

Legislative requirements	
Considerations of development planning sections of the Act or the Regulations	Other statutory requirements
<p>This evidence will contribute to, and be included within the expected Evidence Report Topic(s) listed below, including:</p> <p>Section 15(5)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> the infrastructure of the district; and how that infrastructure is used. <p>Regulation 9 Have regard to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> the national waste management plan 	<p>Town and Country Planning (Development Planning) (Scotland) Regulations 2023: Regulation 9</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Have regard to the national waste management plan.
NPF4 policy advice - information likely required in taking account of NPF4 policy	
<p>Identified needs for new waste management infrastructure.</p>	
Other information planning authorities may wish to: prepare, or review for spatial implications	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Local waste and recycling targets Local waste data. 	
Relevant sources of information	
Policies / strategies / plans / guidance / designations	Data sets and tools / spatial data resources
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Making things last: a circular economy strategy Stop, Sort, Burn, Bury - incineration in the waste hierarchy: independent review Scotland's Zero Waste Plan Waste Scotland Regulations 2012 Climate Change Plan Waste Hierarchy in Scotland Household Recycling Charter Zero Waste - SEPA Zero Waste Scotland Waste Framework Directive 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> SEPA waste data

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Extended Producer Compliance Scheme • Managing Waste - Deposit Return Scheme. • Circular Economy (Scotland) Act 2024 • Scotland's Circular Economy and Waste Route Map to 2030 • Waste (Scotland) Regulations 2012 • Scottish Household Waste Generated and Managed - 2023 SEPA. • • SAC Waste Management Strategy 2021-2031 	
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Key policy connections

1, 2, 8, 11, 18, 19, 25, 33.

Considerations

South Ayrshire Council has examined a range of documentation and data presently available and associated with the theme of “Zero Waste” for two specific and inter-related purposes.

- i) The first is to consider the appropriateness (or otherwise) of NPF4 (National Planning Framework 4) policies in so far as they would be applicable for, and integral to South Ayrshire Council’s Local Development Plan 3; and,
- ii) The second is to consider the adequacy of information and data presently available to prepare the Evidence Report for LDP3, and consequently to facilitate the preparation of LDP3.

Relevant documents and data sources have been identified (and are listed above), in the “Relevant Sources of Information” section of this paper. It is the Council’s view that the following observations will help determine the appropriateness and adequacy of information that has been identified at the time of prepare of the topic paper.

Policy Context

National Planning Performance Framework 4 (NPF4)

NPF4 identifies 2 principal policies that relate to zero waste matters within NPF4; Policy 2 – Climate mitigation and adaption; Policy 9 – Brownfield, vacant and derelict land and empty buildings. It is acknowledged that there may be an overlap with other NPF4 policies including Policy 18 – Infrastructure First; Policy 19 Heat and Cooling, and this will be addressed on their

own Topic Papers in due course, this paper focusses on Policy 12 Zero Waste.

NPF4 Policy 12 “Zero Waste” aims to reduce and reuse waste materials where possible through a circular economy model. If appropriate the Local Development Plan 3 should identify appropriate locations for additional waste management infrastructure for example recycling and re-use plants.

What is required of Local Development Plan 3(LDP3)?

In preparing the Evidence Report and LDP3, the Council must take the requirements of NPF4 into account.

This Topic Paper is to provide an overview on the subject of zero waste and will examine the following themes:

- Scottish Government legislation on zero waste
- Explore how South Ayrshire is working towards zero waste

The Topic Paper assesses the key drivers for change that will minimise waste, adapt, encourage, promote and facilitate development that is consistent with the waste hierarchy. The Topic Paper will review the current waste facilities provision within South Ayrshire in terms of the evidence.

The Evidence Gap section at the end of this Topic Paper will identify if there are gaps in the evidence or signpost to other Topic Papers.

Waste hierarchy

To understand what it is being asked of NPF4 it is important to understand what the waste hierarchy is and to understand what zero waste and the circular economy are and how they are related.

The principle of the waste hierarchy as set out in the European Waste Framework Directive is central to this vision. The hierarchy identifies the prevention of waste as the highest priority, followed by reuse, recycling, recovery of other value (e.g., energy), with disposal as the least desirable option.

Section 34 of the Environmental Protection Act 1990 (as amended) ([link](#)) makes it the duty of everyone (with the exception of occupiers of domestic properties as respects the household waste produced at those properties) who produces, keeps or manages controlled waste, or as a broker or dealer has control of such waste, to:

- Take all such measures available to that person as are reasonable in the circumstances to apply the waste hierarchy set out in Article 4(1) of the Waste Directive.
- Take all reasonable steps to ensure that the waste is managed in manner which promotes high quality recycling.

The waste hierarchy ranks waste management options according to the best environmental outcome taking into consideration the lifecycle of material. The lifecycle of a material is an

environmental assessment of all stages of a product’s life from raw material extraction through materials processing, manufacture, distribution, use, repair and maintenance, and disposal or recycling.

In its simple form, the waste hierarchy gives top priority to preventing waste. When waste is created, it gives priority to preparing it for reuse, then recycling, then other recovery and last of all, disposal (i.e. landfill).

Zero waste is a key component of national climate change goals because it aims towards responsible production, use and reuse of materials and goods where landfilling and burning are used only as the absolute last resort. This puts responsibility on producers, consumers and those who manage waste to develop systems and products and goods that can be used multiple times and when they lose their effective use can be disposed of in a way can be either recycled or recovered to not damage the environment.

With the exception of tyres, the waste hierarchy ranking applies, almost universally, as described in Figure 1. Further information on applying the waste hierarchy can be found here: [Applying the waste hierarchy: guidance](#)

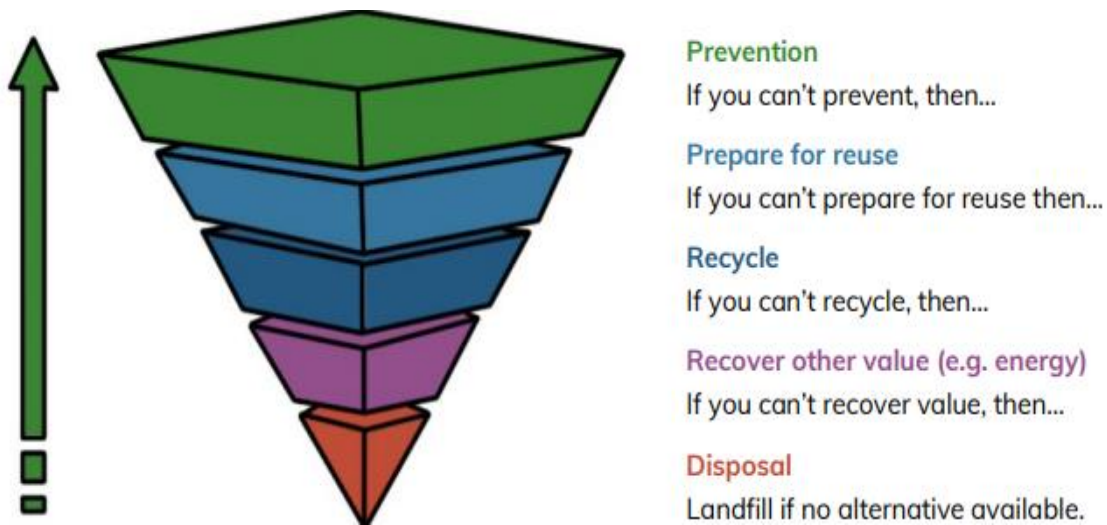


Figure 1

The economic system which this cycle of reuse, recycling and recovery of goods and materials aims to create is the circular economy. By building a system with the intent of reuse and longevity of goods and materials, this can help Scotland to address climate change.

National Waste and recycling targets

Zero Waste Plan 2010

The Scottish Government’s [Zero Waste Plan](#) (ZWP) provides the strategic direction for waste policy within Scotland. The ZWP vision states that the management of waste within Scotland

should be guided by the 'Waste hierarchy' whereby waste is sorted, reused, remanufactured, reduced, recycled, processed and value recovered (including energy) as we move away from our reliance on landfill.

The ZWP seeks to ensure that valuable resources are not disposed of in landfills, and that most waste is sorted into separate streams for reprocessing, leaving only limited amounts of waste to go to residual waste treatment, including energy from waste facilities. Repetition?

The Plan aims to encourage a zero waste Scotland that will:

- be where everyone – individuals, the public and business sectors - appreciates the environmental, social and economic value of resources, and how they can play their part in using resources efficiently;
- reduce Scotland's impact on the environment, both locally and globally, by minimising the unnecessary use of primary materials, reusing resources where possible, and recycling and recovering value from materials when they reach the end of their life;
- help to achieve the targets set in the Climate Change (Scotland) Act 2009 of reducing Scotland's greenhouse gas emissions by 42% by 2020 and 80% by 2050;
- contribute to sustainable economic growth by seizing the economic and environmental business and job opportunities of a zero-waste approach.

The Council's Waste Management Strategy [link](#) states that since 2010 South Ayrshire Council has been following the strategic objectives set out at a national level as part of Scotland's Zero Waste Plan and the Waste (Scotland) Regulations 2012.

Waste (Scotland) Regulations 2012

The [Waste \(Scotland\) Regulations](#) introduced changes for Scotland's waste for all organisations, whether private, public, or voluntary. The Regulations have been in force since January 2014 and address both domestic and commercial/industrial waste and state that businesses in Scotland should be recycling their plastic, metal, glass, paper and card and most food business will have to recycle food waste.

Progressive bans are to be introduced on the types of materials that may be disposed of in landfill to ensure that no resources with a value for reuse or recycling are sent to landfill by 2020 (this has been delayed to 1st January 2026).

Introduction of regulatory measures to support the delivery of landfill bans, by ensuring energy from waste treatment is only used to recover value from resources that cannot offer greater environmental and economic benefits through reuse or recycling.

South Ayrshire Council currently does not operate any landfill sites, and there are no commercially operated landfill sites within South Ayrshire according to the data from SEPA as of 2023. [link](#)

[Making Things Last: a circular economy strategy for Scotland \(2016\)](#)

This [Strategy](#) sets out our priorities for moving towards a more circular economy – where products and materials are kept in high value use for as long as possible. It builds on Scotland’s progress in the zero waste and resource efficiency agendas. A more circular economy will benefit:

- the environment – cutting waste and carbon emissions and reducing reliance on scarce resources;
- the economy – improving productivity, opening up new markets and improving resilience; and
- communities – more, lower cost options to access the goods we need with opportunities for social enterprise.

Within the Strategy, the following four areas are prioritised:-

- Food and drink, and the broader bio-economy
- Re-manufacture
- Construction and the built environment
- Energy Infrastructure

This strategy emphasises the need to understand how products and materials flow through the economy, and to improve the understanding of the environmental benefits of the circular economy.

These priorities will be accomplished by waste prevention and tackling how materials and products are designed, reused, repaired, remanufactured and recycled.

Stop, Sort, Burn, Bury? – Independent Review of the role of Incineration in the Waste Hierarchy in Scotland

The [Review](#), commenced in November, 2021 and the report was issued in April 2022.

The report (and the supporting documents) constitutes the Independent Review of the Role of Incineration in the Waste Hierarchy in Scotland. The conclusions drawn and subsequent recommendation are directed toward Scottish Government and local government and note that avoiding residual waste generation is vital, however, properly regulated incineration has an important role to play as part of the waste hierarchy in managing Scotland’s residual waste.

The review outlines 14 recommendations, which include:

Recommendation 4 – Effective immediately, the Scottish Government should ensure that no further planning permission (i.e. beyond that already in place) is granted to incineration infrastructure within the scope of the Review unless balanced by an equal or greater close of capacity.

At the time of writing this Topic Paper, there are no planning applications for incineration infrastructure within South Ayrshire.

Scotland’s Circular Economy and Waste Route Map to 2030 Consultation (2024)

This [consultation document](#) and the Waste Route Map provides an update on Scotland's climate change vision for 2045, and builds on the previous Climate Change Plan (2018).

Delivery of the Circular Economy and Waste Route Map is a key commitment set out in the Scottish Government Programme for Government 2023-2024 and is designed to drive and progress on three key fronts:

- Setting the strategic direction and laying foundations for how we will deliver our system-wide, comprehensive vision for Scotland's circular economy from now to 2030 – based on Responsible Production, Responsible Consumption, and Maximising Value from Waste and Energy.
- Setting out priority actions from now to 2030 to accelerate more sustainable use of our resources across the waste hierarchy. We acknowledge the progress we have made against our existing 2025 waste reduction and recycling targets, the areas we have fallen short, and the lessons we can learn as we set out the framework for what comes next.
- Reduce emissions through resources and waste

The consultation document (P.67) states that there is currently no detailed data or analysis of commercial waste at a national level, so therefore, it is unknown how much recyclable material is contained in residual commercial waste.

South Ayrshire Council Waste Management Strategy 2021 – 2031 [link](#) refers to several themes and policy objectives including Commercialisation and the Circular Economy which seeks to

- Maximise the economic benefit from our resources and the circular economy by ensuring waste is reused, recycled and composted.
- Maximise the economic benefit from the Council procurement process.
- Encourage innovation and investment on circular economy whilst exploring commercial opportunities.

A previous pilot project regarding green waste recycling was introduced by South Ayrshire Council as a means of generating financial efficiencies and reducing the environmental impact of disposing of the parks green waste. The success of the project has resulted in a range of quality products that can be used within the Council and sold to private sector. This has allowed for the Council to source most materials that have been used by various Council Services for planting and landscaping of Council parks, estates and golf courses and the reuse of the green waste is just one example of the circular economy operating within a local authority scenario.

Circular Economy (Scotland) Act 2024 ([link](#))

This requires Scottish Ministers to introduce measures to help develop a circular economy and includes

- Publishing a circular economy strategy

- Developing circular economy targets
- Reducing waste

The Circular Economy (Scotland) Act 2024 establishes a legislative framework to support Scotland's transition to a zero-waste, circular economy, requiring the Scottish Ministers to prepare a circular economy strategy and setting targets for waste reduction, recycling, and management.

This will require the Council to implement a framework as to how they will meet any statutory targets in relation to household waste collection.

South Ayrshire Council provides household waste information on Key Performance Indicators (KPI's) to monitor the effectiveness of the waste service. Scottish Environment Protection Agency (SEPA) publish these figures from all local authorities in Scotland. The most recent figures for South Ayrshire are listed below in Figure 2 which identifies the details of household waste generated, recycled, landfill and other routes.

National waste and recycling targets (Scottish Government)

The Scottish Government have set several targets for reducing waste and increasing recycling by 2025.

Target Year	Target
2025	Reduce waste arising by 15% against the 2011 baseline of 13.2 million tonnes.
	No more that 5% of all waste to go to landfill (Following a ban on biodegradable municipal waste to landfill from 2021).
	70% recycling/composting and preparing for re-use of all waste.
	To reduce all food waste arising in Scotland and work with industry to reduce on-farm losses of edible produce. Reduce food waste by 33% against 2013 levels. This target includes both avoidable and unavoidable food waste and focuses on prevention. It does not include food waste recycling. The Scottish Government Food Waste Reduction Action Plan (April 2019) sets out how Scotland can work to deliver the commitment to reduce food waste by 33% by 2025.
2020	Recycling and preparing for re-use of 50% by weight of household waste and similar.
	60% recycling/composting and preparing for re-use of waste from households.
	70% recycling and re-use of construction and demolition waste.
2017	Reduce waste arising by 7% against the 2011 baseline of 13.2 million tonnes.

The Scottish Government also aim to match the European Union ambition for all plastic packaging to be economically recyclable.

Figure 2 below for 2023 indicates that South Ayrshire Council had achieved the target of less than 5% of waste generated going to land fill and that the household recycling rate for South Ayrshire was 54.7%.

SEPA Waste Data

SEPA is responsible for reporting national waste statistics to the Scottish Government and European Union, among others ([SEPA Waste Data](#)). As regulator, SEPA also has a duty to assess whether waste management sites comply with the conditions of their licence or permit.

The details and figures for South Ayrshire are identified below in Figure 2.

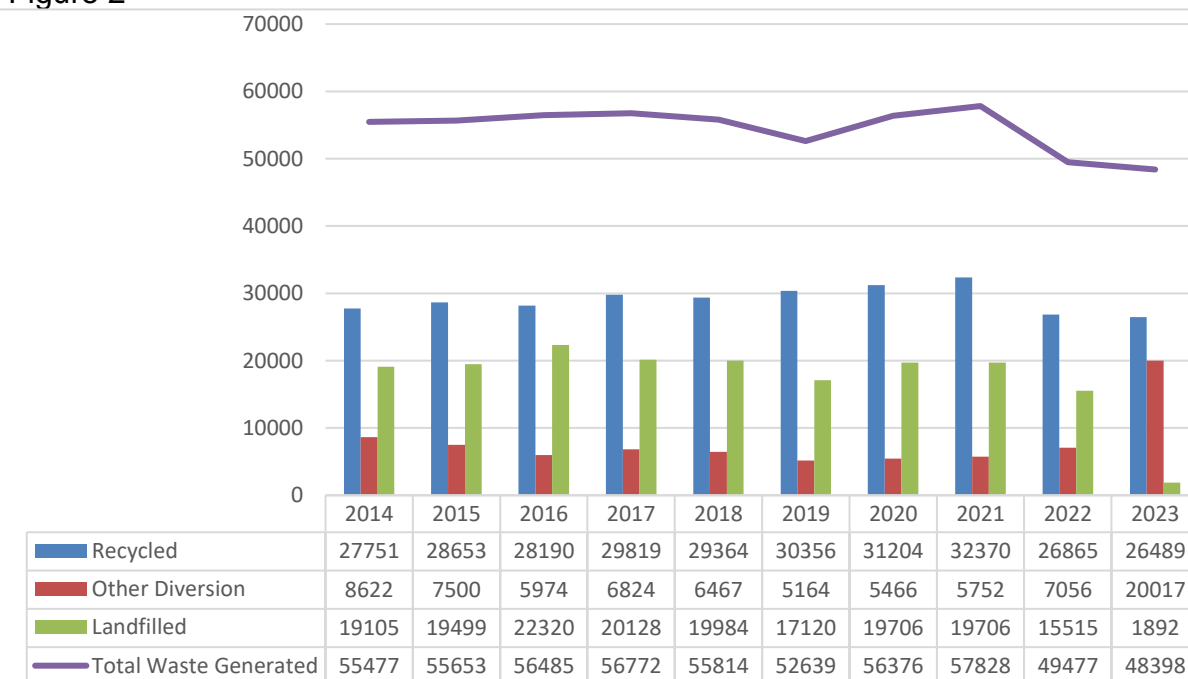
SEPA is responsible for reporting national waste statistics to the Scottish Government.

[Waste Data](#) for SAC from SEPA, including:-

- Household waste
- Commercial and industrial waste
- Recyclate quality
- Waste Sites and capacity

The data available for South Ayrshire indicates that the target for 60% recycling and/or composting and preparing for re-use of waste from households by 2020 was not achieved and this was as a result of how SEPA calculated household recycling. The information on the waste collection is detailed further in the tables below in Figure 2. There are no figures available as yet for 2024 at the time of preparing this Topic Paper.

Figure 2



Household Waste management (tonnes) for South Ayrshire
South Ayrshire Household Waste Generation - [link](#)

The figures for 2023 indicate that the household recycling rate for South Ayrshire was 54.7%. It is noted from the figures that SAC is getting closer to the 60% figure set by the Scottish Government for recycling, indicating that the Waste Hierarchy is being used by South Ayrshire in order to work towards recycling targets set by the Scottish Government.

South Ayrshire – Details of Business Waste (tonnes) [link](#)

The chart below indicates the levels of business waste generated within South Ayrshire. The figures for business waste are collated by SEPA and not South Ayrshire Council and indicate that business waste within South Ayrshire has fluctuated and there is no current data for 2022, 2023 or 2024.

Authority Area	Year	Generated (tonnes)
South Ayrshire	2011	52,900
	2012	156,564
	2013	129,832
	2014	35,193
	2015	16,251
	2016	20,284
	2017	20,147
	2018	9,299
	2019	~
	2020	~
	2021	21,984

There is no data for 2019 and 2020 for business waste as a result of data issues with SEPA.

The data trends suggest that meeting Scotland's 15% waste reduction target will largely depend on the management of construction and demolition waste (Scottish Government Technical Annex: Delivering Scotland's Circular Economy – Route Map to 2025 and beyond (May 2022) page 7).

South Ayrshire Waste Generated and Managed

South Ayrshire Council is required to comply with a wide range of waste and recycling legislation including the Zero Waste Plan. SAC have adopted a Household Recycling Charter ([link](#)) and code of practice ([link](#)) that has been adopted by local government in Scotland. The charter and the code of practice has been agreed by the Scottish Government and CoSLA to bring more consistency to recycling services and sets out the basis for the provision of household recycling services.

Just as it was important to understand existing facilities and capacity, it is also important to understand what is being processed and in what volumes. Tracking how these values change overtime can help understand how well the Council is coming to the set targets in comparison to other local authorities.

Waste Management Facilities within South Ayrshire

There are currently four household waste recycling centre facilities in South Ayrshire in Ayr, Troon, Maybole and Girvan. These sites accept household waste by way of a booking system and commercial businesses can use the facilities to dispose of their waste at a charge.

The Council has a statutory duty under the Environmental Protection Act 1990 to arrange for the collection and disposal of household waste and, where requested, to arrange for the collection

and disposal of commercial and industrial waste.

South Ayrshire household waste collection figures going back to 2014 are listed in Figure 2 above.

For South Ayrshire, residual household waste is collected and transported to an energy recovery facility outwith South Ayrshire (Grangemouth) which allows for the residual waste to be processed through controlled combustion to generate electricity, heat and other resources and reduce the need for landfill.

- Food waste is currently collected and managed at the Walker Road transfer station in Ayr before being transferred to a site in Glasgow to a contractor where it is converted into two products: Biogas and Biofertilizer.
- Garden waste is transported to a site at Wheatpark Road, Ayr to be recycled/processed into compost and other sustainable landscaping materials by a contractor.
- Glass waste is transported outwith South Ayrshire to England for recycling.
- Plastic/metal/cartons is recycled locally by a contractor.
- Paper/card is transferred outwith South Ayrshire to Glasgow for recycling.

South Ayrshire Council's Waste Management Section is responsible for South Ayrshire's household waste and recycling collections and the Scottish Government sets Key Performance Indicators (KPIs) to monitor the effectiveness of the waste services within Scotland's Councils and these are as follows:

- 60% recycling and/or composting and preparing re-use of waste from households by 2020
- No more than 5% of all waste to go to landfill by 2025
- Overall reduction in household waste generation year on year
- Net Zero greenhouse gas emission by 2045 (Climate Change (Emissions Reduction Targets)(Scotland) Act 2019)
- Figures for South Ayrshire indicate that the rate of recycling increasing by 2,601 tonnes (7.7%) between 2014 and 2018 to 57.7%
- Landfill waste has decreased by 1,985 tonnes (1.9%) in 2019 compared to 2014
- Waste generation has decreased by 3,846 tonnes since 2016

Infrastructure and Development

The Council's Waste Strategy 2021-2031 Progress Report [link](#) states that the Waste Management Service works in partnership with the Planning Service to forward plan operational requirements for new developments.

There are early proposals to extend the Household Waste Recycling Centre and Waste Transfer

Station at Old Farm Road, Ayr to provide an extension to the facility and provide additional external bays for waste transfer from the Walker Road Depot. Build an extension to our existing Waste Transfer Station at Heathfield, Ayr exploring the possibility of a composting facility within the area.

In terms of schools, the Council is looking at whether there may be a requirement for some schools to provide take back facilities for plastic bottles cans etc. but that has not been confirmed yet.

The Council Waste Management Section have advised that there will be no requirement for any new infrastructure to support the extended producer responsibility regulations.

Investment in South Ayrshire

As a result of additional funding, South Ayrshire Council introduced new recycle-on-the-go bins that match the colour of bin and type of materials collected which householders use in their kerbside service. The new bins encourage householders to expand their home recycling habits to when they're out and about. ([link](#)).

This has been piloted in six community parks with the main towns of South Ayrshire.

This has significantly increased the recycling of litter bins within public areas as previously all litter collected from public areas was considered as residual waste and therefore not recycled.

South Ayrshire Council Waste Management Strategy 2021 – 2031

The purpose of the [Waste Management Strategy](#) is to:

- Set policies and actions to meet the requirements as set out in the Environmental Protection Act (1990) and Scotland's Zero Waste Plan 2010 and align to the national Circular Economy Strategy "Making Things Last" (February 2016).
- Establish how to meet the ban on biodegradable waste to landfill in January 2025 as set out in the Waste (Scotland) Regulations 2012 (deadline originally set by the Scottish Government as January 2021 but subsequently amended by the Waste (Miscellaneous Amendments) (Scotland) Regulations 2020).
- Build on the success of the Household Recycling Charter compliant service.
- Meet the objectives set out in the Climate Change (Scotland) Act 2009 and the subsequent 2019/20 programme for government.

A number of actions are aligned to the Strategy and include the following:

- As of 1st June 2022, South Ayrshire establishments are unable to purchase single use plastics.
- South Ayrshire Council has liaised with a number of Re-use organisations to work with them in order to highlight to residents of South Ayrshire that there are options to re-use furniture and other items rather than send them to landfill.

A review of the actions for the Waste Management Strategy is undertaken on an annual basis.

South Ayrshire Council has created a wide range of strategic objectives & sustainable development outcomes that link back to International & National objectives through the “South Ayrshire Council Sustainable Development and Climate Change Strategy” [link](#).

The Council’s Waste Management Strategy covers the period prior to the time frame for the next LDP.

Scottish Government – Food Waste Reduction: Action Plan

In terms of food waste, South Ayrshire Council continue to work with Zero Waste Scotland on a campaign to increase presentation of segregated food waste and this activity will continue through the lifetime of the SAC Waste Management Strategy 2021 – 2031.

The Food Waste Action Plan (2019) looks at recycling food waste in order to stop food waste going to landfill and support the continued reduction in emissions. In 2021, Scotland introduced a ban on the landfilling of biodegradable municipal waste.

Within South Ayrshire, food waste is currently collected and managed at the Walker Road transfer station in Ayr before being transferred to a site in Glasgow to a contractor where it is converted into two products.

Biogas which is used to produce green energy. It is carbon neutral, because the CO₂ released from biomass when it is digested is reabsorbed by plants grown to replace it.

Bio-fertiliser which is used on farmland. The bio-fertiliser contains Nitrogen, Phosphates and Potash and is used to replace expensive mineral fertilisers. The bio-fertiliser also contributes to the organic matter content of the soil, enhancing biological activity, availability of nutrients and water retention. Waste analysis has shown that there is still a substantial amount of food in the residual waste stream.

The process of energy creation from waste is discussed in detail within the Topic Paper NPF4 Policy: Energy.

Power from waste

Residual waste – waste which cannot be reused, recycled, or recovered – forms the lowest aspect of the waste hierarchy and is normally destined for landfill.

Energy from waste could contribute to 31% of Scotland’s renewable heat target and 4.3% of renewable electricity target under the Climate Change (Scotland) Act 2009. Topic Paper for NPF4 Policy 11 - Energy will look at this in more detail.

Anaerobic digestion is a natural but accelerated process in which micro-organisms break down organic matter such as food waste in sealed vessels in the absence of oxygen. This generates a biogas which can be used directly in engines, in the same way as natural gas, or as vehicle fuel.

Anaerobic digestion plants are becoming more numerous in Scotland, enabling us to get further use out of food waste and increasing our resource efficiency.

Planning Permission for Anaerobic digestion infrastructure was approved in 2023 at Girvan Distillery Grangestone Industrial Estate Girvan.

Currently food waste in South Ayrshire is transferred to a site in Glasgow to a contractor where it is converted into two products: Biogas and Biofertilizer, as detailed previously within the Topic Paper.

This action will lead to no food waste being directed to landfill given that the ban on biodegradable waste going to landfill (2021).

Neighbouring Local Authorities

East Ayrshire Council (EAC) currently recycles 53,000 tonnes of household waste and of this figure 19,000 is recycled and a further 5,000 tonnes is diverted by way of a pre-treatment. This meant that 34,000 tonnes was sent to landfill; 27,000 tonnes of which came from household general waste bins that likely contained recyclable waste such as plastics or food waste.

EAC do not currently have local energy from waste plant capable of processing waste and is working with other local authorities and the private sector to find a cost-effective solution which complies with legislation and zero carbon targets. EAC are actively encouraging greater levels of recycling. ([link](#))

North Ayrshire Council is part of a group of five local authorities which have come together to help transform how household waste is managed. The group consists of:

- East Renfrewshire Council
- North Lanarkshire Council
- Renfrewshire Council
- East Dunbartonshire Council
- North Ayrshire Council

This is known as the Clyde Valley Project. Up to 90,000 tonnes of residual waste processed each year, diverting non-recyclable waste from landfill and instead generating low carbon energy.

The non-recyclable waste is sent for energy recovery and generates enough electricity to power the equivalent of around 32,000 homes, on average, each year. ([link](#))

Future Actions – Scottish Government

Extended Producer Responsibility (Zero Waste Scotland October 2023)

Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR) [link](#) stands as a pivotal waste policy to be implemented in Scotland from April 2025. Under EPR, producers bear the financial burden for the packaging waste they generate from production to disposal, with the goal of encouraging the adoption of more sustainable materials. Local Authorities will be obligated to report on the packaging they

manage and will receive compensation through the scheme. In addition, Zero Waste Scotland is exploring mattress EPR with the National Bed Federation, commissioned research to explore options to improve the circularity of waste tyres and were part of initial discussions on fishing gear EPR to align with Single Use Plastics Directive requirements pre-EU Exit.

At its most basic, EPR can be used to ensure that producers pay the costs of dealing with their products when they become waste, but it can also drive changes to products by ensuring that the environmental impact of design choices is reflected in the cost a producer is liable for. Zero Waste Scotland is currently supporting the Scottish Government in its work with the UK government to support a review of our extended producer responsibility systems.

South Ayrshire Council currently benefits from this scheme by way of compensation as a result of reporting and managing of packaging waste.

Scottish Government: Managing Waste – Deposit Return Scheme

The Scottish Government are committed to introducing a [Deposit Return Scheme](#) for single-use drinks containers in Scotland. This will help increase recycling, reduce litter, and meet our climate change targets. Originally scheduled to launch in July 2022, the implementation of DRS has been postponed and will be aligned across the UK and the four nations have agreed a revised implementation timeline until 2027.

The Deposit and Return Scheme (DRS) for Scotland Regulations 2020, were passed by the Scottish Parliament in May 2020. Under these regulations, consumers are required to pay a deposit of 20p upon purchasing a beverage contained in a single-use PET plastic, steel and aluminium, or glass container. This deposit is refundable upon the return of the empty container to any of the numerous return points established across the country. Retailers are mandated by law to accept returned empty drink containers for recycling purposes, ensuring the effective functioning of the scheme.

The Deposit Return Scheme (DRS) will introduce a new network of recycling points and reverse vending machines aimed at facilitating the return of deposits.

As a result of the (DRS) two planning applications were submitted for the erection of reverse vending machines at two local supermarkets within South Ayrshire.

Planning Application Reference	Location	Proposal	Decision
20/01060/APP	135 -147 Ayr Road Prestwick	Erection of reverse vending machine unit for recycling purposes	Permitted 26.02.2021 –
21/00744/APP	33 Main Street Ayr	Erection of reverse vending machine unit for recycling purposes and associated works	Permitted 26.08.2021 –

South Ayrshire Council currently has no system in place in respect of the DRS and will review

their collection systems when the Scottish and UK Governments rollout the DRS scheme which is potentially scheduled for October, 2027.

SOUTH AYRSHIRE COUNCIL OPINION ON ADEQUACY OF EVIDENCE

Known Evidence Gaps

The local development plan covers a ten-year period. This means that it is beyond the time period of the Council's waste management strategy and the circular economy and waste route map. Waste Management has been evolving rapidly over the last few years due to legislative requirements and the changing policy landscape in waste (such as the deposit return scheme) introduces uncertainties in the amount and type of waste the Council will manage.

There are unknown effects on the preference in National Planning Framework 4 towards reusing and retrofitting existing buildings (to avoid the loss of embodied carbon) on construction and demolition waste. Less construction and demolition waste would possibly mean an increased use of raw materials being used for aggregate and other building materials. The expansion of renewable energy technologies (wind turbines, solar panels, and batteries) will have an impact on waste streams when these technologies are decommissioned. It is not known if there is sufficient capacity to deal with decommissioning of these technologies when their use is expanded.

The expansion of renewable energy technologies (wind turbines, solar panels, and batteries) will have an impact on waste streams when these technologies are decommissioned. It is not known if there is sufficient capacities to deal with decommissioning of these technologies when their use is expanded.

NPF4 Policy 12 seeks to support development proposals that “use materials with the lowest forms of embodied emissions, such as recycled and natural construction materials”. From the evidence gathered, there is no information available

The Local Development Plan will also need to reflect the national waste management plan, national waste and recycling targets, circular economy strategy for Scotland, the circular economy and waste route map to 2030 consultation, and the independent review of incineration within the waste hierarchy.

Is there a requirement to prepare a specific Evidence Report Topic Paper on Zero Waste?

Based on the evidence available (including evidence to be obtained through consultation), referenced and considered above, South Ayrshire Council does not expect that the theme of “Zero Waste” will be a separate specific topic paper in the Evidence Report.

NPF4 Policy 12 Zero Waste supports the capture, distribution or use of gases captured from landfill sites or waste treatment plants. There are opportunities in respect of increasing contributions from hydro energy to the energy mix, in line with national aims. This will be investigated in the Topic Paper – Energy.

The LDP3 will be informed by Scottish Government's Circular Economy Strategy (2016) and waste route map to 2030 consultation with the priority areas identified as food and drink, remanufacture, construction and the built environment and energy infrastructure. The LDP will also need to reflect the National Waste Management Plan, National Waste and Recycling targets as well as the independent review of incineration within the waste hierarchy.

Is LDP3 likely to deviate from the provision of NPF Policy 12 Zero Waste?

At this point in time, based on the evidence available (including evidence to be obtained through consultation), referenced and considered above, South Ayrshire Council does not anticipate that LDP3 will require deviation from the provisions of the policies of NPF4 on "zero waste" matters.

Is there enough information on Zero Waste to facilitate the preparation of relevant associated Evidence Report(s)?

Subject to consultation (and additional data gathering detailed above), South Ayrshire Council considers that the evidence and information available about "Zero Waste" will be satisfactory for the preparation of the following Evidence Report topic paper(s) listed in [section 15\(5\)](#) of the 1997 Act, as amended.

- The principal purposes for which land is used
- The infrastructure of the district (including communications, transport and drainage systems, systems for the supply of water and energy and health care education facilities)
- How that infrastructure is used

STAKEHOLDERS AND CONSULTEES, THE OPINIONS OF WHOM WILL BE SPECIFICALLY SOUGHT

SAC Neighbourhood Services Waste Management
Zero Waste Scotland
Waste management operators and businesses within South Ayrshire
Community Councils

South Ayrshire Council is particularly interested to hear opinion as to whether this is an appropriate list of consultees on the issue of "Zero Waste" or of others should be added, together with any suggested or preferred methods of consultation.

SUBMIT YOUR COMMENTS ONLINE

[HERE](#)

