
ARGYLL AND BUTE COUNCIL

**OBAN, LORN AND THE ISLES
AREA COMMITTEE**

**ROADS AND INFRASTRUCTURE
SERVICES**

13 SEPTEMBER 2023

RECYCLING AND RECOVERY PERFORMANCE

1.0 EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

1.1 Argyll and Bute Council is both a waste collection and waste disposal authority.

1.2 Waste disposal is dealt with by 3 separate models across the council as follows:

ARGYLL AND BUTE COUNCIL

**OBAN, LORN AND THE ISLES
AREA COMMITTEE**

**ROADS AND INFRASTRUCTURE
SERVICES**

13

The overall combined recycled, composted and recovery rate has increased from 49.3% in 2021 to 51.8% in 2022. This is mainly due to the reasons described in the first two bullet points above.

The recovery in the Waste PPP area is carried out by Renewi through residual waste mechanical biological treatment plants based at their waste facilities near Oban, Dunoon and Lochgilphead. In late 2022 Renewi also sent circa 1,500 tonnes of residual waste to an EfW plant in the central belt. Waste sent to EfW is also classed as recovery.

The recovery in the Helensburgh and Lomond area was carried out by Barr Environmental at their Auchencarroch waste facility, near Alexandria. As described, Barr stopped operating their mixed residual waste treatment

- 4.5 The landfill ban planned for 2021 was subsequently delayed by The Scottish Government until the end of 2025. This delay was welcomed by the Council and gives more time for alternative solutions and funding to be sought. An update report on the Waste PPP/Landfill Ban is likely to be included in the August 2023 Environment, Development and Infrastructure Committee.

Deposit Return Scheme

- 4.6 The Scottish Government in 2019 set out a planned implementation date of April 2021 for a national deposit return scheme (DRS) for drinks containers including PET plastic drinks bottles, drinks cans and glass bottles. During the Covid-19 outbreak the implementation date was delayed by The Scottish Government until July 2022 and then subsequently until August 2023. Circularity Scotland were subsequently appointed by The Scottish Government to administer and operate the scheme throughout Scotland. In June 2023, The Scottish Government decided to abandon the Scotland wide scheme after the UK Government refused to allow glass drinks bottles to be part of the Scheme. Circularity Scotland have subsequently been disbanded.
- 4.7 A UK wide DRS scheme is expected in October 2025 and may result in an overall increase in recycling including other environmental benefits e.g. current non-recyclers may use the scheme plus there should be less littering of such items. The scheme may however, see a slight reduction in Council recycling performance if plastic drinks bottles and cans are no longer handled by Council recycling collections albeit they should still be recycled in future via the UK wide DRS scheme.

Scottish Government Circular Economy Bill

- 4.8 During the summer of 2023, The Scottish Government published its Circular Economy Bill. Further details on these Scottish Government proposals will be reported at future ED&I Committees as they progress. Some of the main proposals which relate to local authorities recycling are as follows:

A Duty of Care on households regarding their waste and recycling with new powers given to local authorities for the issuing of fixed penalties to enforce this;

Local Authorities will be required to comply with a statutory code of practice on recycling;

The Scottish Government expect to set mandatory recycling targets on Local Authorities from 2030.

5.0 CONCLUSION

- 5.1 Steady progress was made on recycling and composting performance during 2022. Recovery performance also improved in 2022 mainly due to an EfW trial carried out by Renewi from the PPP area. National Policy drivers such as the ban

on biodegradable municipal waste to landfill, the deposit return scheme and the circular economy bill proposals will have significant implications for future recycling, composting and recovery performance.

6.0 IMPLICATIONS

- | | | |
|-----|------------|---|
| 6.1 | Policy | National policies and regulations will likely impact on future recycling, composting and recovery performance. The council's policy is to reduce landfill. |
| 6.2 | Financial | The 2025 ban on biodegradable waste to landfill will have financial implications. An update report will be included in the August 2023 Environment, Development and Infrastructure Committee. |
| 6.3 | Legal | The landfill ban (delayed until 31 st December 2025) is a legal requirement under the Waste (Scotland) Regulations 2012. Other legal requirements may likely result following The Scottish Government Circular Economy Bill proposals. |
| 6.4 | HR | None |
| 6.5 | Equalities | None |
| 6.6 | Risk | |