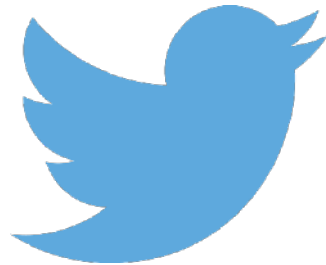


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## **Achieving A 100 Per Cent Recycling Rate By 2050**

**What is a circular economy?**

**The current position in Wales**

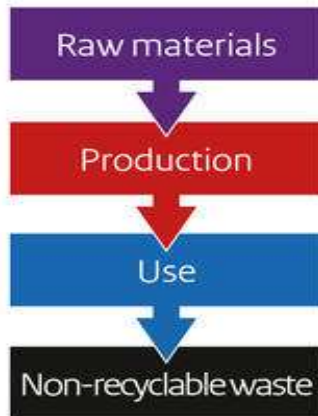
**The aims of the 'Beyond Recycling' strategy**

- Wales to become a **zero-waste, net-zero emissions** nation by 2050, making savings of up to £2 billion for the Welsh economy.
- Welsh Government has also set a target for Wales to **recycle 70 percent of its waste by 2025**. From private industry to householders, every sector in Wales now has a duty to help Wales become a high recycling nation.
- 2019/20 is the first year of the 64% statutory recycling target rate, having previously been at 58% since 2015/16.
- The breakdown by Local Authority shows **18 of the 22** have delivered against the increased target in the very first year. With three local authorities in Wales having achieved a level which exceeds the next target of 70% by 2025.
- The figures show 1.51 million tonnes of material was **generated** within Local Authorities in Wales in 2019-20, a decrease of almost 2.0 per cent on 2018-19. Nearly a million tonnes (984,935 tonnes) of which was **recycled, re-used or composted**.
- Wales is now looking to build on its current success by achieving a recycling rate of 100 per cent across all sectors.

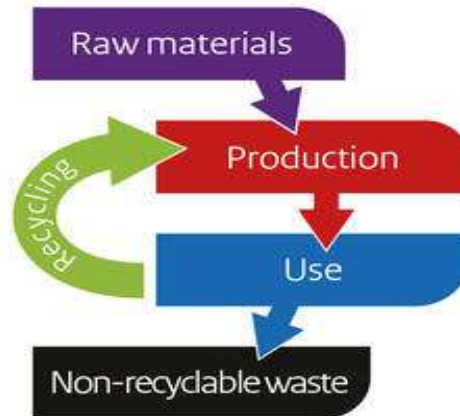
# Addressing the problem of waste

## From a linear to a circular economy

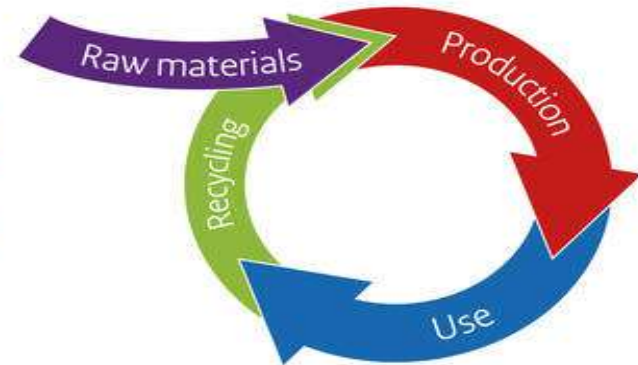
Linear economy

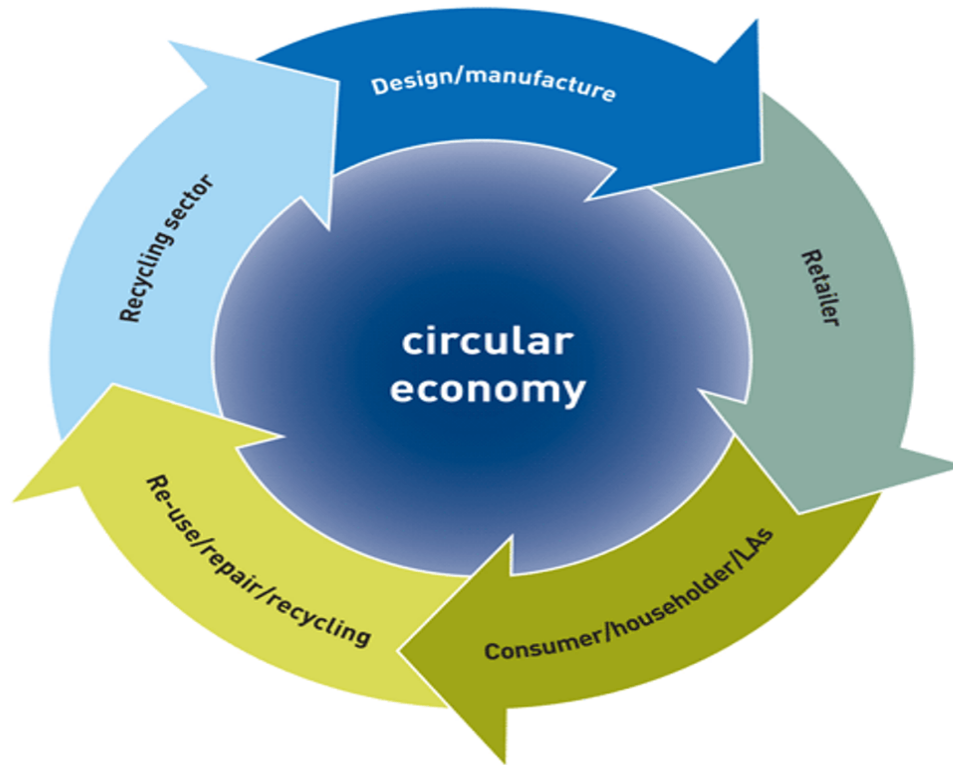


Reuse economy



Circular economy





## A CIRCULAR ECONOMY EXAMPLE – THE DEPOSIT RETURN SCHEME



# The benefits of the DPRS

- Rewards recycling by giving consumers a **financial incentive to dispose of their drink containers** in a sustainable way.
- Works by adding an **extra deposit on top of the price of a drink**, which is refunded to consumers when they return their empty drink containers for recycling, often at a reverse vending machine. making recycling both time and cost efficient.
- This process of separating drink containers from other types of waste keeps the containers **free from contamination** .
- This process means plastic producers know the recycled material is safe for food contact
- Recycling at a reverse vending machine means containers stand the best chance of becoming new bottles and cans, rather than being down-cycled or landfilled.
- Containers can be recycled again and again in a continuous loop - in a clear-cut example of a circular economy. It reduces the reliance on extraction of fossil fuels to create new containers – and saves on the energy required for this process. This process is called **Clean Loop Recycling**.

# Kick-starting the circular economy

Whilst Circular Economic thinking has made great strides in the corporate space, the true benefit, beyond the shop floor of industry, is yet to be felt in peoples day to day lives

- March 2021 The Welsh government has unveiled its **first circular economy strategy**, which includes plans to make Wales the world's best country at recycling.
- The new strategy aims to keep resources in use and avoid waste and sets out how Wales plans to go beyond recycling, by moving to a circular economy where **resources are kept in use** and **all waste is avoided** – both for the benefit of the Welsh economy and communities, as well as in response to the environmental imperatives.
- The publication of the strategy is a continuation of the journey which has already seen Wales become a recycling nation. Taking the next steps on the pathway towards a zero waste, low carbon Wales is the aim of the actions proposed.



# Strategic themes of activity

The strategy is focused around **six core themes** of activity.

- Driving innovation in materials use
- Upscaling prevention and re-use
- Building on our recycling record
- Investing in infrastructure
- Enabling community and business action
- Aligning Government levers



- The 'Beyond Recycling' strategy proposes eight key actions to drive Wales towards a circular economy:
  1. Become the world leader in recycling
  2. Phase out single-use plastic
  3. Invest in clean technology for materials collection
  4. Make more efficient use of food
  5. Prioritise the purchasing of wood, remanufactured and recycled content
  - 6. Enable communities to take collective action**
  - 7. Create the conditions for businesses to seize the opportunities**
  8. Take full responsibility for our waste

# Making it happen

- Over the last year, Welsh government has rapidly expanded the **Circular Economy Fund** from an initial £6.5m to £43 million.
- The Fund now supports 180 projects in every part of Wales. From the cutting edge Remakerspace at Cardiff University working with business to improve product design, to a repair shed supporting the local community in Llangollen
- This strategy aims to regenerate town centres across Wales with some innovative thinking around the use of the **share economy** and **reuse and upcycling** schemes to create lots of local circular economies. It is hoped that this will help stimulate new jobs and bring life back to local high streets.
- **Community action** is also a strong focal point and it is hoped that it will see many more initiatives such as repair cafes, libraries of things, toy libraries, community composting and local share schemes springing up around the country with more support being given to these initiatives.

# Surprises!

- Within the strategy there is the proposal that Wales will:
- ***Place a moratorium on any future large scale energy from waste developments, as the increase in recycling and reduction in waste already seen means that we will not need any new large scale energy from waste infrastructure to deal with the residual waste generated in Wales.***
- Legislate to ensure separated key recyclables are banned from energy recovery or landfill.
- ***"We will also work with the UK Government to explore whether the introduction of an incineration tax would be desirable as a means to support progress along the transition to a circular economy"***

# The role of local authorities

- Work in partnership with Local Authorities to develop regional 'eco-park' hubs where collected materials are recycled, reprocessed, and remanufactured into new products, thereby deriving greater added value and capitalising on the economic opportunities from a more circular economy.
- Work to decarbonise the waste collection and recycling service, including through the continued roll out of Ultra-Low Emission Vehicles across Wales.
- Strategically improve the charging infrastructure and in doing so look for opportunities to support the wider decarbonisation of fleet vehicles.
- Promote the development of community infrastructure which helps citizens to reduce waste. This includes zero waste and zero plastic shops, surplus food redistribution, community fridges, refill points, community hire shops, material lending libraries and related initiatives.
- Put town centres at the heart of our approach through the development of town centre hubs which will develop repair and re-use activity in communities across Wales to support the Transforming Towns Programme and increase footfall.
- Wales is also the only country in the UK to place statutory minimum recycling targets on Local Authorities.

# Indicators of success.

A suite of indicators are being developed to track the journey towards zero waste, net zero carbon, one planet living and the move towards a more circular economy. The set of indicators has been developed to demonstrate the connection between policy and outcome within the circular economy strategy, with indicators to track progress in the desired direction.

- **1.1 Household waste per capita** The production of the everyday products – including cars, clothes and food – accounts for 45% of global carbon emissions. In addition, our level of consumption uses far more than our fair share of the earth's resources.
- **1.2 Municipal waste sent to landfill** - By 2025 we will send zero waste to landfill
- **1.3 Municipal waste that is recycled** - Wales to become a zero waste nation by 2050. This means effectively a 100% recycling, composting or preparation for re-use rate from all sectors.
- **1.4 Net zero carbon public sector.** The Public Sector in Wales to collectively achieve net zero greenhouse gas emissions by 2030, decarbonising buildings, transport and supply chains.
- <https://gov.wales/sites/default/files/publications/2021-03/beyond-recycling-indicators.pdf>

# **NEW MUNICIPALISM**

Delivering for local people and local economies



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