

## **WASTE STRATEGY- CONSULTATION RESULTS**

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### **1.0 EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**

- 1.1 The purpose of this report is to give members with a summary of the key findings from the recent Waste Strategy Consultation. This report seeks the approval of members for changes made to the Waste Strategy as a result of the consultation feedback received.
- 1.2 The Waste Strategy consultation was a successful exercise that gathered a great deal of information on what the people of Argyll and Bute see as being their waste priorities. The consultation indicated widespread public endorsement of supporting waste Reduction, Reuse and Recycling over Recovery and Disposal. The results from the consultation highlighted several improvements that could be made by the council in how it communicates and promotes these activities. The report contains an action plan for the council to implement these improvements that will also support the implementation of Biodegradable Municipal Waste ban compliant waste disposal solutions. The report also seeks approval for the changes made to the Waste Strategy and the ongoing works to support waste Reduction, reuse and Recycling. The report also includes a high level schedule of activities with a timescale.
- 1.3 The report makes two recommendations to members:
  - Members note the consultation responses received (Appendix 1);
  - Members approve the proposed amendments to the Waste Strategy resulting from the consultation feedback (Appendix 2) and make recommendation to Council for Council approval;

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### **2.0 INTRODUCTION**

- 2.1 Argyll and Bute Council's Environment Development and Infrastructure Committee approved the Draft Waste Strategy in March 2019. Members were asked to endorse the release of the Draft Strategy for public consultation and to approve the action plan for the completion of the Final Waste Strategy.
- 2.2 The Waste Consultation has now concluded and this report details the outcome of the public consultation. The report also provides an amended Waste Strategy and a high level schedule of activities with a timescale.

### **3.0 RECOMMENDATIONS**

- 3.1 The report makes two recommendations to members:
  - Members note the consultation responses received (Appendix 1);
  - Members approve the proposed amendments to the Waste Strategy resulting from the consultation feedback (Appendix 2) and make recommendation to Council for Council approval;

### **4.0 DETAIL**

#### **Waste Strategy Consultation**

- 4.1 Argyll and Bute Council's Environment Development and Infrastructure Committee approved the Draft Waste Strategy in March 2019. A public consultation survey was released in June 2019 for a 6 week period closing on the 19<sup>th</sup> July. The consultation survey was made available on the council's website and at local service points. The consultation was promoted by the council on our website, the local press and through social media platforms. The consultation was also promoted internally through the council's intranet hub.
- 4.2 The consultation has now closed. This report is a brief summary of the findings from the consultation responses received. A more detailed breakdown of the findings from the consultation can be found in Appendix 1. An Action Plan detailing what the council will deliver in response to the consultation can be found in the companion report titled "Waste Strategy".

- 4.3 The level of response and engagement for the consultation has been very high. It is the most popular consultation the council has released this year. Social media posts relating to the consultation were the most engaged with posts on the councils Facebook page with over 6000 engagements. The total amount of responses received are detailed in Table 1 below:

Table 1.

Waste Strategy Consultation Responses	
Responses Format	Completed Submission
Online	932
Email/Written	14
Total Responses	946

- 4.4 Around 95% of consultation responses were completed by residents. With around 3% of responses coming on behalf of businesses. The remaining 2% of responses being made up the third sector, elected representatives and statutory bodies such as SEPA etc.
- 4.5 Participation by area is broken down in Table 2 below, out of the 946 responses 792 consultees indicated what area they were from or represented:

Table 2.

Admin area	Number of responses	%
Bute and Cowal	175	22.10%
Helensburgh and Lomond	201	25.38%
Mid Argyll and Kintyre	222	28.03%
Oban Lorn and the Islands	185	23.36%
Argyll (area not named)	8	1.01%
Outwith	1	0.13%
<b>Total</b>	<b>792</b>	

- 4.6 The consultation questionnaire had 3 key themes:

- 1) **Reduction, Reuse and Recycling** - Focused on how the council could encourage and support the public in Waste Reduction, Reuse and Recycling over the costly Disposal. Encouraging waste Reduction, Reuse and Recycling has huge environmental benefits and supports the council's efforts to comply with the Waste (Scotland) Regulations 2012 such as the upcoming ban on the landfill of Biodegradable Municipal Waste.

- 2) **Scottish Deposit Return Scheme (DRS)** - Collecting information on the public perception of the Scottish Deposit Return Scheme for single use drinks containers and how supportive the consultees are likely to be of the scheme;
- 3) **Biodegradable Municipal Waste ban** – collecting information from consultees on the potential local impacts of the ban and any suggested solutions.

Taking into consideration the feedback from the consultation, the Waste Strategy has been updated and appended to this report at Appendix 3.

#### 4.7 Reduction, Reuse and Recycling

In Question 3 of the consultation we asked respondents to “Choose from the list below and number your top three waste issues/concerns in order of importance”. Importantly the response highlights that main issues of concern were related to single use plastics, the recycling process and marine litter. This was expected due to the high media profile of these issues. In the week that the consultations were released there were several articles in the national press, a documentary and several other television news stories covering plastic and marine waste. The order of preference is further enforced by the responses to other questions throughout the response pack with the following key messages, the respondents would like:

- Increase in the recyclable packaging materials;
  - Clear and unambiguous recycling labelling on products;
  - Improved details on what can and cannot be recycled;
  - Clear and accessible information on what happens to recyclate;
  - Support for marine litter prevention and clean up initiatives.
- 4.8 Question 4 asked “Do you agree that Reduction, Reuse and Recycling are the best ways in which to manage waste?” 96% of Consultees agreed that Reduction, Reuse and Recycling is the best ways in which to manage waste. 89% of responders indicated that they knew how to Reduce, Reuse and Recycle.
- 4.9 Most of the comments on Question 4 suggested that Reduction, Reuse and Recycling is limited in that they would like more action in terms of:
- Education – people need information on how to Reduction, Reuse and Recycling;
  - Stopping the waste at source – responders suggested that we need to lobby government to make Reduction, Reuse and Recycling a national priority but also by getting manufacturers to stop using single use plastic, non-recyclable packaging etc.;
  - Maximising kerbside collection.

4.10 89% of responders indicated that they knew how to Reduce, Reuse and Recycle. There were several key themes identified in the comments relating to this question that will inform changes to the Waste Strategy. Most of the common responses highlighted:

- The need for clear information – consultees think there is a need for the council to produce materials on Reduce, Reuse and Recycle which are clear on what kind of material/plastics can be recycled;
- Food, garden and home waste – how to reduce or recycle this;
- Consultees again stated the need for manufacturers to use less packaging / single use plastics and that the council should lobby central government to increase regulation;
- Consultees wanted information on what labels mean;
- Consultees want information on what happens to our recycled waste.

4.11 The best option that supports the requests made by the consultees regarding Reduce, Reuse and Recycle would be to redevelop and improve the information the council has on the website and promote this via our social media. Currently the majority of the information can be found on the council website but this response has shown it is poor in terms of accessibility.

#### 4.12 **Scottish Deposit Return Scheme**

We wanted to identify if the responders supported the aims and objectives of the Scottish Deposit Return Scheme (DRS). Over 85% of responders said they supported it and would participate in the scheme. However, concerns were raised in the comments about how the scheme would operate in a local area and if it impacts negatively on the kerbside recycling service. We asked responders in question 18 if they thought the DRS would change their buying habits. 61% of responders said that the scheme would have no effect on their purchasing habits; however, 39% of responders said that it would impact on their habits and their most common concern was around the impact on purchase price.

4.13 We asked in question 19 “Do you feel that the scheme will enhance recycling in rural and island areas?” Around 67% of responders felt that it would enhance recycling in rural and island areas. However, the comments show a clear concern over:

- How the scheme will operate in rural/island areas;
- The potential cost impact on local businesses;
- Limited access to drop off points.

4.14 The findings on the DRS mirror the view of Officers that from an environmental perspective the aims of the DRS should be supported but that the design and operation of the scheme must take into account the unique challenges posed by operating in a rural and island area. This position will be included in the revised waste strategy. The introduction of the DRS is likely to impact on the both the quantity and make-up of the recyclate material currently collected by the council from the kerbside. It should also be noted that Officers are continuing to engage with the Scottish Government and Zero Waste Scotland on the design of the DRS and how it may operate locally.

4.15 **Biodegradable Municipal Waste ban**

We asked responders if they felt that the ban on the Biodegradable Municipal Waste at landfill would disproportionately affect rural and island communities. 51% of responders thought that the Biodegradable Municipal Waste ban would disproportionately affect rural and island communities. Only 14% of responders thought that there would be no disproportionate effects of the Biodegradable Municipal Waste ban in rural/island areas. The comments on this question can largely be broken down into three themes:

- The opportunity to use Energy from Waste as a landfill alternative;
- Concern over the increase in disposal costs;
- The negative impact on transport infrastructure and services.

4.16 In question 23 we asked responders “Are there any disposal methodologies that you feel we should consider as an alternative to the technical solutions Biodegradable Municipal Waste ban solutions we have proposed in the Draft Strategy?” As this is purely qualitative question we are still analysing the response in order to provide a more accurate analysis. The early indications are that responders are broadly in favour of recovery via EfW. However, there is also a clear trend of support for locally operated EfW or composting solutions in the future.

4.17 We also wanted to know if the responders supported the councils continued negotiation with the Scottish Government to enable compliance with the Biodegradable Municipal Waste ban. 91% of responders felt that we should continue these negotiations. This reinforces that responders have a clear understanding of the unique challenge faced by this council in complying with the ban.

4.18 Similarly with the DRS, the consultees view is in agreement with Officers and the Councils agreed policy to support the aim of compliance with the Biodegradable Municipal Waste relating to the potential cost increase of compliance with the ban due to the unique challenges posed by the council's geography.

#### **4.19 Consultation conclusions**

The consultation has been successful and has identified three major areas to develop going forward: Communication, Value, and Regulation.

##### **Communication**

- Clear and readily available information on Council waste services;
- Clear guidance from the council on what can be recycled;
- Supporting behavioural change by promoting local reuse;
- Being clear about what happens to our waste and how it is recycled.

##### **Value**

- Responders value their waste services;
- Desire for local exploitation of waste as a resource;
- Council support to increase the local benefits of recycling.

##### **Regulation**

- Lobbying central government to regulate for changes in packaging supporting a move to more sustainable products;
  - Support for the DRS providing that it is rural/island compatible;
  - Recognition of the challenge posed to the council by the Biodegradable Municipal Waste ban.
- 4.20 As a result of the feedback received from consultation participants, the Waste Strategy document (Appendix 2) has been revised to include details on how waste reduction, reuse and recycling will be supported through enhanced communication and promotion by the council. The policy objectives of the strategy and the section titled “Waste Policy- Reduce, Reuse and Recycle” have been changed to now include commitments to improve the quality and accessibility of our content published online and through social media. By communicating clearly to the public on how the council deals with waste coupled with clear guidance the council will increase positive engagement supporting a positive increase in waste reduction, reuse and recycling.

## **5.0 CONCLUSION**

- 5.1 The Waste Strategy consultation has proven valuable and has shown that there is wide endorsement from the people of Argyll and Bute in support of the aims of the strategy with an enhanced focus on measures to prioritise Waste Reduction, Reuse and Recycling over costly disposal. As per the recommendation, members are asked to endorse the revised Waste Strategy prepared by officers in response to the consultation. The Waste Strategy marks out the steps both to improving our communications to support the efforts of the council to promote the Reduction, Reuse and Recycling of Waste. The improvements to the councils waste disposal communications as outlined in the Waste Strategy play an important role in supporting the council's compliance with the Biodegradable Municipal Waste and other regulations.

## **6.0 IMPLICATIONS**

- 6.1 Policy - the Waste Strategy, when adopted, will set the Council's policy position in terms of waste services.
- 6.2 Financial – None
- 6.3 Legal - the Council will be required to comply with any new national legislation regarding waste disposal. No material change on existing contracts required.
- 6.4 HR - None.
- 6.5 Fairer Scotland Duty:
- 6.5.1 Equalities - protected characteristics- Every effort will be made to ensure that changes on the council's publications and promotions will enhance, not reduce accessibility/usability.
- 6.5.2 Socio-economic Duty - None
- 6.5.3 Islands – Special communications targeting the unique services that the council provide on the island will be created and promoted.
- 6.6 Risk - None
- 6.7 Customer Service - Improvements on the information we provide on Waste disposal and recycling will play a key part in achieving our environmental goals and supporting compliance with future regulations such as the Biodegradable Municipal Waste ban.

**Pippa Milne, Executive Director  
Jim Smith, Head of Roads and Infrastructure**

**Policy Lead Cllr Roddy McCuish**

August 2019

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## **APPENDICES**

Appendix 1 - Summary of Consultation

Appendix 2 – Waste Strategy

## **Appendix 1 – Summary of Consultation**



# **Argyll and Bute's Draft Waste Strategy consultation**

### **Why Argyll and Bute needs a new Waste Strategy**

Did you know, in 2017/18 we sent 32, 217 tonnes of waste to landfill? That gave us a landfill tax bill of nearly £3m – around 75% of the total cost of landfilling our waste.

That's a considerable cost and to ensure value for money, we need to look at ways of reducing our landfill tax bill. But there is a more pressing need to find different ways of tackling Argyll and Bute's waste.

In January 2021, the Scottish Government will introduce a ban on Biodegradable Municipal Waste (BMW) going into landfill. Simply put, that means household waste that is biodegradable, such as food, garden waste and cardboard, can no longer be disposed of in landfill.

To meet the demands of the new legislation, the council, businesses, community and visitors will have to work together to increase recycling, reduce waste and prevent it in the first place.

So we need a new strategy to deal with waste that allows the council to continue to provide a high quality and cost effective service on behalf of our 47,000 households and enables us to comply with the new Government regulations.

The council is in the process of developing a new waste strategy and this consultation is your opportunity to give your views on the approach we plan to take.

I would urge you to take part in the consultation. This is something that affects everyone. From reducing waste in homes and businesses, to improving our recycling efforts, and the disposal services offered by the council, we all play an important role. The ambitious targets facing us can't be achieved in isolation.

**Councillor Roddy McCuish**  
**Policy Lead for Roads and Amenity Services**  
**Argyll and Bute Council**

## **Introduction,**

Did you know that in 2017/18 Argyll and Bute produced more than 32, 000 tonnes of waste that the council had to send to landfill? That gave us a landfill tax bill of nearly £3 million.

We need to change this – to make savings that will help protect essential council services you use, and to comply with the Scottish Government’s ban on Biodegradable Municipal Waste (BMW) going into landfill. Simply put, this means that from 2021 household waste that is biodegradable, such as food, garden waste and cardboard, can no longer be disposed of in landfill.

We need a new strategy to deal with waste that allows the council to continue to provide a high quality and cost effective service on behalf of our 47,000 households and ensures we comply with the new Government regulations.

The council cannot do this alone. We need your help in managing Argyll and Bute’s waste effectively.

We would therefore like your views on our proposed Waste Strategy to help inform the Council’s decision making process on the future of Waste Disposal services.

### **What we will use the consultation results for**

Your consultation response will be used to develop and shape Argyll and Bute Council’s Waste Strategy. The results will also inform the Council’s response to the ban on Biodegradable Municipal Waste going to landfill and the Scottish Deposit return Scheme for single use containers. Details from this consultation will also be used in future lobbying with Scottish Government and industry.

Here is a link to the draft Waste Strategy: <https://www.argyll-bute.gov.uk/news/2019/mar/new-strategy-meet-government-waste-ban>

## **About you**

### **Question 1: Are you completing this consultation as a**

Type	%	No.
<b>Resident</b>	<b>94.66</b>	<b>887</b>
<b>Business owner/ on behalf of a local business</b>	<b>2.77</b>	<b>26</b>
<b>Representative of/on behalf of a Public Sector body</b>	<b>0.21</b>	<b>2</b>
<b>Representative/on behalf of a third sector organisation</b>	<b>0.96</b>	<b>9</b>
<b>Representative/on behalf of a community</b>	<b>0.53</b>	<b>5</b>
<b>An elected representative</b>	<b>0.53</b>	<b>5</b>
<b>An academic or researcher</b>	<b>0.32</b>	<b>3</b>

**Question 2: In what area of Argyll and Bute do you live/represent/is your business based?**

<u>Responses per area</u>		
Administrative area	Number of responses	% of responses per area
Bute and Cowal	175	22.10%
Helensburgh and Lomond	201	25.38%
Mid Argyll, Kintyre and the Islands	222	28.03%
Oban, Lorn and the Isles	185	23.36%
Argyll	8	1.01%
Outwith Argyll	1	0.13%
Total	792	100%

**What we've been doing**

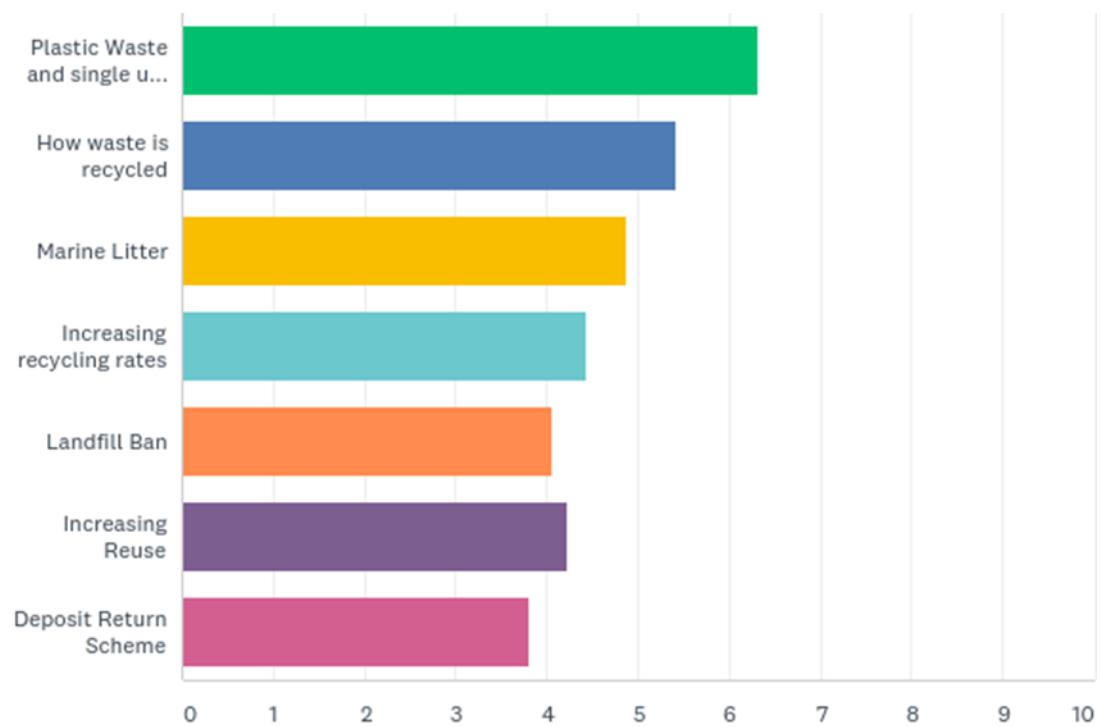
Argyll and Bute currently recycles about 48% of its waste, a marked improvement since we moved to three weekly bin collections. Once the landfill ban comes into place, we should be sending only 14% of our waste to landfill.

Waste disposal is carried out via three different models:

- Islands (Tiree; Islay; Jura; Mull; Iona; Coll; and adjacent small isles) – The Council owns and operates its own waste disposal sites on our main islands;
- Mainland, Bute and the Small Isles, (excluding Helensburgh and Lomond) – On the mainland we have a contract in place with Renewi (formerly known as Shanks) who provide waste disposal services on our behalf. This contract runs until 2026;
- Helensburgh and Lomond – The waste from this area is disposed of at private sites out with Argyll and Bute.

**Question 3: Choose from the list below and number your top three Waste issues/concerns in order of importance:**

Issue	Score
Plastic Waste and single use plastics	6.30
How waste is recycled	5.42
Landfill Ban	4.06
Deposit Return Scheme	3.80
Increasing Reuse	4.43
Marine Litter	4.87
Increasing recycling rates	4.22



## Our Aim

Our strategy can be summed up in three words: Reduce, Reuse, and Recycle.

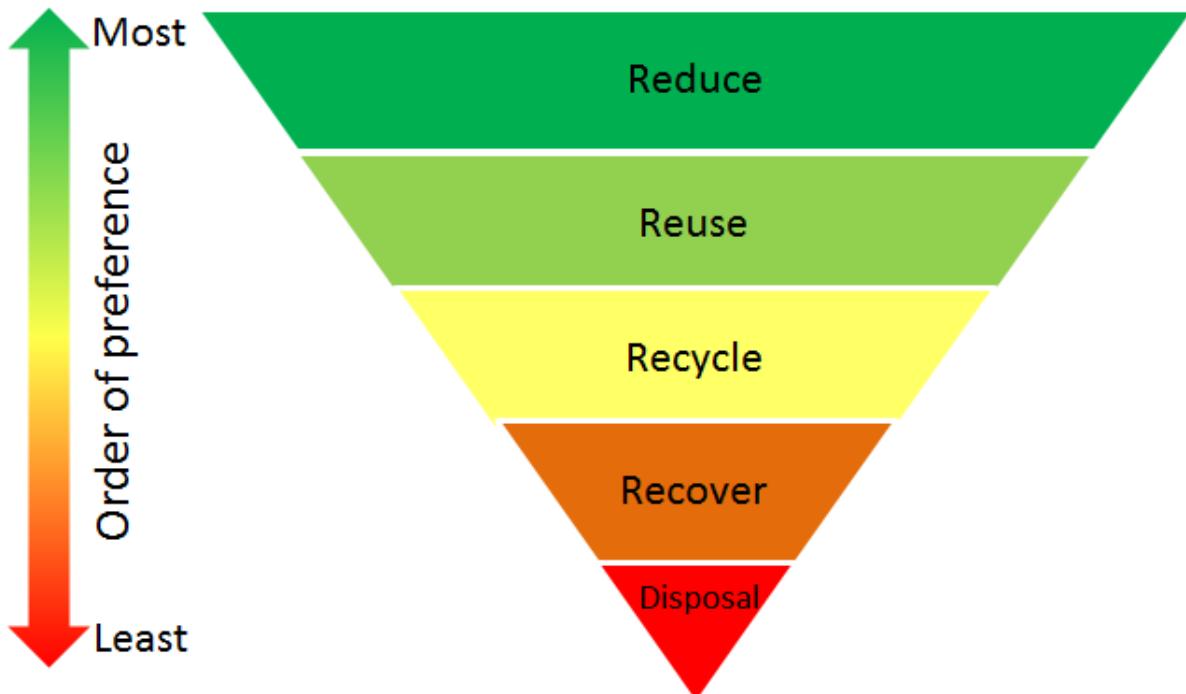
We want to:

- Reduce the amount of waste we produce in the first place;
- Increase the amount that we reuse or recycle/compost;
- Reduce the amount that goes to landfill, which saves money and meets the Scottish Government ban of biodegradable waste going to landfill;
- Deliver an efficient, effective and value for money service to our customers

Doing this will contribute to:

- Better use of resources;
- Reducing impact on the environment
- Protecting our natural resources; and
- Better management of household waste.

### The Waste Hierarchy



### Your role

*The public of Argyll and Bute have a crucial role to play in decreasing waste produced and increasing waste recycled.*

**Question 4: Do you agree that Reduction, Reuse and Recycling are the best ways in which to manage waste.**

Yes	No
96.28%	3.72%

If you do not agree that Reduction Reuse and recycling are the best ways to manage our waste, please tell us why;

(53 comments)

Most of the comments suggested that RRR is limited in that there needs to be more action in terms of:

- Education – people need information on how to RRR
- Stopping the waste at source – responders suggested that we need to lobby government

**to make RRR a national priority but also by getting manufacturers to stop using single use plastic, non-recyclable packaging etc.**

- Maximising kerbside collection

**The negative comments about RRR were:**

- Some responders felt that recycling isn't at all effective and would prefer waste to be burnt and used to recover energy.
- Some responders felt that RRR places the onus back on the individuals
- Some responders felt that it was unreasonable and discriminates against rural and island communities

#### **Question 5: Do you know how to Reduce, Reuse and Recycle?**

Yes	No
89.44%	10.56%

**If no, what would you like more information on?**

**(111 comments)**

**Most of the common responses were:**

- Need for clear information – responders think there is a need for the council to produce materials on RRR which are clear on what kind of material/plastics can be recycled
- Food, garden and home waste – how to reduce or recycle this
- Responders again stated the need for manufacturer to use less packaging / single use plastics and to lobby government
- Responders want information on what product labels mean
- Responders want information on what happens to our recycled waste
- Responders again commented on the preference to burn the waste

**Question 6: How often do you use recycling points in your area?**

Frequency	%	No.
Never	8.21	65
Annually	4.47	37
Monthly	37.65	312
Weekly	39.49	327
More than once a week	10.14	84

**Question 7: What would encourage you to use recycling points more?**

We received 562 comments for this question and it was encouraging to see that so many of you do not need any encouragement to visit the recycling points. Thank you!

**Most common responses that would encourage use were:**

- Accessibility - more recycling points in villages and rural locations
- Emptied more regularly
- More information on what can and cannot be recycled
- More information on what happens to it after / reassurance that it's actually recycled
- Points for composting food and garden waste
- Longer opening times at Civic Amenity sites

**Positive feedback**

- Some responders said that they actively use recycling points and were happy with them

**Negative feedback**

- Complaints made about them being too full, dirty, attracting seagulls and broke glass everywhere.

**Question 8: Have you or do you intend to use the Councils Bulky Waste uplift service?**

Yes	No
<b>19.61%</b>	<b>80.39%</b>

If yes for what and are you aware of any alternative means of reuse such as charitable giving?

**162 comments**

**The most common comment was that the service was too expensive.**

**Other comments were:**

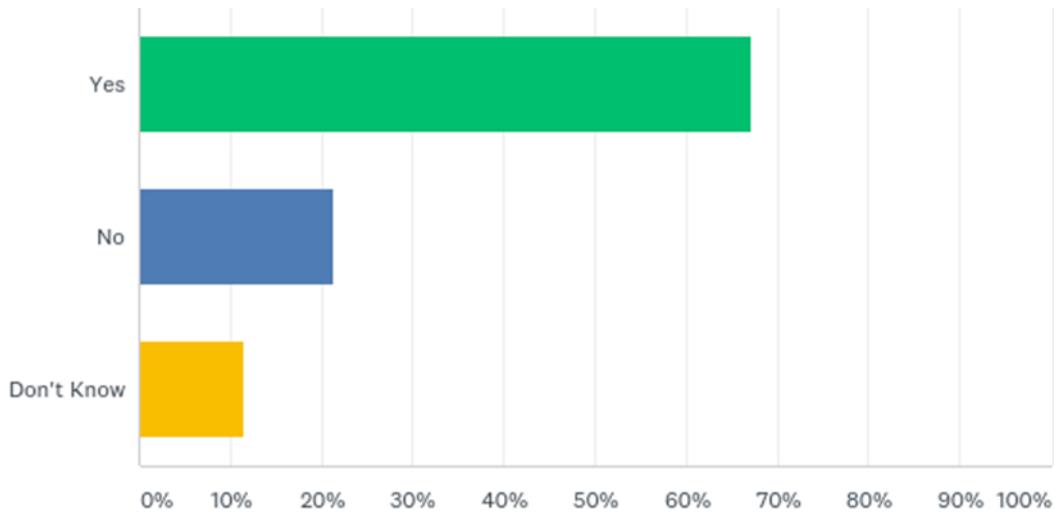
- It encourages fly tipping due to the cost
- Responders weren't aware of it
- Responders were aware of charitable giving and said that this was widely used. Some responders did comment on how charitable giving isn't possible in rural areas.
- 'I did intend to use it but was put off by the charge, being non-refundable and the idea that upon uplift the council could decline to take, and then still charge is terrible. Maybe sorting this out would be good also.'

**What have you used it for?**

- Furniture
- Electrical goods: fridges, freezers and washing machines
- Mattresses
- Rubble / scrap building materials
- Broke / dirty things that won't be collected by charities

**Question 9: Would more information on the recycling process improve your confidence in our recycling?**

	Yes	No	Don't know
%	<b>67.19%</b>	<b>21.27%</b>	<b>11.54%</b>
No.	<b>559</b>	<b>177</b>	<b>96</b>



**Question 10: Products that are used in food packaging such as film coated foils in crisp packets cannot be recycled. What would make it easier for you to avoid using them?**

(698 comments)

The most common response stated that there has to be stricter legislation from Scottish Government on manufacturers to use only alternative/recyclable packaging

Other comments were:

- Responders would like to see more sold loosely / alternatively packaged produce to be sold at the same price
- Paper packaging
- Education – on what can and cannot be recycled / where it can be recycled
- Responders would like to see clear informative labelling
- Many responders stated that non-recyclable packaging should be banned
- Responders had suggested that the Scottish Government should set up points where these can be recycled

**Question 11: Does packaging material recyclability play a role in what products you purchase?**

	Yes	No	If Yes...
%	<b>13.41%</b>	<b>28.85%</b>	<b>57.81%</b>
No.	<b>111</b>	<b>240</b>	<b>481</b>

If yes, do you feel that products should feature a standardised recycling logos, making it clear if can or cannot be recycled.

**Most responses were 'yes' 'definitely' 'absolutely' and commenting that this would be 'very helpful' emphasising their resounding support**

**Other common response:**

- Confusion regarding what plastics can and cannot be recycled. Most responders want the council to produce clear information on what residents can recycle locally, where it can be recycled and how it's recycled
- Confusion on what different symbols mean which often prevents recycling / remove 'widely recycled' / 'check with local recycling' as this is very unhelpful
- Responders stated that they don't have a choice – as it's the manufacturers who package goods and call for reduced packaging. And a call again for banning non-recyclable packaging/taxing suppliers who do. For example - Amazon
- Responders also comments that products should not be more expensive because they've been made by recyclable materials
- Responders made recommendations were that labels should RED for no and GREEN for yes / The labels or text should also stand out more / larger
- 'Why should people who don't care about recycling get a wider range of products? If buying recyclable / environmentally friendly products is only a 'choice' then it is a tax on conscience. It increases the purchasing power of those who don't care.'
- There were a lot of responders who lack trust that council does in fact recycle – suspicions that waste goes straight to landfill
- Some responders stated that it does not matter in some cases as there are essential items you need that comes wrapped in unrecyclable materials, for example toilet paper

**Question 12: Around 70% of all waste in our green residual waste bins is food waste. What would help you avoid throwing out food?**

**The most common response were:**

- Educate people on food dates / preparing and using food to minimise waste /know when food is safe to eat / overeating / impulse buying / freezing leftovers / damage being done by food waste going into landfill / providing recipes etc.
- Encourage community sharing of surplus / partnership between food businesses and third sector / increase community allotment
- Lobby government to change supermarkets in giving consumers options to only buy what is needed / reduce multi packs / reduce advertising on deals (such as BOGOF) which encourages excess and impulse buying/ minimise pre-packages goods
- Clear labelling – only best before date
- A lot of responders commented that the vast majority of excess waste comes from supermarkets and businesses in comparison to domestic disposal

**Question 13: Do you feel that the difference between “Best Before and Sell By” dates is clearly understood.**

	Yes	No
%	51.75%	48.25%
No.	429	400

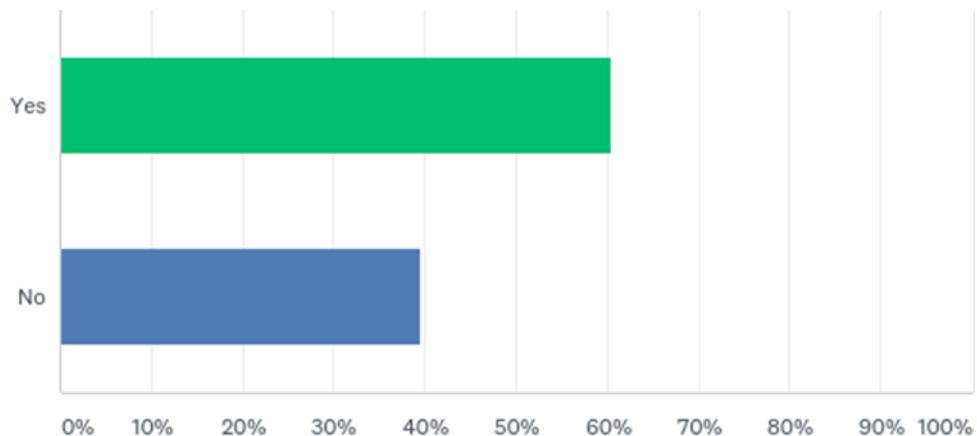
**If no, what would make this easier?**

**Most common responses were:**

- Education is needed on what both dates mean / education on how to tell if food is fresh or not – media campaign
- Recommendations were that there should be only one date that incorporates both; Message to be in Plain English such as ‘Eat / Drink / Safe to Use by...’ and make sure the labelling is colour coded and in a larger print
- Responders also commented that supermarkets/ businesses should re-distribute food products that have not sold to people in need / businesses need to be audited in terms of the waste they produce / reduce every year

**Question 14: Do you know where to find information on reducing food waste?**

	Yes	No
%	60.46%	39.54%
No.	500	327



**Question 15: Does how businesses dispose of their waste influence who you purchase goods and services from?**

	Yes	No
%	33.21%	66.79%
No.	272	547

If yes, to what extent?

The most common responses were

- The majority of responders commented that they were not aware of businesses dispose waste / difficult to know how businesses operate
- Following that, these responders commented that if they were made aware of poor disposal practices, then they would buying from such businesses and encourage others to do the same
- Responders stated that they avoided businesses who do not pass on the excess food to local charity organisations
- A lot of responders also stated that they were limited due to choice and cost in rural areas
- Some responders stated that they haven't thought about this until know / would be helpful to get reminders locally and nationally about this

## **Deposit Return Scheme**

In September 2017, the Scottish Government announced the introduction of a Scottish Deposit Return Scheme (DRS), to:

- increase the quantity of target materials captured for recycling;
- improve the quality of material captured, to allow for higher value recycling;
- encourage wider behaviour change in the use of materials;
- deliver maximum economic and societal benefit for Scotland.

The preferred scheme design. This is described as Reverse Vending Machine based scheme that allows you to:

- Return drinks containers to any place of purchase;
- Including PET, metal cans and glass bottles;
- With a 20p deposit;
- A target capture rate of 90%.

Unclaimed Deposits form the majority of the Schemes income forming a fund that can be used to support other activities such as charitable grants etc.

### **Question 16: Do you support the aims of the proposed Scottish DRS scheme?**

	<b>Yes</b>	<b>No</b>
<b>%</b>	<b>84.67%</b>	<b>15.33%</b>
<b>No.</b>	<b>685</b>	<b>124</b>

If no, are you satisfied that your recycling needs are being met by current kerbside and recycling site services?

In this question the majority of responses supported the scheme but were sceptical of it working on a practical level.

Negative comments were:

- Not practical in rural areas / depends on accessibility
- Associated costs for rural shopkeepers / admin / storage
- Fear that there will be poorer / limited choice in rural areas
- Does not reduce carbon footprint as distances have to be travelled to return items
- Council to provide kerbside composting collection / kerbside glass recycling / food waste
- Concerns with vending machines in terms of breaking / maintenance
- Concerns that it will lead to a reduction in kerbside collections
- Towards Scottish Government – no thought of impact to rural areas / national policy should be more adequately funded / more strain on Local Authorities

### **Question 17: How actively would you participate in a future DRS?**

**716 comments**

Most responders stated that they would be very happy to participate and will try to as much as possible.

Issues were:

- Depends on accessibility / where DRS points are located / disability prohibits individuals
- A lot of responders would prefer kerbside collection
- Responders felt that it was more of a hassle
- Increased carbon footprint increase outweighs the benefit
- Some responders said that their recycling habits don't necessitate need to use DRS

### **Question 18: Will the DRS change your buying habits?**

	Yes	No
%	38.4%	61.59%
No.	305	489

If yes, how?

**250 comments**

The overall response to the question was that DRS would not change buying habits. The majority of the free comment responses stated that it would change their buying habits, in that it would encourage purchasing products that are included in the scheme. 'I would actively look to buy bottles which promoted the scheme'.

Other common responses were:

- If products that were part of the scheme / not at an inflated price
- It would depend by the number of return areas / consideration for rural areas
- Responders stated that it would make people more aware of recycling / encouraged to think before purchasing
- Responders stated concerns that it will increase in the purchase of plastic bottles and cans therefore counterproductive

### **Question 19: Do you feel that the scheme will enhance recycling in rural and island areas?**

	<b>Yes</b>	<b>No</b>
<b>%</b>	<b>68.28%</b>	<b>31.72%</b>
<b>No.</b>	<b>523</b>	<b>243</b>

### **How will/won't the scheme do this?**

**The common responses in support of this were because:**

- It encourages people to consider all disposal options
- It discourages littering and will allow for a culture shift
- Of the financial incentive

**The most common negative responses were:**

- People won't bother / lead busy lives
- It would require travel / fuel costs
- Recycling services already need improving / more facilities needed / infrastructure needed
- Storage concerns
- Prefer kerbside collection
- Financial incentive is not enough
- Burden on small business

### **Question 20: Should revenue raised from the DRS go to fund local waste Reduction, Reuse and Recycling services?**

	<b>Yes</b>	<b>No</b>
<b>%</b>	<b>87.45%</b>	<b>12.55%</b>
<b>No.</b>	<b>690</b>	<b>99</b>

### **Do you have an alternative suggestion for how these funds should be spent?**

**223 comments**

**The most common responses were that funds should go to:**

- Kerbside food, composting and garden collections
- Education / communications / workshops / community forums

- More recycling points
- Ring fenced for RRR purposes
- Build an incinerator or biomass energy plant.
- At DRS point people could have option of receiving discount voucher for shop. Or donate money
- A lot of responders would prefer money is spent locally on roads, youth and elderly services, marine litter, lowering council tax
- Back to consumer
- Research in new ways of packaging, shorter transport ways, and environmental friendly distribution.

Comments from a business perspective:

- ‘There should be profit for businesses who can and will manage handling and return of bottles and cans etc. For example, a contractor who sets up on Islay to collect bottles and cans from residents and transports them to a central facility should be able to operate financed by the scheme. It is enough that products are directed from landfill and reused.’
- ‘On supporting businesses who prove they're reducing their production or use of non-recyclable products’
- ‘To cover the increased costs incurred by the retailers who have to process these charges’
- ‘They should go to the retailer as an incentive to continue with the scheme.’

Comments from a community perspective:

- Funds should go to community organisations/sports facilities which are currently not supported by the council.
- Funds should be spent on local charities/schools who are teaching the younger children about the environment/waste
- Into the funds of community recycling organisations such as Fyne Futures
- Fund allotment projects for people who want to grow seasonal vegetables, plants and flowers.
- Grants for local groups.

**Question 21: Do you think that the DRS will positively or negatively impact on local small to medium sized business.**

	Yes	No	Don't know
%	29.57%	16.02%	54.41%
No.	238	129	438

**How will/won't the scheme do this?**

**The majority of comments commented that there would be an extra cost and burden on SMEs because of DRS. Responders also stated concerns around storage and hygiene.**

**There were a lot of comments which reiterated the need for more education on the issue and encouragement.**

**The most common responses from a positive perspective:**

- Increases footfall and business / an additional service for local shops that would help their sustainability and keep rural villages alive
- Encourage recycling
- It may provide local jobs in recycling
- A lot of responders referred of positive experiences working in across Europe and in Canada.

**The most common responses from a negative perspective:**

- Extra cost / burden / storage / administration / cash flow
- Businesses will need to spend more time dealing with returns – who will cover this cost?

## **BMW ban**

As a result of measures in the Waste (Scotland) Regulations 2012 every local authority in Scotland is obliged to implement a ban on Biodegradable Municipal Waste (BMW) going to landfill from January 2021. SEPA and the Scottish Government have made it clear that the ban of BMW waste going to landfill will be implemented across all of Scotland with no exception planned for rural areas including the islands SEPA and the Scottish Government publically remain committed to the terms of the ban, including its start date. However, Local Authorities across Scotland and the Private Sector continue to lobby the Scottish Government in relation to which materials should be included in the BMW ban and on the start date of January 2021.

Biodegradable municipal waste is defined by Regulation 11(3) of the Landfill (Scotland) Regulations 2003 (as amended) as “municipal waste that is also biodegradable”.

Biodegradable waste is “any waste capable of undergoing anaerobic or aerobic decomposition such as food, garden waste, and paper and cardboard”.

Municipal waste is “waste from households as well as other waste which because of its nature or composition is similar to waste from households”. For example food waste from a restaurant would be classified as being BMW.

Biodegradable municipal waste is the largest constituent fraction of our residual waste which is also known as black bag waste this is collected in a three weekly collection from householders green bins across Argyll and Bute.

**Complying with the BMW ban will mean that waste has to be transported off islands for disposal on the mainland.**

**Question 22: Given this, do you believe that the BMW ban will disproportionately affect rural and island communities?**

	<b>Yes</b>	<b>No</b>	<b>Don't know</b>
<b>%</b>	<b>51.33%</b>	<b>14.32%</b>	<b>34.35%</b>
<b>No.</b>	<b>405</b>	<b>113</b>	<b>271</b>

**How will/won't the BMW ban do this?**

**A majority responders were concerned that it will lead to an increase in council tax and fly tipping.**

**There were a lot of responders who asked why waste would have to be transported off the island and why there couldn't be innovative local solutions.**

**The most common responses were:**

- Concerns with the cost of transporting all waste off island / cost implication will have knock on effect on council services
- It will affect rural communities unless the council include food / compost and garden waste collection
- Responders were concerned with the increase in HGV traffic on ferries and loss of opportunity for innovative on-island solutions.

**Question 23: Are there any disposal methodologies that you feel we should consider as an alternative to the technical solutions of either the transfer of residual waste to recovery via Energy from Waste (EfW, incineration) proposed in the Draft Strategy?**

**The majority of responders are in favour of EfW – however, there is a marked preference for EfW to be delivered locally.**

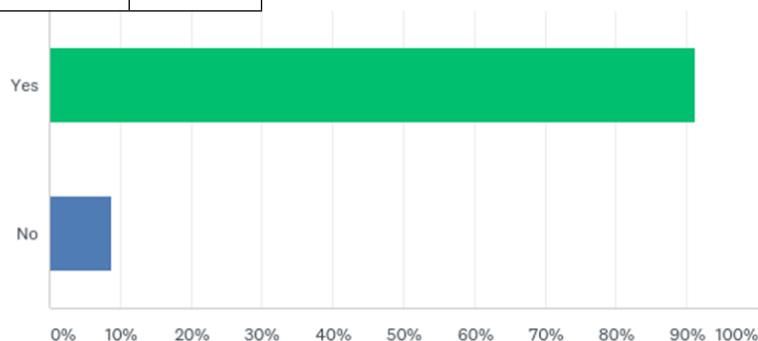
**The majority of responders also would like to see household/community and council composting schemes.**

**There were a lot of responders who did not know enough and would need more information/research on the topic.**

**Question 24: Do you agree that the Council should continue to lobby the Scottish Government for additional support to enable compliance with the BMW ban?**

	<b>Yes</b>	<b>No</b>
<b>%</b>	<b>91.25%</b>	<b>8.75%</b>
<b>No.</b>	<b>699</b>	<b>67</b>

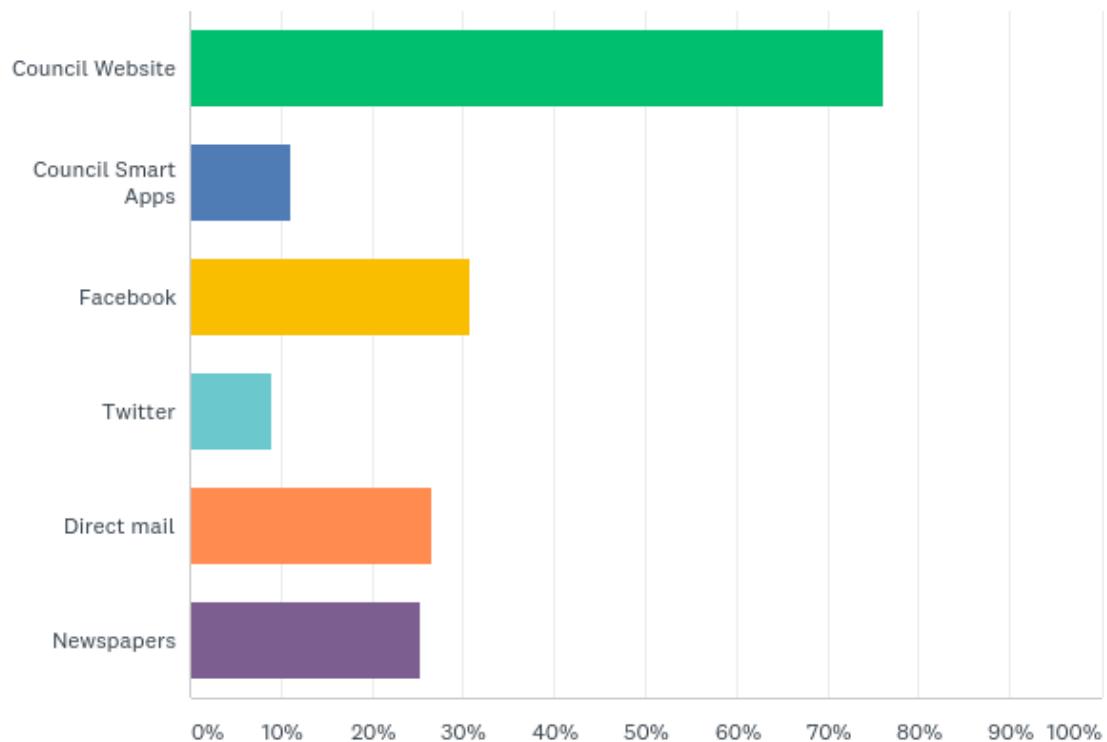
**The level off support indicated by repondees should be viewed as a clear public endorsement of the councils continuing engagment with the Scottish Goverenment to mitigate the impact of BMW ban compliance.**



## Communication

**Question 25: How would you like to hear from us? Tick all that apply:**

Council Website	<input type="checkbox"/>
Council Smart Apps	<input type="checkbox"/>
Facebook	<input type="checkbox"/>
Twitter	<input type="checkbox"/>
Direct mail	<input type="checkbox"/>
Local Newspapers	<input type="checkbox"/>
Other (If other please specify)	<input type="checkbox"/>



**Thank you very much for your thoughts and comments.**

**Please return to us by 19 July 2019.**



## **ARGYLL AND BUTE COUNCIL**

### **DRAFT WASTE STRATEGY**



# **Argyll and Bute Waste Strategy**

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## Glossary of Terms

**Anaerobic digestion:** A biological process where biodegradable waste, such as food waste, is encouraged to break down, in the absence of oxygen, in an enclosed vessel. This produces carbon dioxide, methane (which can be used as a fuel to generate renewable energy) and solids/liquors known as digestate which can be used as fertiliser.

**Waste Transfer Site:** A facility used primarily for the storage of recyclate. If required, some material is baled ready for onward transportation to reprocessing plants. The sites have a weighbridge for measuring the tonnage of material that comes in and out of the site.

**Bring Site:** Recycling point where the public can bring material for recycling, for example bottle and can banks. They are generally located at supermarket car parks, Council car parks and similar locations.

**Biodegradable Municipal Waste (BMW):** Biodegradable municipal waste is defined by Regulation 11(3) of the Landfill (Scotland) Regulations 2003 (as amended) as “municipal waste that is also biodegradable”.

Biodegradable waste is “any waste capable of undergoing anaerobic or aerobic decomposition such as food, garden waste, and paper and cardboard”.

Municipal waste is “waste from households as well as other waste which because of its nature or composition is similar to waste from households”.

**Composting:** An aerobic, biological process in which organic wastes, such as garden and kitchen waste, are converted into a stable granular material which can be applied to land to improve soil structure and enrich the nutrient content of the soil.

**Energy from Waste (EfW):** Technologies include anaerobic digestion, direct combustion (incineration with energy recovery), and use of secondary recovered fuel (an output from mechanical and biological treatment processes), pyrolysis and gasification. Any given technology is more beneficial if heat and electricity can be recovered. The Waste Framework Directive considers that where waste is used principally as a fuel or other means to generate electricity it is a recovery activity provided it complies with certain criteria, which includes exceeding an energy efficiency threshold.

**Food waste:** This term refers to the discarded food from households and trade premises e.g. vegetable peelings, tea bags and banana skins.

**Green Waste:** Biodegradable waste that can be composted such as garden or park waste, grass or flower cuttings and hedge trimmings. This is generally disposed of at Civic Amenity Sites or composted at home.

**Civic Amenity Sites:** Site provided by the Local Authority for the recycling of household waste including bulky items such as beds, cookers and garden waste as well as other recyclables, free of charge. Traders can dispose of recycling at CA sites if they have purchased a permit.

**Landfill sites:** Any areas of land in which waste is deposited. Landfill sites are often located in disused mines or quarries. In areas where they are limited or no ready-made voids, the practice of

land raising is sometimes carried out, where waste is deposited above ground and the landscape is contoured around it.

**Low-participating and non-participating households:** Any household that does not, or seldom recycles.

**Municipal Waste:** Includes household waste and any other wastes collected by a Waste Collection Authority (WCA), in this case the Council

**WCA:** A Local Authority charged with the collection of waste from each household in its area on a regular basis. They can also collect, if requested, commercial and industrial wastes from the private sector for a fee.

**Participation Monitoring:** Collecting information to measure the public use of a new kerbside recycling scheme and the effect of communication activities so that the Council can identify and engage with low or non-participating households.

**Pollution:** The introduction of contaminants into the natural environment that have adverse effects on the environment

**Recycling:** Involves the reprocessing of wastes, either into the same product or a different one. Many non-hazardous industrial wastes such as paper, glass, cardboard, plastics and scrap metals can be recycled. Special wastes such as solvents can also be recycled by specialist companies, or by specialist in-house equipment.

**Reduction:** Minimising the amount of material that enters the waste stream through actions such as reuse, cutting down packaging and composting.

**Reprocessor:** A business that carries out one or more activities of recovery or recycling.

**Residual waste:** Term used for waste that remains after recycling or composting material has been removed from the waste stream. Also known as refuse.

**Reuse:** Using a product again for the same or different use

**Commercial Waste:** Waste produced by any premises which are used wholly or mainly for trade, business, sport recreation or entertainment, excluding household and industrial waste.

**Industrial waste:** Waste from any factory and from any premises occupied by an industry (excluding mines and quarries).

**Treatment:** Physical, thermal, chemical or biological processes, including sorting, that change the characteristics of the waste in order to reduce its volume or hazardous nature, facilitate its handling or enhance recovery.

**Waste Electrical and Electronic Equipment (WEEE):** Describes discarded electrical or electronic devices. The definition includes used electronics which are destined for reuse, resale, salvage, recycling, or disposal.

**Waste hierarchy:** Sets out the order in which options for waste management should be considered based on environmental impact. It is a useful framework that has become a cornerstone of sustainable waste management.

**Zero waste:** Zero Waste is a goal that is ethical, economical, and efficient and visionary, to guide people in changing their lifestyles and practices to emulate sustainable natural cycles, where all discarded materials are designed to become resources for others to use. Zero Waste means designing and managing products and processes to systematically avoid and eliminate the volume and toxicity of waste and materials, conserve and recover all resources, and not burn or bury them. Implementing Zero Waste will eliminate all discharges to land, water or air that are a threat to planetary, human, animal or plant health.'

## Executive Summary

Argyll and Bute Council is responsible for collecting and then disposing of household waste on behalf of its customers across the Council area. In order to provide this vital service across a large and diverse geographic area, a variety of models are in place, which balance local circumstances and needs against the Council's wider obligation to provide best value for the public purse.

The Council empties all household waste bins for Argyll and Bute's 47,000 households, as well as most of the recycling bins. In some areas, we have partnerships in place with local social enterprises who provide recycling collection services on our behalf.

Once the waste is collected, there are different models for its disposal:

- Islands (Tiree; Islay; Jura; Mull; Iona; Coll; and adjacent small isles) – The Council owns and operates its own waste disposal sites on our main islands;
- Mainland and other islands (excluding Helensburgh and Lomond) – On the mainland we have a contract in place with Renewi (formerly known as Shanks) who provide waste disposal services on our behalf. This contract runs until 2026;
- Helensburgh and Lomond – The waste from this area is disposed of at private sites out with Argyll and Bute

There are three major changes on the horizon which will fundamentally change how the council delivers waste services in Argyll and Bute. To manage this change a new Waste Strategy is needed.

**Ban on biodegradable municipal waste (BMW)** – the Scottish Government is introducing a ban on BMW waste going to landfill. This means that all biodegradable waste (such as food waste, garden waste, paper and cardboard) cannot be disposed of in landfill. Currently landfill is the primary means of disposal in the council area for biodegradable items. This change will have significant cost implications for the Council as we will have to transition to alternative ways of dealing with this waste. It remains to be seen whether we will receive any additional funding from the Scottish Government to help us do this.

This strategy also features a section with a detailed description of the current Scottish Government and SEPA positions in regard to the BMW landfill ban. Included in this section is a breakdown by preference balanced against necessity where government support could be sought in order to deliver a cost effective solution for Argyll and Bute. The geography of Argyll and Bute coupled with poor access to offtakers based in the central belt results in disproportionately high transport costs.

**End of waste disposal contract with Renewi** – in 2026, the council's contract for waste disposal with Renewi will come to an end. In advance of the contract ending, we will need to look at the best model for waste disposal in the future. The council will consider a range of options, from in-house waste disposal to a private contract, with various models in between. The council will have to balance the need to provide compliant service against what is cost effective and sustainable for the council in an ever changing financial and policy landscape.

**Deposit return scheme for drinks containers** – The Scottish Government announced in 2017 that it would be looking to introduce a Deposit Return Scheme for Scotland. This proposal has gone out to public consultation, and at present we are awaiting clarity on the timescale for implementation. It is too

early to say what the implications of this might be for the council, however it is likely that the scheme could result in a diversion of some recyclate away from kerbside recyclate into the scheme.

With these changes in mind, we need a waste strategy that provides a framework which will allow the council to continue to provide high quality and cost effective waste services on behalf of the people of Argyll and Bute. It is the agreed policy of the council that a goal of the strategy is to focus on complying with the new requirements being introduced by the Scottish Government. As well as looking at solutions to the coming challenges, the strategy identifies at how the council can support the people of Argyll and Bute to Reduce, Reuse and Recycle their waste.

To provide additional context, the Scottish Government's Zero Waste Plan includes the following targets, which increase national recycling targets in stages:

- 50% recycling/composting from households in 2013;
- 60% recycling/composting from households in 2020;
- 70% recycling/composting from households in 2025, and no more than 5% of all waste going to landfill.

Argyll and Bute's overall recycling figure for 2018 was 48.1%. This is up on previous years, and can mainly be attributed to the change to three-weekly bin collections as well as changing national attitudes to recycling.

The main objectives of the Waste (Scotland) Regulations 2012, provide the main legislative context for the delivery of the Council's current waste services:

- The provision of local authority recycling services to domestic properties (free of charge) and businesses (chargeable);
- The separate collection of recyclables;
- Food waste collection to domestic properties (although there is a rural exemption for this);
- Landfill bans by 2021.

National targets are important, but so are the unique issues faced by Argyll and Bute Council, this document looks to provide options that allow the council to comply with regulations and mitigate and increase in costs.

The Scottish Government has preferred collection and treatment technologies detailed in the form of the Household Recycling Charter. For residents this includes weekly food waste collections, weekly recycling collections through a kerbside sort collection (putting recycling in variety of containers and sorting it at the kerbside as opposed to putting it all in one container and sorting it at a recycling facility, which is known as co-mingled collections), and a residual waste collection to suit local needs.

Argyll and Bute has not signed up to the Scottish Household Recycling Charter it is not financially possible to provide this level of service within the council's current financial constraints, bearing in mind the diversity and size of the council area.

The Waste Strategy details how waste will be disposed of in Argyll and Bute. In particular, this document:

- is a policy which sets key objectives and overall approaches for the reduction of waste across the area;

- Takes into account other upcoming changes such as the introduction of a Deposit Return Scheme for Scotland.

The primary policy objectives of the document include:

- to work with both residents and visitors to the area to raise awareness of the importance of recycling, reducing waste and preventing it in the first place;
- to increase public confidence in the Council's waste services by making high quality information on the recycling process available;
- annual publication and promotions of details on the councils waste performance;
- to enable the Council to meet its current and future statutory requirements;
- to provide a high quality and cost effective recycling service for the Council's customers, both residents and businesses.

There are several potential technical solutions to ensure that the councils waste disposal service complies with these new requirements. The options for each of the current waste disposal model areas are summarised below full details of the solutions including high level cost assessments can be found in the Waste Strategy Action Plan:

#### **Islands (Tiree; Islay; Jura; Mull; Iona; Coll; and Adjacent Small Isles) Model**

Develop waste transfer operations at our island landfill sites. This would be a step-change from the current model where household waste is landfilled and recyclable material is transferred off the islands for recovery via Energy from Waste (EfW). The creation of waste transfer stations would allow the Council to store and bulk transfer recyclable material efficiently.

#### **Helensburgh and Lomond**

Procure access to a waste transfer site linked to a long-term residual waste recovery contract;

#### **Mainland and Other Islands (Excluding Helensburgh and Lomond)**

- a) Evaluate the possibility of converting the existing treatment and landfill facilities to new facilities which will be able to process the residual waste in such a way as to make up to 40% of it inert, with the remainder of the waste processed at Energy from Waste facilities;
- b) Evaluate the possibility of a total transfer model where all residual waste is transferred to EfW plants for disposal.

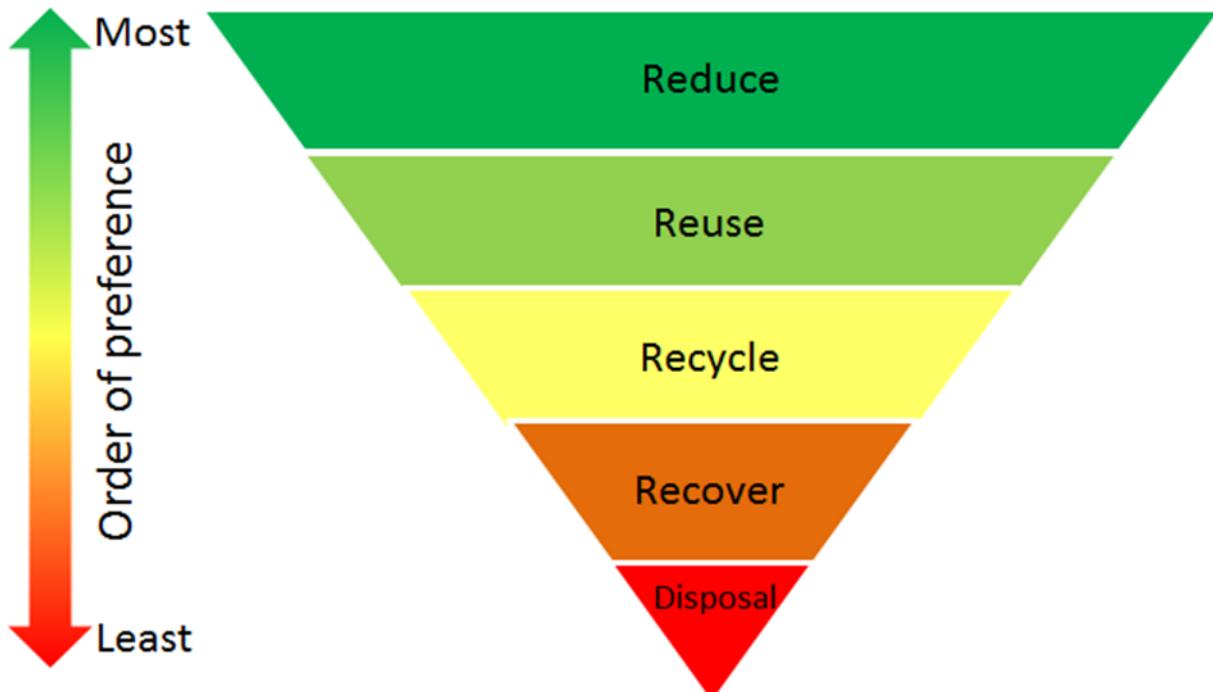
## **Waste Policy – Reduce, Reuse, Recycle**

At the heart of the Waste Strategy are the principles enshrined in the Waste Hierarchy which is shown in the following graphic. The hierarchy ranks waste management options from best environmental outcome to worst. In doing this, the model takes into account the particular lifecycle of a particular material. This is an environmental assessment against all stages of a product's 'life' – raw material extraction, material processing, manufacture, distribution, use, repair and maintenance and, finally, disposal or recycling.

The easiest way to interpret the waste hierarchy is to say its top priority is in preventing waste. If and when waste is created, next priority goes to preparing it for a reusable purpose, followed by recycling or other recovery method, with disposal (landfill) being the final, and least desired, option.

As a practical example, one tonne of food waste sent to landfill produces 450 kilograms of CO<sub>2</sub>e (equivalents) which then go into the atmosphere; whereas preventing one tonne of food waste saves 3590 kilograms of CO<sub>2</sub>e. Beyond the significant matter of Green House Gas emissions, selecting waste options higher up the hierarchy also creates opportunities to reduce water consumption, protects important (and finite) raw materials, creates jobs and provides a range of ancillary economic opportunities in recycling and reuse.

## WASTE HIERARCHY



The council, continues to fulfil its statutory obligations to collect and dispose of household waste free of charge. As was normal practice in waste management, much of this waste was disposed of in landfill. After landfilling, the council continued to manage the material in order to control its environmental impact as far as reasonably practical. In the future disposal via landfill is not a realistic option given the impending ban being promoted by the Scottish Government.

Given the current taxes which are placed on local authorities per tonne of waste sent to landfill, one of the main benefits of placing the waste hierarchy at the heart of the new waste strategy is financial.

The current rate of landfill tax is high and set to increase annually, this tax collected by the Scottish Government from Local Authorities (and companies providing services on their behalf). In 2018 Argyll and Bute sent 32,217.55 tonnes of waste to landfill, giving us a tax bill of £2,865,751.

Proportionally, landfill tax accounts for around 75% of the total cost of disposal via landfill. Increasing the amount of waste diverted from disposal has both cost and environmental benefits.

Beyond the financial implications, sending valuable, reusable materials to landfill is, in the purest definition, a waste of resources. Much of this waste material has the potential to be reused or recycled. Where practicable, disposal and recovery should be the absolute last resort in order to maximised the value of the materials.

The council will work to meet the Scottish Governments Zero Waste and Circular Economy targets by basing our waste disposal services around the Waste Hierarchy. Achieving this objective will have positive effect on the councils Green House Gas output. Through framing the policy initiative on the Waste Hierarchy we will also able to achieve savings as a smaller decreasing amount of Waste goes to Disposal or Recovery (EfW).

Using promotional tools such as Social Media and the Councils Websites as well as direct engagement at events etc. We will educate residents, business, visitors and Council employees on the need to Reduce, Reuse and Recycle following the waste hierarchy to reduce Waste going for either Disposal or Recovery.

The public of Argyll and Bute have a crucial role to play in not only maintaining current recycling and diversion rates levels, but also making positive changes supporting the Councils ability to increase diversion and recycling rates. Strong education and communications will be implemented and sustained with regular refreshes of content to reinforce the waste reduction message. From feedback from the waste strategy consultation it is clear that the public value their waste disposal services and they strongly support all efforts made to promote waste reduction, reuse and recycling. To increase engagement and to support the public's desire to reduce, reuse and recycle we intend to make several improvements to our content:

- Clear unambiguous guidance on what can and cannot be recycled by the council;
- Cradle to grave information on all of our different waste streams, detailing the end destinations of our waste;
- Advice on how to reduce food waste;
- Active promotion of local reuse charities and groups;
- Guidance on beach cleans and marine litter;
- Publication of the council's annual waste performance information.

The council will work with Zero Waste Scotland to improve our waste guidance material. Using Zero Waste Scotland's resources and promotional materials the council will tap into national campaigns promoting Reduction, Reuse and Recycling. Where possible the council will make use of open source/free to use tools to develop and publish promotional content.

Communications will be linked to locality profiles and targeted messages specific to these localities will be used in conjunction with national and authority wide messages. For example Social Media will promote a Zero Waste initiative across the Council area - in turn a local group working in support of that objective in an area would be promoted---- specific neighbourhood may targeted if it the issue/benefit can be localised to a specific area. Education will also continue within the Council, with a particular focus on engaging with staff on both the cost/benefit refuse and recycling and its environmental impact. This staff engagement will increase awareness but should also serve to strengthen and encouraging best practise across the Council.

## Waste in Argyll and Bute

Argyll and Bute covers a land area of 2712 square miles (approximately 4.5 times the size of London). The population, from the 2017 mid-year estimates (National Records of Scotland), is 86,810, making it the second largest Scottish local authority by area, but one of the least populated. Over 40% of the population are classified as living in remote rural areas, and with 23 inhabited islands, just over 17% of the total population are islanders. This is a unique mix, which brings its own particular opportunities and challenges.

Waste disposal is carried out via three different models:

- Islands (Tiree; Islay; Jura; Mull; Iona; Coll; and adjacent small isles) – The Council owns and operates its own waste disposal sites on our main islands;
- Mainland and other islands (excluding Helensburgh and Lomond) – On the mainland we have a contract in place with Renewi (formerly known as Shanks) who provide waste disposal services on our behalf. This contract runs until 2026;
- Helensburgh and Lomond – The waste from this area is disposed of at private sites out with Argyll and Bute.

The waste budget for 2019/20 is just over £13.8million, broken down as follows:

Service	Annual Waste Budget 2019-20
Recycling	769,639
Waste Collection	2,269,295
Waste Disposal Islands, Helensburgh & Lomond	2,743,667
Waste Disposal PPP	7,924,431
Waste Management	121,413
<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>13,828,445</b>

Other than the sites operated by Renewi there are no major waste disposal facilities in Argyll and Bute. The majority of alternative disposal sites are located in the Central Belt. These are relatively easily accessible from Helensburgh and Lomond, but are challenging to access from other areas of Argyll and Bute. These alternative sites are a mix of landfill and EfW sites.

In terms of waste collections, the Islands (Tiree; Islay; Jura; Mull; Iona; Coll; and adjacent small isles) and Mainland and other islands model areas have the following collection:

**Residual waste** – three weekly collection cycle

**Co-mingled waste** (plastics, paper, card, cans) – fortnightly collections

Helensburgh and Lomond, because of the requirements placed upon the Council by this area's population numbers, has four collection streams:

**Residual waste** – three weekly collections

**Co-mingled waste (plastics, paper, card, cans)** – fortnightly collections

**Food waste** – weekly collections

**Glass** – four weekly collections

At present there is a food waste exemption within the Waste (Scotland) Regulations 2012 which has a population cap of 10,000. All other major settlements in Argyll and Bute sit well below this level. Based on current census information it is considered unlikely that any other areas will breach the cap before 2031, although this is nevertheless a financial risk to the Council which requires to be actively monitored.

There are just under 100 bring sites across the Council area. These give residents the opportunity to do their own recycling of glass bottles and are a cost effective addition to the kerbside recycling service across the Council area.

Last year Argyll and Bute sent 32,217.55 tonnes of waste to landfill, with the breakdown across the waste model areas as follows:

**Islands (Tiree; Islay; Jura; Mull; Iona; Coll; and adjacent small isles)** – 3,420 tonnes

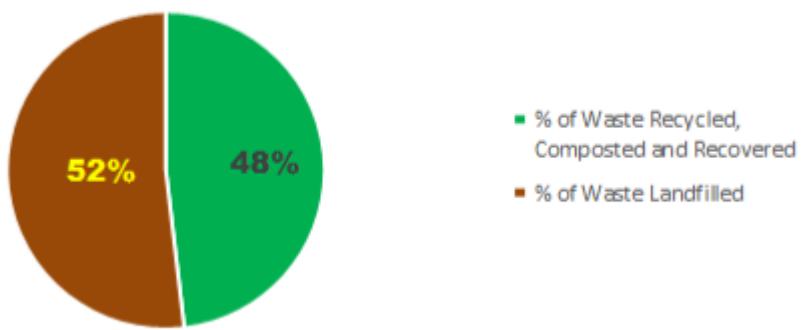
**Mainland and other island areas** – 17,500 tonnes

**Helensburgh and Lomond** – 11,300 tonnes

48.1% of total waste in Argyll and Bute was recycled or recovered last year, or 29,902.47 tonnes. There are variances in recycling/recovery performance between all three models as a result of treatment and disposal facilities available in each area. The percentage of waste Recycled, recovered or composted in each of the model areas are as follows:

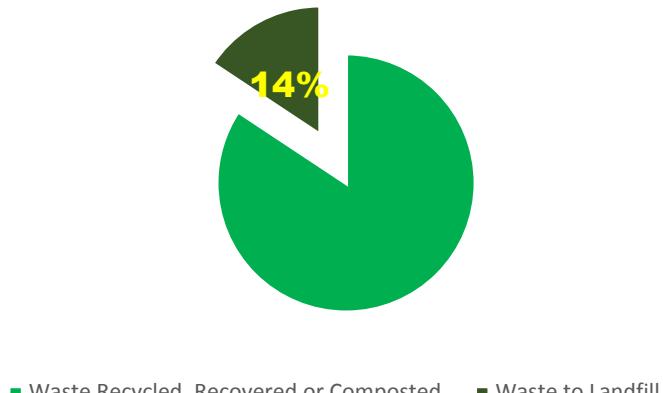
- Island Model – 33.6%
- Mainland and other island areas - 53.8%
- Helensburgh and Lomond - 40.8%

## Argyll and Bute Combined Waste Arisings 2017



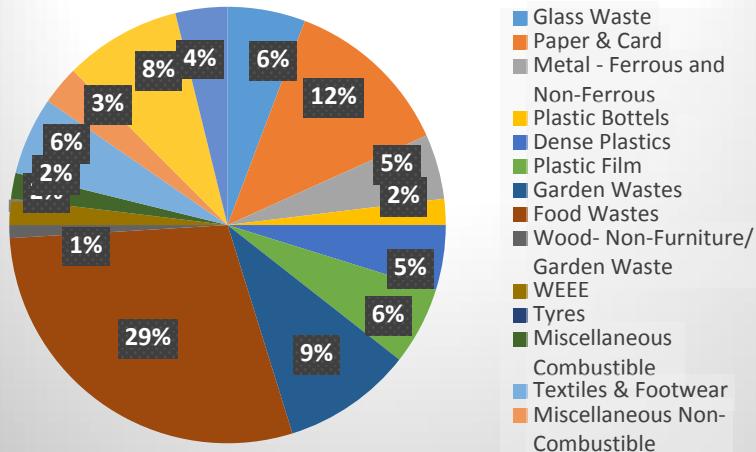
Using current waste figures as a baseline, it is possible to predict the level of remaining waste after the BMW landfill ban comes into effect. This modelling shows that, assuming mechanisms are put in place to meet the terms of the ban, Argyll and Bute will send 14% of its waste (non-BMW) to landfill.

## Waste Disposal Figures Post 2021 BMW Ban



In late 2014, the Council received funding from Zero Waste Scotland to carry out a composition analysis in two areas – Dunoon and Islay. This exercise showed that an average of 42% of the waste placed in the residual waste could, in fact, be recycled, and that on top of this, an average of 30% of the contents of the residual waste/black bin was food waste. This exercise was one of the main drivers for the successful change to three-weekly waste collections, which has encouraged more recycling across Argyll and Bute.

## Combined Waste Composition



As part of delivering this waste strategy, a new composition analysis, to the same format in the same areas, will be carried out, providing fresh data and a means of like-for-like comparisons over changes to service delivery models.