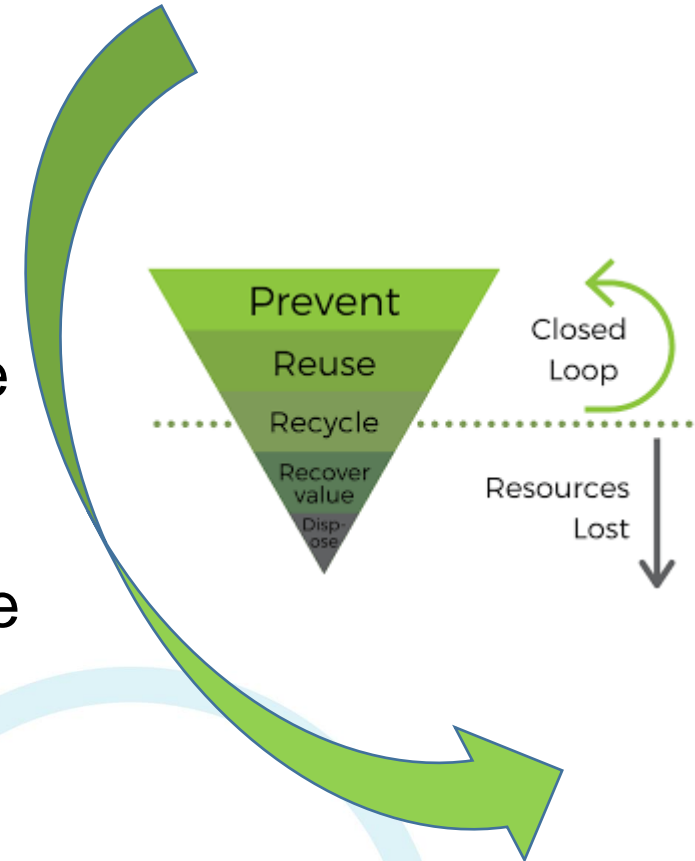


- **24 projects have been funded (17 LAs)**
 - 12 have been implemented
 - The others are being rolled out as we speak
- So far there is the potential for more than **44,314 additional tonnes** of recyclate to be collected each year (**49,482 tCO₂e**)
- **Circa £53.592 million has been awarded so far.**
- **Circa £16.5 million remaining.....split between years.**
- **Another round of applications has been received for the May RIF Board - which we have just finished assessing.**

The story so far



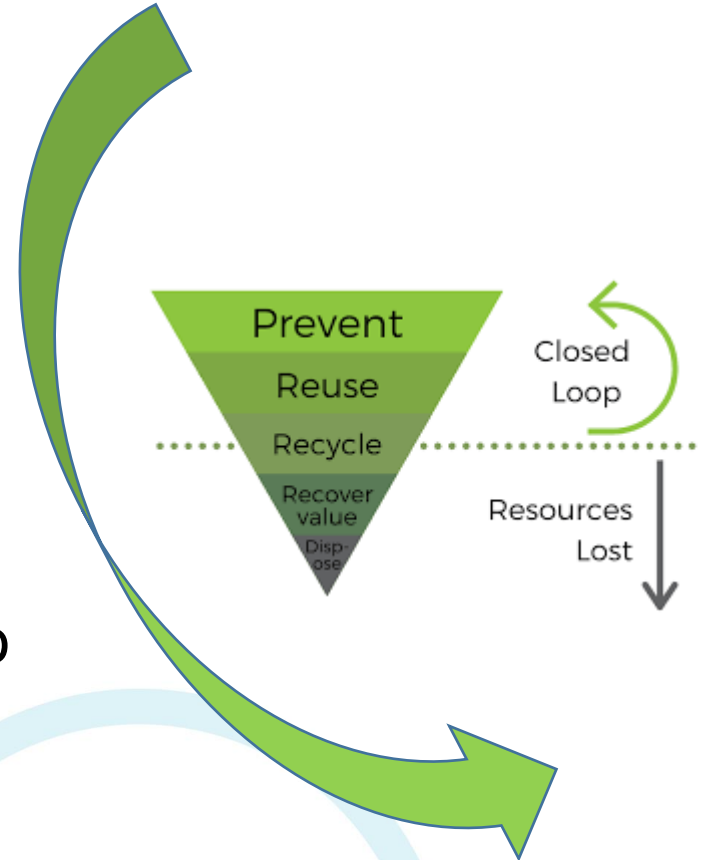
- **Service changes** – twin-streaming and changing residual frequency - improving material quality & capture.
- **Service expansion** – improving scheme coverage i.e. to rural or inner-city areas.
- **Town and city centre bin hubs** – improvements to increase recycling of dry materials and food waste.
- **Improvements to HWRCs** – new skips for segregating more materials, or compaction to free up space and allow more segregation for recycling.
- **On-the-go recycling** – in local authority parks and open space – recycling of litter in the same streams as kerbside collections.



The story so far

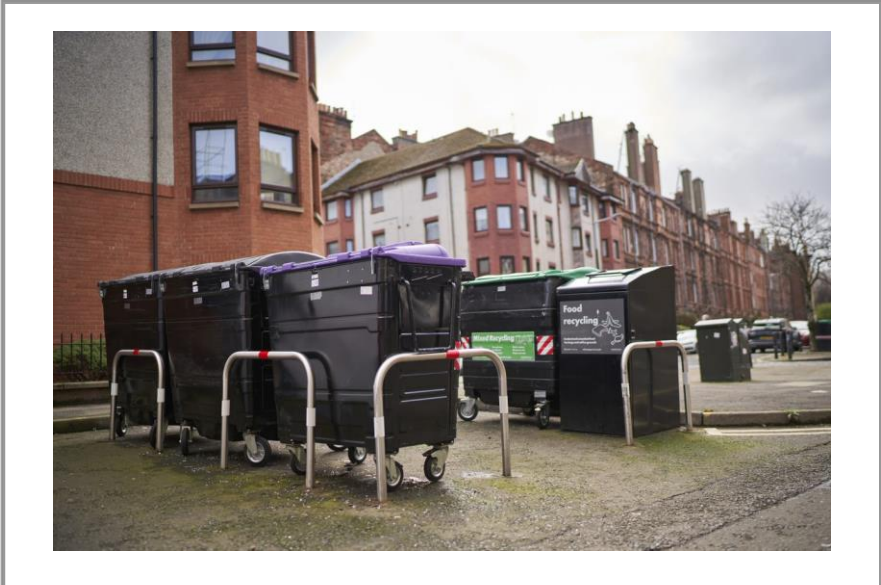


- **Recycling and reuse of difficult materials** - such as mattresses.
- **MRF Technology** – to improve sorting ability, such as for plastic film.
- **Reuse projects** – better segregation of reuse and facilities for refurbishment and distribution.
- **Bulking / transfer improvements** – greater segregation to increase material quantity & quality.
- **Data technology** – to gather improved level of information to help target service improvements and increase quantity and quality of recyclables collected.





City Centre bin hubs







recycle for Scotland

Your recycling service is changing

What you need to know to get ready



You can help maintain local services by recycling from all around your home – a winning combination.

Large scale service changes

Re-use





Re-use



HWRCs

RIF 2023 / 24



- New applications to support, assess and progress to implementation
- RIF Board meetings – September & December 2023

- Data monitoring of projects
- Evaluation of existing projects

- Communication activity to showcase RIF interventions to stakeholders and public – such as here at APSE! 😊



Thank you.

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