

REPORT TO: CLIMATE, NET ZERO AND ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE - 17 NOVEMBER 2025

REPORT ON: WASTE AND RECYCLING STRATEGY & ACTION PLAN

REPORT BY: EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF NEIGHBOURHOOD SERVICES

REPORT NO: 324-2025

1.0 PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 1.1 This report provides an update on the progress of the Waste and Recycling Strategy 2020-2025 alongside the action plan that formed an integral part of the strategy.
- 1.2 The report further seeks approval to implement the updated Waste and Recycling Strategy Action Plan "Towards a Waste Free Dundee 2026-2030" to improve Dundee's recycling performance & promote sustainable waste management practices within the City.

2.0 RECOMMENDATIONS

- 2.1 It is recommended that the Committee note the contents of this report and approves the implementation of the updated Waste and Recycling Strategy Action Plan as detailed in the attached appendices.

3.0 FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

- 3.1 There are no direct additional financial implications associated with the approval of this report.

4.0 BACKGROUND

- 4.1 The Council approved the original Waste and Recycling Strategy and Action Plan (minute of meeting of the Neighbourhood Services committee on 18 November 2019, Article V, (report 372-2019 refers) and this update is a further evolution of that plan.
- 4.2 The 2020-2025 Waste Strategy and Action Plan set out a series of targeted actions aimed at enhancing the Council's recycling and waste management performance. To inform the development of an updated waste strategy and action plan, a review process was conducted. This assessment evaluated the effectiveness of the initiatives implemented under the current strategy, measuring their impact on key performance areas. The review provided a foundation for the revised plan, ensuring that the updated strategy builds on existing successes and addresses areas requiring further improvement.
- 4.3 The effectiveness of the current strategy was impacted by Covid-related restrictions, which disrupted recycling and waste management nationally and locally, as well as creating changes in household behaviour beyond the duration of the pandemic. Additionally, several anticipated national policy changes did not occur due to policy delays or cancellations from the Scottish Government.
- 4.4 In terms of benchmarking and verified recycling performance measurement, the Council continued to compare waste related performance with the eight Authorities within the Local Government Benchmarking Framework (LGBF) family group. Dundee ranked 6th for "% total domestic waste arising that is recycled", achieving 36.6% in 2023 against a group average of 40.4% and a Scottish average of 43.5%.

- 4.5 The household recycling rate has remained static, currently 36.6% for 2023, the Council has further improved overall waste diversion and reduction in landfill with the commissioning of the residual waste treatment facility in January 2022. This has resulted in a reduction in landfill of household waste to circa 1% per annum.
- 4.6 Although currently unverified by the Scottish Environment Protection Agency, the household recycling rate for 2024 is predicted to be 35.1% and this is reflected in the updated Waste Strategy and Action Plan.
- 4.7 Dundee City Council has progressed with a number of policy changes since the 2020 - 2025 Strategy was adopted including the implementation of an additional general waste bin policy, side waste and contamination policy.
- 4.8 The local Environmental Audit and Management System (LEAMS) surveys which informs the local government benchmarking indicator for litter has indicated a drop in the street cleanliness rating during the lifetime of the strategy and action plan and is reported at 86.4% for 2023/24 against a target of 94%. This continues to be addressed with targeted resources allocated to critical areas with the aim of progressively improving this score in the future.

5.0 DUNDEE CITY COUNCIL'S REVISED WASTE STRATEGY

- 5.1 Dundee City Council has developed an updated five-year waste strategy and action plan, which sets out a clear plan for the management of the city's waste resources taking into account the outcomes from the previous strategy. The updated strategy prioritises increasing recycling rates, reducing the volume of waste sent for disposal, and fostering long-term behavioural change. The overarching goal is to establish a sustainable system for waste management that will serve Dundee well into the future.
- 5.2 Central to the strategy is the active engagement of householders, businesses, and visitors. By providing these groups with the necessary tools and support, the Council aims to encourage and enable positive changes in waste-related behaviours and will work in unison with the Council's Take Pride in Your City initiative. This collaborative approach is intended to empower all stakeholders to participate actively in the city's drive towards more sustainable waste management practices.
- 5.3 The updated strategy outlines Dundee's waste and recycling services, resources, and relevant policy drivers. It also considers upcoming legislative changes and national policies that may affect Dundee in the future. In line with other authorities, the Council will be required to review its collection systems as part of the ongoing Routemap and Waste Charter code of practice co-design process and may be required make changes which will require wider consultation with residents.
- 5.4 The strategy identifies Dundee's main waste management challenges: these continue to be high recycling bin contamination, low recycling participation from flat properties, and a widespread reliance on general waste bins.
- 5.5 The strategy document includes fly tipping, litter, and street cleanliness, with objectives aligned to those of the Take Pride action plan. This forms a coordinated approach to addressing related waste management issues in the city.
- 5.6 The strategy provides a detailed framework for the management and delivery of waste and recycling services to Dundee citizens over the next five years with an aim to reduce waste arisings and increase recycling performance to bring this in-line with other Authorities within the LGBF family group.
- 5.7 The strategy document and action plan are informed by recognised industry best practices and lessons learned from the previous strategy, as well as insights from the LGBF family group, which functions under a comparable policy framework and has demonstrated improvements in

recycling rates. Dundee's proposed methodology seeks to foster behavioural change by offering supportive resources, rather than immediately introducing reduced-capacity or less frequent general waste collections.

6.0 ACTION PLAN

- 6.1 In order to deliver action in line with the wider Council objectives, the waste strategy actions are focused around the four overarching aims which are identified within the strategy:
- Policy & Strategy Implementation;
 - Communication and Stakeholder Management;
 - Behavioural Change;
 - Performance Improvements.
- 6.2 The updated five-year strategy action plan outlines 19 actions, many of which are linked to existing initiatives in the Take Pride action plan, Council Plan, and the Climate Action Plan.
- 6.3 These actions aim to achieve measurable results within the five-year strategy period by updating Dundee's current waste management policies and practices to better support future objectives. The actions address the need for changes in citizen behaviour, encouraged by the council, as well as adjustments in how the council manages behaviours that do not align with Dundee's goals for sustainable waste management.
- 6.4 Alongside the action plan, the Council is currently undertaking a review of waste and recycling operations to optimise participation in recycling initiatives and to foster behavioural change among residents. These efforts aim to ensure that services are delivered efficiently and cost-effectively.

7.0 POLICY IMPLICATIONS

- 7.1 This report has been subject to an Integrated Impact Assessment to identify impacts on Equality & Diversity, Fairness & Poverty, Environment and Corporate Risk. An impact, positive or negative, on one or more of these issues was identified. An appropriate senior manager has checked and agreed with this assessment. A copy of the Integrated Impact Assessment showing the impacts and accompanying benefits of / mitigating factors for them is included as an Appendix to this report.

8.0 CONSULTATIONS

- 8.1 The Council Management Team have been consulted in the preparation of this report and agree with its contents.

9.0 BACKGROUND PAPERS

- 9.1 None.

Tony Boyle
Executive Director of Neighbourhood Services

Catherine Conroy
Interim Head of Environment

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Waste & Recycling Strategy

Action Plan

2026 – 2030

A wide-angle, aerial photograph of the city of Dundee, Scotland. The foreground is dominated by a large, green, open park with several mature trees. Beyond the park, the city's urban sprawl is visible, featuring a mix of residential houses, larger apartment complexes, and industrial buildings. In the distance, hills and mountains are visible under a clear sky.

Towards a Waste Free Dundee

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“ we must
care for our
environment



Foreword

We have made a great amount of progress however it's important we redouble our efforts as a city.

Dundee has a proud history and serves as a bright, vibrant and ambitious place with tremendous potential. We are right to champion the city's innovative spirit and rich traditions.

The city is often recognised as one of the best places in Scotland to live, visit, work and study.

To keep Dundee thriving into the future, we must care for our environment. We can all play a part in making Dundee a cleaner, greener, and more sustainable city.

As part of our current strategy, we have continued to build on our commitment to improve our household and commercial waste services as well as enhance our streetscapes, but we can't stop here.

We all have a responsibility to do more. That means:

- Creating less waste in our daily lives;
- Recycling everything we can;
- Using the correct bins;
- Maintaining our local environmental quality;
- Understanding how our actions impact Dundee's future.

This updated strategy sets out our plan for the next five years and focuses on:

- Increasing recycling rates to meet national targets;
- Reducing the total volume of waste we produce;
- Disposing of unavoidable waste in a responsible, sustainable way;
- Creating and maintaining cleaner and greener streetscapes.

We have made a great amount of progress however it's important we redouble our efforts as a city. I am confident that Dundee can lead the way in being environmentally responsible.

By working together, we can protect and enhance Dundee for today and the future.

Councillor Heather Anderson

Convenor Climate Change, Net Zero and Environment



Introduction & Background

Dundee City Council, formerly Dundee District Council, first introduced recycling services to the city in 1989, allowing residents to recycle paper, card and garden waste.

Waste disposal in Dundee also progressed from landfill to simple incineration before finally to Energy from Waste in the late 1990's. This purpose-built facility, created in the eastern edge of the city, fed the national grid with electricity created from the incineration of Dundee's general waste. This early adoption of both recycling and alternative forms of waste disposal led Dundee to having the lowest level of landfill for any Scottish mainland authority during the last 30 years.

Waste strategy in Dundee was further developed through the creation of the National Waste Strategy for Scotland in 1999, followed by the Tayside Area Waste Plans. From 2010 onwards the strategic direction for the council was led by national policy and legislation such as the Zero Waste Plan, the Waste (Scotland) Regulations 2012, Making Things Last: a circular economy strategy for Scotland 2016 and the Charter for Household Recycling in Scotland 2016.

Since the publication of the 2020-2025 Waste Strategy and Action Plan there have been further Scottish Government policy developments that will directly affect the Council's obligations, notably the publication and adoption of the Circular Economy (Scotland) Act 2024 which brings forward a number of powers in relation to waste policy and the Producer Responsibility Obligations (Packaging and Packaging Waste) Regulations 2024 which came into force on 1st April 2025.

This revised strategy will provide an update on the actions taken to implement national policies and meet our statutory requirements in Dundee, setting out the strategic direction for the Council for the next five years. The Strategy will provide a clear action plan to make certain that waste, recycling and local environmental quality are managed more efficiently and effectively, ensuring that every recycling and re-use opportunity is taken over the next five years to work towards the national recycling and re-use targets and once again becoming "Scotland's Recycling City".



Development Process

The update of this Waste and Recycling Strategy began with a review of the 2020-2025 Waste Strategy and Action Plans for Dundee.

A review of existing actions and assessment of their impacts on the provision of waste management, recycling and re-use was carried out alongside an evaluation of changes to the policy framework and legislation in Scotland.

Our Strategy Team worked together to co-ordinate the review process. The objectives of this review were to;

- Determine the reasons, scope and terms of reference of the Strategy and Action Plan
- Agree an updated action plan for the next five years
- Provide an evaluation of Dundee's current strategic approach to managing waste and recycling
- Compare and analyse using the Local Government Benchmarking Framework (LGBF) to examine best practices from other local authorities with similar profiles to Dundee.

The specific terms of reference were identified as follows:

- Review the existing waste policies and service provision within Dundee
- Highlight significant progress achieved to date and provide details of the relevant legislative and policy context
- Determine the scope to make sure that all strategic and operational aspects of waste management and local environmental quality improvements are fully considered
- Identify new and emerging legal and policy issues likely to impact on Dundee's future obligations to manage waste and street cleansing
- Conduct forward-looking research and analysis to anticipate and prepare for emerging challenges
- Define a clear action plan for the next five years which allows further progress to be made towards a waste and litter free Dundee
- Link in with other DCC initiatives such as the Take Pride in your City campaign.

Dundee's Waste Strategy

Following the publication and implementation of the 2020-2025 Waste Strategy and Action Plan, the Council conducted a review of a number of policies and related activities to drive forward the change required to achieve the goals and objective of the strategy.

Key to the strategy and actions were the requirements to:

- Increase the volume of items that could be reused, refurbished or repaired
- Increase recycling of key material streams such as food waste, textiles and plastics that have a high carbon impact
- Focus on the quality, quantity and type of materials being targeted for collection
- Ensure that the Council's Energy from Waste facility only deals with waste materials that are non-recyclable or require final disposal by incineration
- Continue to focus on waste reduction measures and consumer behaviour
- Enhance the engagement and education of the public in relation to the management of waste and recycling while keeping our environment litter free
- Raise awareness of public behaviours and increase the understanding of how this impacts the wider community
- Ensure that the waste and recycling services are accessible, cost effective and robust
- No matter where you live you have access to the same recycling opportunities
- Ensure that litter and the quality of our local environment is at the forefront of all our public engagement
- Remain prepared and resilient for future policy changes

Lessons Learned (2020–2025)

Since the launch of Dundee's Waste Strategy and Action Plan in 2020, the Council has undertaken a review of policies and practices to accelerate progress toward its environmental goals. The strategy focused on reducing waste, increasing recycling, and improving public engagement.

Key Achievements (2020-2025)

- Introduction of key local policies such as the No Side Waste, Contamination & Multiple Bin policies
- Increased public awareness and engagement through the introduction of the Dundee MyBins App
- Strengthened community understanding of waste impacts and the importance of recycling, while promoting litter-free environments and raise awareness of local environmental quality through the Take Pride Campaign
- Successful bids under the Recycling Infrastructure Fund (RIF) to improve and maximize existing infrastructure for greater recycling and reuse.
- Cross sector collaboration and best practice through the Waste Partnership and commissioning of the Baldovie EfW Facility
- Continued efforts to reduce waste generation and influence consumer habits through education, outreach and collaboration with partners



What were the challenges?

- The COVID-19 pandemic led to a period of disruption and instability across waste services, resulting in the temporary closure of Household Waste Recycling Centres (HWRCs) and the suspension of certain recycling collections.
- Prolonged suspension of services such as food waste collection has contributed to a decline in public participation, with challenges emerging in re-engaging residents following the service reinstatement
- Marked changes in waste volumes, composition and householder behaviour presenting additional challenges to increasing the recycling rate
- Delays to key legislation - including the Deposit Return Scheme (DRS), Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR), and the Landfill Ban - have affected council preparedness, creating uncertainty in planning and resourcing for future service delivery.

What could be improved?



Data Collection and Reporting: More robust data collection i.e. compositional analysis metrics could help track progress and identify gaps more precisely



Community Feedback: Regular gathering off and acting on resident feedback could improve service design and public trust



Contamination in Recycling Streams: Continued education is needed to reduce contamination and improve recycling quality



Infrastructure Gaps: Some areas may still lack convenient access to quality recycling or reuse facilities



Behavioral Change Support: More targeted campaigns, particularly focused on flatted properties, could help shift deeply ingrained habits around waste



Prioritise and focus on enhancing the quality and quantity of recycling streams, specifically materials with significant carbon footprints such as food waste, textiles, and plastics



Raising the awareness of the impacts on the City and communities of littering our streets and inconsiderate placing of waste materials on our streets

Dundee's Strategic Waste History

A number of significant changes to waste & recycling collections have been implemented prior to and during the 2020-2025 Waste Strategy including a programme of significant investment between 2011 – 2016. This further improved infrastructure and increased service coverage to enable residents from all housing types to recycle more materials in their kerbside bins and at the City's Household Waste Recycling Centre's, whilst also enhancing service provision for trade waste customers. The launch of the Charter for Household Recycling in Scotland in 2016 and further service developments including the provision of garden waste collection service and waste policy changes ensured Dundee's waste & recycling collections remained compliant with the national waste collection model. Despite the various enhancements, recycling performance has not improved to expected levels.

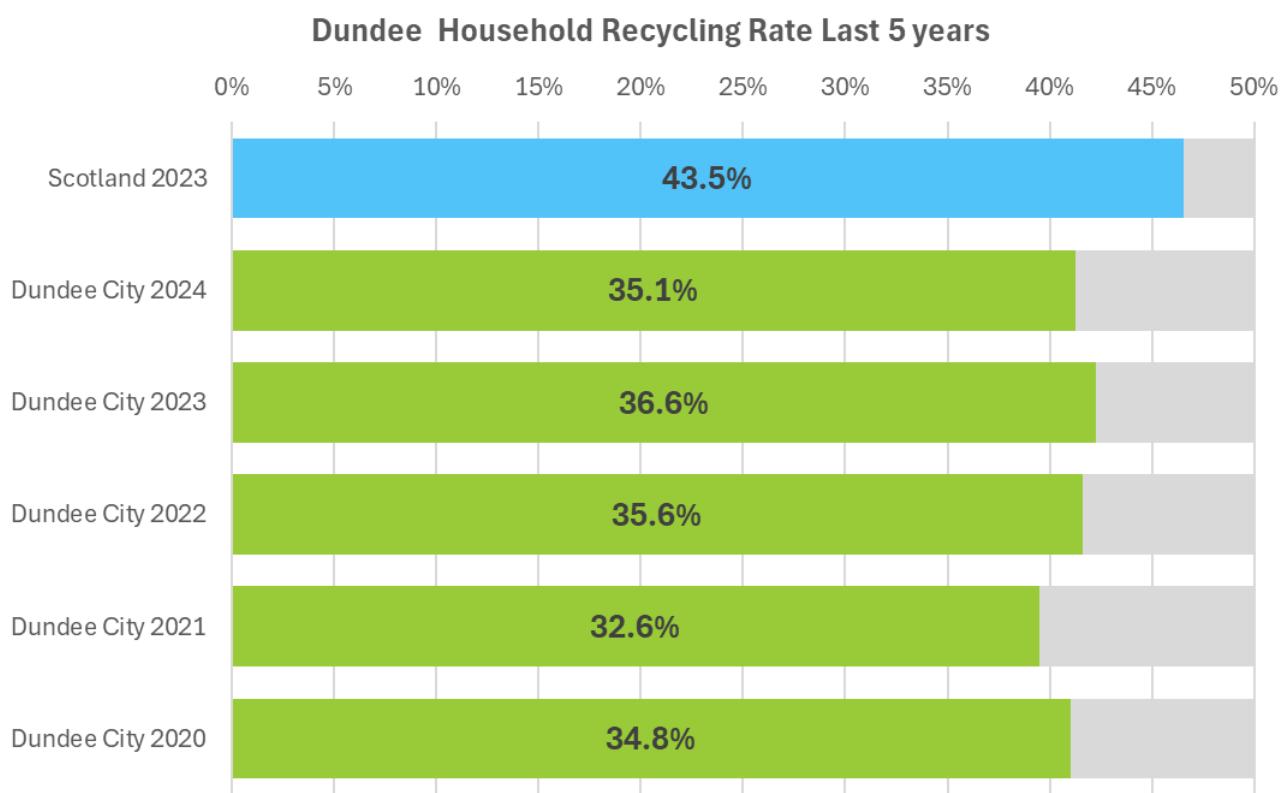


Figure 1 Household Recycling Rates - Source: SEPA Published Data

This 2026-2030 strategy has been revised to consolidate Dundee's progress to date in infrastructure development and service provision, ensuring alignment with national waste policy and legislation. The strategy now places more emphasis on encouraging behavioural change, which is seen as key to achieving lasting improvements in performance.

Service profile

The council has a statutory responsibility to manage and deliver the city's waste and recycling services and ensure that roads, footpaths and open spaces are maintained in accordance with the Code of Practice on litter and refuse.

In Dundee, this responsibility is handled by Neighbourhood Services, which oversees citywide waste collection, the operation of household waste recycling centres (HWRCs), the Riverside Composting Site and the provision of street cleaning services. These activities are supported by staff who manage route planning and monitoring, develop waste disposal and recycling policies and manage a range of related contracts. The service managed 63,016 tonnes of household waste in 2024 from approximately 78,000 residential properties. Of this, 35.1% was recycled and less than 1.0% landfilled. In addition, the service also collected 12,499 tonnes of waste from over 1000 commercial premises within Dundee.

The following pages provide a full breakdown of the waste & recycling operations.



Household Waste & Recycling Services

Dundee City Council provides a wide range of waste collection services tailored to property types and access needs across the city. Both kerbside and flatted households receive recycling collections as part of a consistent and inclusive service model, ensuring accessibility for residents and neighbouring businesses.

Residual Waste Collections (Non-recyclable Waste)

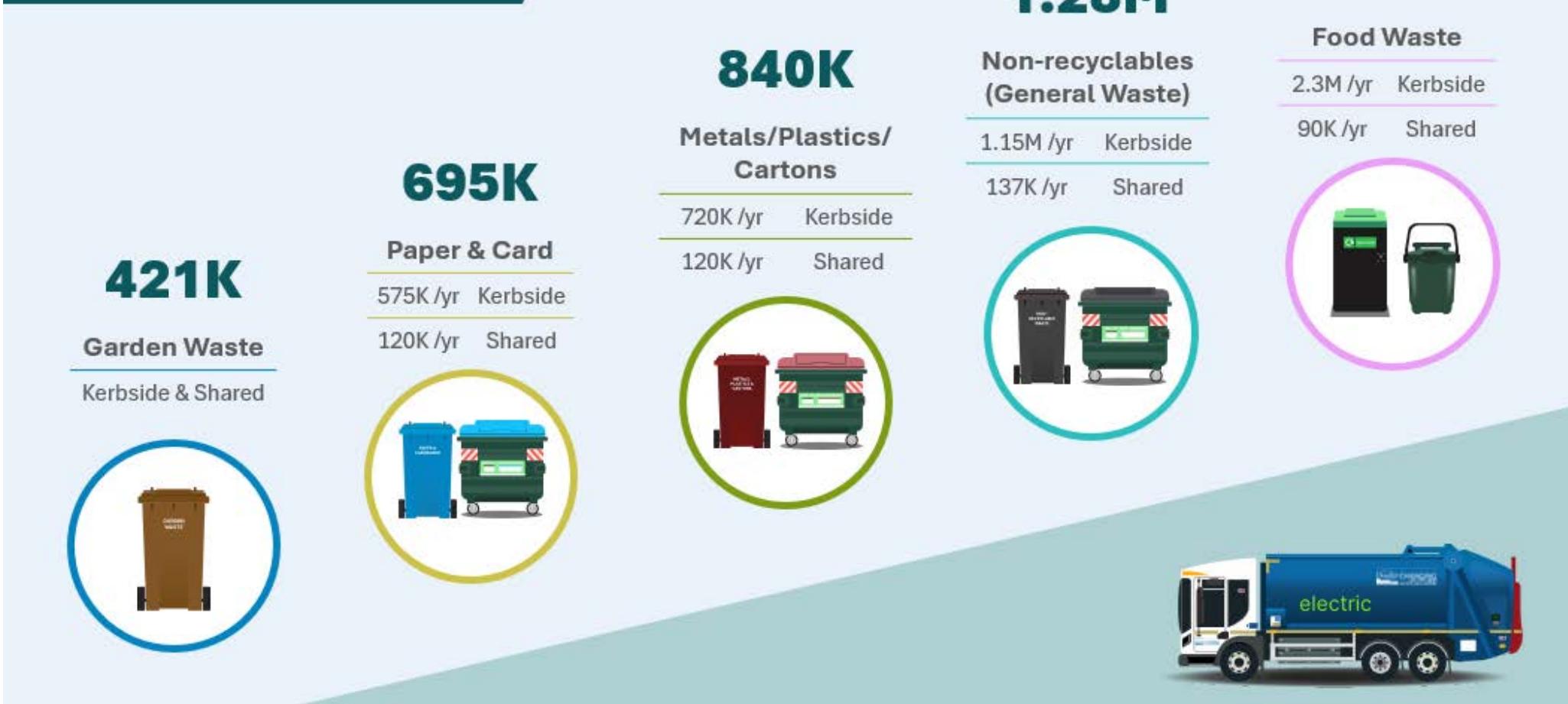
Residual waste is collected every two weeks from households that must present their bins at the kerbside for collection. Flatted/communal properties depending on storage arrangements will receive a collection once or twice per week.

Household Kerbside & Flatted Properties Collection Frequencies

Bin	Materials		
		Kerbside Properties Collections	Flatted Properties Collections
Blue Bin	Paper & Cardboard	Every 4 Weeks	Weekly
Burgundy Bin	Metals, Plastics & Cartons	Every 3 Weeks	Weekly
Food Waste Containers	Cooked & Uncooked Food	Weekly	Weekly
Grey Bin	Non-recyclable wastes	Every 2 Weeks	Weekly or Twice Weekly
Brown Bin (Chargeable)	Garden Waste	Every 2 Weeks (Mar – Dec)	N/A

Additional recycling provision

Materials	Bring Site	Frequency
Mixed Glass (Bottles & Jars)	These are designated locations across the city where residents can drop-off recyclable materials	Weekly or every 2 weeks



Furthermore, a comprehensive network of public recycling facilities is available throughout all areas of the city. These include:

Public Recycling Sites	Qty
Household Waste Recycling Centres (HWRCs)	2
Glass Recycling Points (Bring Sites)	305
Accessible recycling points for a variety of household materials	79

Bulky uplift service

A special collection service is provided to residents for bulky items which can't be uplifted in the normal refuse service. This includes items such as furniture, household appliances and carpets. This is a chargeable service & full details can be found on the council website www.dundeecity.gov.uk/bulkyuplift

Around **3,000 tonnes of bulky waste** is collected every year.

Commercial Waste Services

The council has a statutory obligation to offer or arrange the collection of commercial waste and recycling materials. This includes providing collections of non-recyclable (general) waste, paper and cardboard, metals and plastics, glass, food and garden waste in this sector.

Commercial collections can be arranged via several services:

- Bins – capacities of 140/240/660/1100/1280 litre
- Commercial trade sacks
- Short/long term skip hire
- Special Collections for bulky and/or one-off uplifts

Collections are provided daily, weekly, fortnightly and four weekly, depending on customer requirements and operational capacity.

The council's commercial waste and recycling pricing structure is reviewed annually to ensure all associated costs are recovered. Contracts are assessed according to the nature of the business and the likely volume of waste/recycling commodities produced. The council serves approximately 1020 customers annually.

The commercial waste team also provide advice to assist customers to minimise their waste and recycling costs whilst meeting national legislative requirements. Interaction with SEPA is also conducted on an ad-hoc basis when information or advice is required from either party.

www.dundeecity.gov.uk/commercialwaste

Waste Transfer & Treatment Sites

The service manages:

Waste Transfer & Treatment Sites	Qty
Waste Transfer Station(s)	3
Open Windrow Composting Facility	1
Closed Landfill Site	1
Waste Treatment & Recycling Facility for Gully Waste & Street Sweepings	1

RouteSmart Technology

Waste Management has utilised in-cab routing technology to improve operational efficiency and staff safety whilst undertaking service routes. Tablets are installed in our fleet of RCV's (Refuse Collection Vehicles) with route optimisation software for crews to follow during operational collections. These include features such as live assisted collection and street hazard information. Collection crews can report collection issues in real time and route progress can be monitored by supervisory staff. This helps identify operational issues such as traffic problems and reduces the reliance on paper route sheets with routes being updated/reconfigured remotely. Reduction in fuel consumption and travel time are the key benefits of implementing the RouteSmart system within our fleet RCV's.

Dundee My-Bins Bin App

In 2024, Dundee City Council launched the 'Dundee My-Bins' app, available on both Android and Apple devices. Key features include bin collection calendars, reminder alerts, and push notifications for service updates or disruptions. The app also provides up-to-date service information and includes a news section to promote recycling campaigns and raise awareness of waste-related initiatives. This demonstrates the department's commitment to adopting modern technology to share bin collection information more efficiently. Since its launch, the app's user base has grown steadily, helping residents stay informed about service updates. Continued uptake of the app is expected to reduce reliance on traditional postal communications, leading to cost savings on printing and postage.

www.dundee-mybins.co.uk



Waste Partnership

In late 2017, Dundee City Council, in collaboration with Angus Council entered into a contract with MVV Environment Baldovie (MEB) Ltd to form the Dundee and Angus Waste Partnership. As part of this 27-year long term agreement, MEB treat non-recyclable waste collected by the Council's, generating electricity and heat in the process. MEB also took ownership of the existing facility which has been treating waste since 1998 and continue to operate this alongside the newer facility.

The new facility began full operations in 2022, following approval from SEPA to run both the old and new plants concurrently.

The newer plant has a processing capacity of approximately 120,000 tonnes of non-recyclable waste per year and can generate around 10 MW of electricity for export to the national grid. The facility also supplies steam heat to the Michelin Scotland Innovation Parc (MSIP), making it the first EfW heating system of its kind in mainland Scotland. Energy from Waste remains the preferred method of waste disposal over landfill, as it transforms non-recyclable waste into usable energy, supporting sustainability and reducing environmental impact.

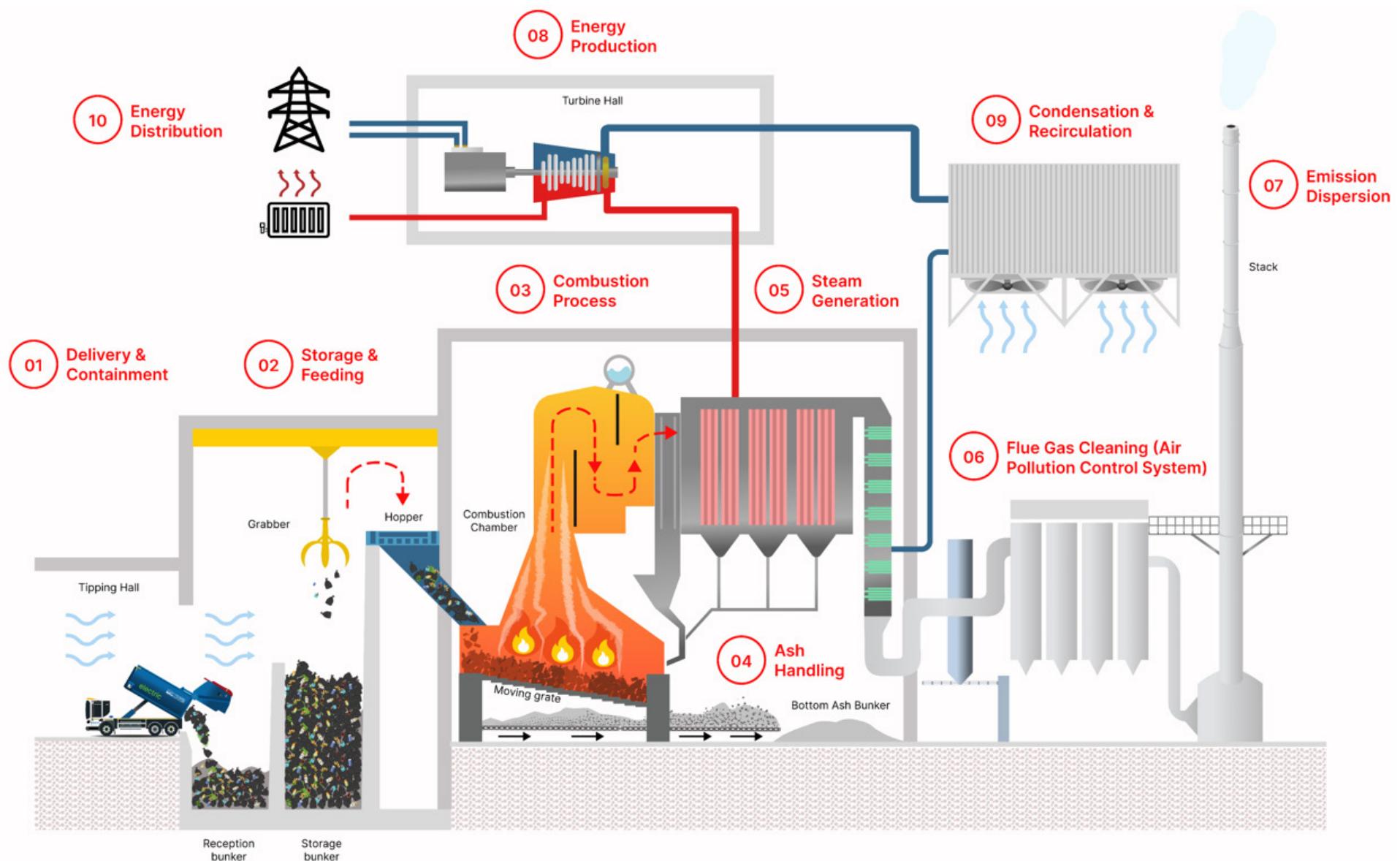
The diagram on the following page illustrates how the Energy from Waste process works. For a more detailed explanation, an online video is available on the Dundee City Council [website](#).

The partnership provides Dundee with a secure and sustainable means of waste disposal. This removes reliance on landfill and was introduced to ensure that the city had a long-term solution in place ahead of the landfill ban which was due to commence in 2021 and later postponed until the end of 2025.

MVV Environment Baldovie Ltd (MEB), the council's Energy from Waste contractor, has committed to a range of community benefits to be provided as part of the conditions of their contract. These benefits include a range of training opportunities for local young people and several educational and awareness-raising activities to be held each year.

A collaborative working partnership has been established between the Council and MEB and these continue to be developed fully to maximise the potential for community benefits and enduring legacy of this long-term sustainable waste management solution for Dundee.

Energy from Waste Process



Energy from Waste Process (cont'd)

This written explanation accompanies the diagram on the previous page and outlines the key stages of the Energy from Waste process:

Stage 01 - Delivery & Containment

Waste collection vehicles deliver waste to the facility via a weighbridge, then enter the enclosed tipping hall. Air is drawn into the furnace via the tipping hall to prevent odour escape.

Stage 02 - Storage & Feeding

Waste is stored in a bunker (up to 10 days' capacity) and loaded into the furnace via the hopper using a mechanical grabber.

Stage 03 - Combustion Process

Waste is burned in four stages—drying, ignition, combustion, and burnout—on a moving grate. Initial heating uses diesel burners until the furnace reaches 850°C, after which the process is self-sustaining. Water-filled pipes in the furnace walls generate steam.

Stage 04 - Ash Handling

Combustion ash (known as Incinerator Bottom Ash – IBA) is cooled and sent off-site for processing. Non-combustible materials found within the ash like metals are recovered for recycling.

Stage 05 - Steam Generation

Hot gases pass through the boiler, superheating steam for use in electricity and heat generation.

Stage 06 - Flue Gas Cleaning (Air pollution control system)

Flue gases are treated with activated carbon and lime to neutralize pollutants. Filters capture residues and dust, ensuring emissions meet legal limits. This system is monitored in real time.

Stage 07 - Emission Dispersion

The stack (chimney) height is designed to safely disperse cleaned emissions within regulatory limits.

Stage 08 - Energy Production

Superheated steam drives a turbine connected to an alternator, generating electricity. Steam can also be extracted for heat supply.

Stage 09 - Condensation & Recirculation

Exhaust steam is cooled in a condenser using quiet fans. Warm water is returned to the boiler to generate more steam.

Stage 10 - Energy Distribution

The process converts waste into electricity and heat. Excess electricity is fed into the grid, while heat is supplied to the neighbouring Michelin Innovation Parc via an above-ground pipeline.

Composting

Dundee processes all green waste collected from domestic garden waste collections, city greenspaces, and commercial customers at its Riverside composting site. The green waste is first screened to remove contaminants, then shredded to a uniform size and arranged into large open-air piles called windrows. Naturally occurring microbes in the mix begin to break down the material, generating heat that eliminates harmful bacteria. These windrows are regularly monitored and turned to maintain an even temperature and adequate oxygen levels. The composting process takes about 14-16 weeks.

The final product, known as "Discovery Compost," undergoes several quality checks to ensure it meets the required standards before being sold to local residents and businesses. Discovery Compost produced at Dundee's Riverside site is certified to PAS100, a nationally recognised quality standard monitored by SEPA.

www.dundee.gov.uk/gardenwaste

Home Composting

Home composting is encouraged by the council, with home composting bins available to buy and information on how to get started on the council's website.

www.dundee.gov.uk/service/Garden-Waste-Order-Composting-Bin

It is offered as an alternative to using the chargeable garden waste collection service available to householders and is promoted to plot-holders at local allotment sites, with a composting guide included in all new plot holder welcome packs.



Re-use

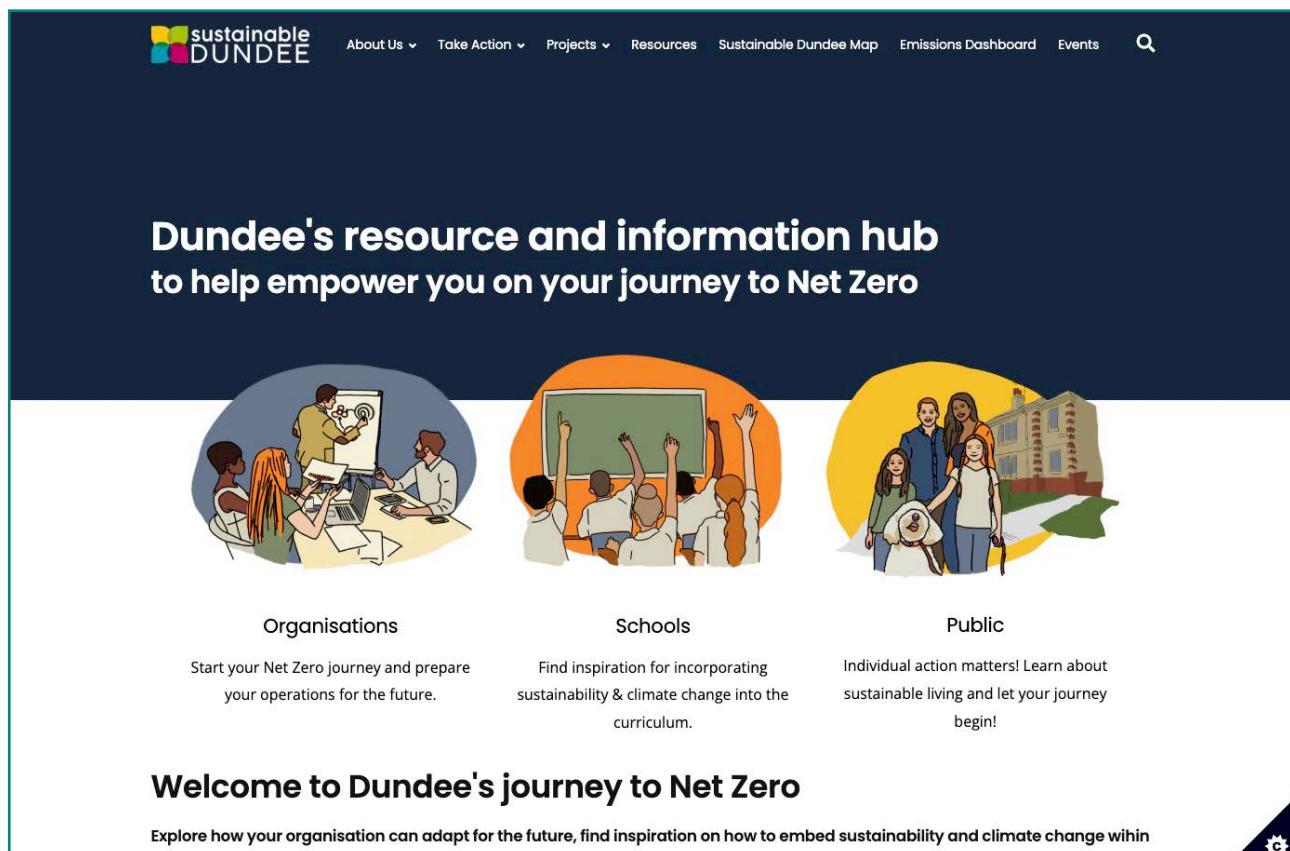
In 2015 funding was obtained from Zero Waste Scotland to create a Re-use facility within Dundee's Baldovie Household Waste Recycling Centre. This Re-use Hub is operated in partnership with a local social enterprise organisation, and this outlet accepts suitable items which can be prepared for re-use. This allows for furniture, toys, bikes, bric-a-brac, exercise and gardening equipment to be re-used and saved from disposal.

Waste Management have obtained further Recycling Infrastructure Funding from Zero Waste Scotland to refurbish the existing re-use hub and create an additional Community Re-Use facility at Riverside HWRC with the work being undertaken between 2025 - 2026. It's intended that the benefits of the Re-use Hub at Baldovie HWRC will be replicated for users of Riverside HWRC, offering an outlet for donating household items for reuse and preventing disposal via the Recycling Centre.

Sustainable Dundee

To further promote reuse, the 'Sustainable Dundee' website was launched by Dundee City Council and several other local partners. The website provides content and resources for organisations, schools and the public to access further information on reuse and repair initiatives, currently active in the city. The website contains an interactive map which signposts users to the nearest initiative, including charity shops who accept/re-sell donations, social enterprises and zero waste (plastic free) shops.

www.sustainabledundee.co.uk



The screenshot shows the homepage of the Sustainable Dundee website. At the top, there is a navigation bar with links: About Us, Take Action, Projects, Resources, Sustainable Dundee Map, Emissions Dashboard, Events, and a search icon. The main title 'Dundee's resource and information hub to help empower you on your journey to Net Zero' is displayed in a large, bold, white font. Below the title are three circular illustrations: one for 'Organisations' showing people at a table, one for 'Schools' showing students in a classroom, and one for 'Public' showing a family with a dog. Each section has a brief description: 'Organisations' says 'Start your Net Zero journey and prepare your operations for the future.', 'Schools' says 'Find inspiration for incorporating sustainability & climate change into the curriculum.', and 'Public' says 'Individual action matters! Learn about sustainable living and let your journey begin!'. At the bottom, a welcome message 'Welcome to Dundee's journey to Net Zero' is displayed, along with a subtext 'Explore how your organisation can adapt for the future, find inspiration on how to embed sustainability and climate change within'.

Education and Awareness

The provision of collection, recycling, and disposal services represents just one aspect of Dundee City Council's broader approach to waste management.

It is widely recognised that without meaningful engagement from both households and businesses, these systems alone cannot achieve the desired outcomes. To address this, the Council actively undertakes education and awareness-raising initiatives aimed at fostering public buy-in and encouraging responsible waste behaviours. These efforts are essential to ensuring the long-term success and sustainability of the city's waste management strategy.

Community Groups & Housing Associations

Staff attend meetings of community groups, housing/resident's associations and local forums to provide face to face information and advice. Previously, funding was obtained to allow temporary specialist recycling advisors to undertake doorstep engagement visits.

In addition to providing service information, staff also ensure that they engage with residents across the city on a proactive basis to raise the profile of waste reduction, reuse and recycling and encourage the necessary behaviour change to improve usage of these services.

School Curriculum & Internal Waste Education

As part of Dundee City Council's ongoing commitment to embedding waste awareness within the school curriculum, a comprehensive waste education programme was first introduced in 2008. Building on this foundation, an internal waste project was launched to distribute recycling containers across Council buildings - including main offices, primary and secondary schools, and Leisure & Culture facilities.

To support the rollout, a waste awareness presentation is delivered alongside the distribution of containers, with additional resources signposted to encourage active participation. The aim is to foster behavioural change and cultivate a positive attitude towards recycling across the organisation. Follow-up visits further reinforce these messages and help embed sustainable practices.



In schools, presentations and classroom activities are available to teachers on request, enabling flexible, self-led delivery and continued promotion of waste education.

Complementing these efforts, the Waste Strategy Team has collaborated with various Council departments to produce a comprehensive Eco-Schools Resource Pack. This guide identifies 'Litter and Recycling' as a key focus area for schools working towards Eco-Schools accreditation.

Supporting this initiative, local community organisations actively engage with schools by supplying recyclable materials for creative play sessions and staff training, further strengthening the educational impact of the resource pack.

Online Resources

The Covid-related lockdowns presented the Waste Strategy Team with a valuable opportunity to reassess and enhance its educational and awareness initiatives. In response to social distancing requirements, the team shifted its focus towards digital engagement by developing a range of online content and resources. This includes hosting partner-produced videos on the Dundee City Council website which explore the 'waste journey' of household materials, from disposal to their transformation into new products:

www.dundee.gov.uk/wastetreatment.

To further support residents, an online A-Z Recycling Guide was created, offering practical advice on how to correctly dispose of various types of waste:

www.dundee.gov.uk/recyclinghelp.

EfW Plant Tours

Our partners at MVV Environment host well-established plant tours at their Baldovie facility, welcoming students from Dundee's primary and secondary schools, further education institutions, and local community groups. These tours offer valuable insight into how non-recyclable waste is processed through the Energy from Waste (EfW) system, helping participants understand the role of technology in sustainable waste management.

In addition to tours, MVV staff deliver workshops that explore key topics such as waste minimisation, the waste hierarchy, the circular economy, and STEM-related activities. To further engage the wider public, MVV also organises an annual Open Day at the facility. In addition, a challenge fund is available annually for Dundee and Angus schools to help them run educational projects related to waste & recycling.

This educational programme plays a vital role in shaping local attitudes towards waste and recycling and is instrumental in encouraging future participation in the services provided.

Dundee MyBins App

The introduction of a purpose-built bin app (Dundee My-Bins app) has allowed staff to promote various recycling awareness campaigns via its central news feature. The increase in app users has assisted us in further relaying important messaging and initiatives regarding waste and recycling. The content can vary from local service changes/disruption to further information on national recycling campaigns providing the department with additional means of communication.

Service information is routinely communicated to households in Dundee whenever a service change occurs. The council website has pages with useful information for residents, alongside more detailed information on recycling processes:

www.dundeeicity.gov.uk/recycle-for-dundee

Targeted Communications

Targeted communications, including letters and leaflets, are regularly distributed to selected households. Additionally, specially designed recycling bags are provided to residents in flatted accommodation to support the convenient transport of recyclables to designated collection points.

Improved Bin Labels

Revised bin labels have been produced and now feature photographic imagery to clearly communicate what materials should—and should not (contamination)—be placed in each bin type. This visual approach helps ensure accessibility and understanding across all demographics, regardless of language or literacy levels. The labels also contain a QR code so residents can easily download the Dundee MyBins App.



Figure 2 Examples of new revised bin labels for shared bins

Resources

Budget

The Waste Management service budget for 2025/26 is £17.492 million (£12.56 million plus £4.932 million income) and includes the collection/disposal of all waste from all domestic households across the city.

The service currently employs circa 150 full-time equivalents (FTE's) to ensure an efficient, effective and compliant waste collection/disposal service is provided to the residents of Dundee. This budget covers expenses related to staff, vehicles, and the collection and disposal/reprocessing of all waste and recyclates.

Street cleaning costs are included within the Streetscene and Land Management budget, with a net budgeted revenue cost of £3.098 million per annum, covering a staff compliment of circa 66 full time equivalents, equipment, materials, and transportation.

The largest cost component is third-party payments for the disposal of general waste, which make up 59% of the overall gross waste services budget. Additionally, the costs for providing a rapid response uplift service for fly-tipped material and excess street waste are included in the street cleaning expenses.

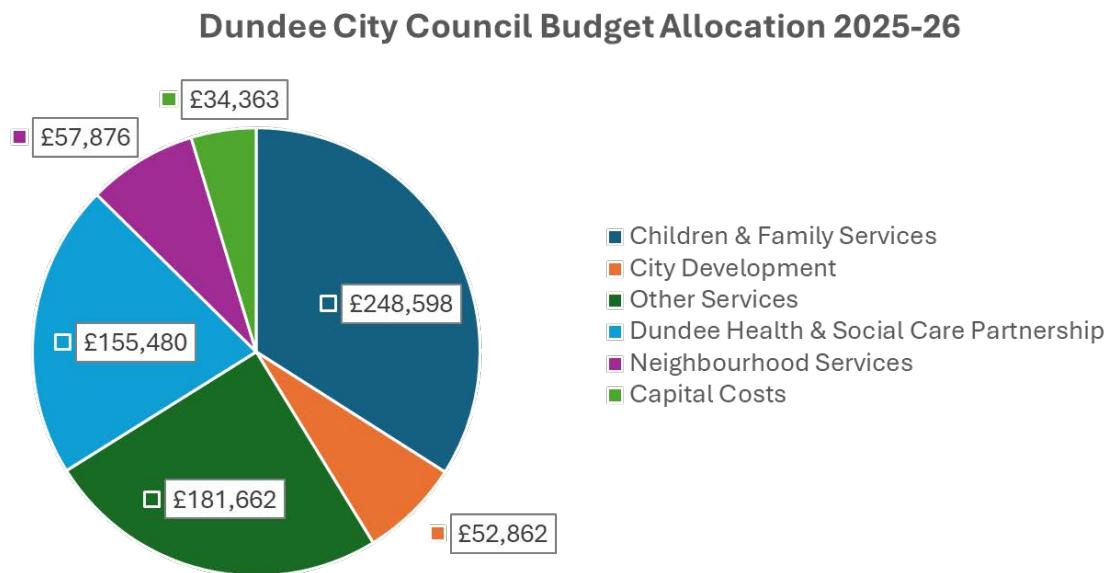


Figure 3 Council Budget Allocation 2025-26

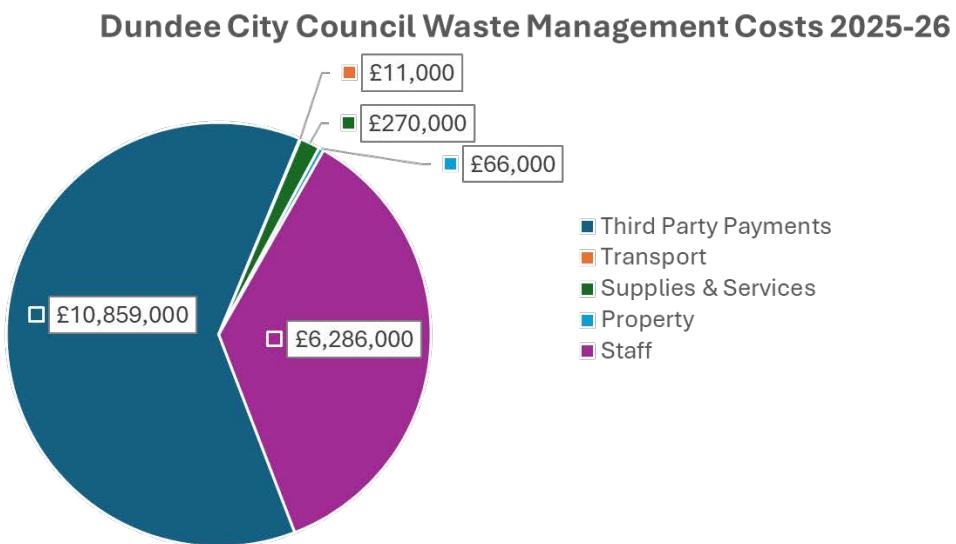


Figure 4 Council Waste Management Costs

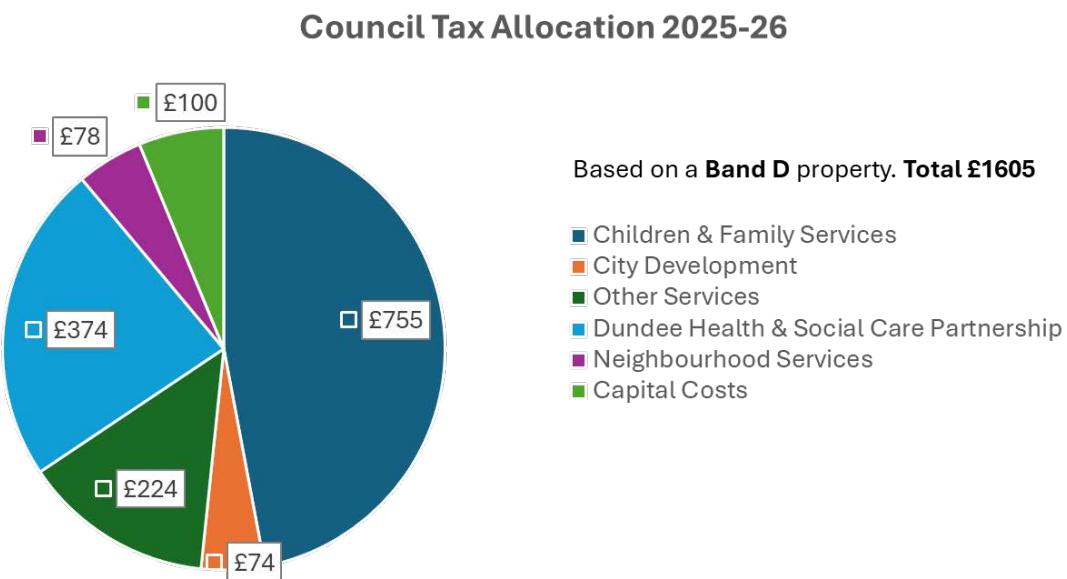


Figure 5 Council Tax Allocation 2025-26

Graph illustrates proportion of council tax allocated to Neighbourhood Services, which includes Waste Management and Environmental Management. This roughly equates to 5.85% of overall council tax payments.

Staff & Equipment

Currently, over 236 frontline employees are involved in waste-related operations, divided into various service areas within the Waste and Street Scene Divisions.

The Waste Division is managed by a Service Manager and supported by a team of eight officers responsible for routing, contract management, waste strategy, waste projects, and data reporting.

The Street Scene Division, part of the Environment Management Section, is also overseen by a Service Manager. This section encompasses street cleaning operations, grounds maintenance service delivery and development, work planning and scheduling, environment management strategy, project delivery, landscape design, greenspace, and events.

The service has a fleet of over 100 vehicles and plant. This includes refuse collection vehicles, vans, high reach loaders and mechanical sweepers and a proportion of the vehicles are now electric in line with the Council's ambition to de-carbonise the fleet. Dundee City Council's Fleet section has some of the highest concentration of electric vehicles for a local authority area in the UK with 8 Electric Refuse Collection Vehicles (E-RCV's) currently operational in a fleet of 36 RCV's. At 60km², Dundee City is the smallest local authority area in Scotland making it an ideal environment for charging electric vehicles due to the low mileages involved. This has led to a high adoption of electric vehicles within the current fleet, including development of associated infrastructure. This helps contribute to longstanding decarbonisation aims, set for 2034.

Locations

The Environment service operates from several locations around the city.

Marchbanks

- Main Operational Depot - refuse and recycling collection and street cleaning
- Vehicle Workshops
- Transfer Station - food waste, paper & cardboard and street sweeping residues
- Base for office staff

Baldovie

- Transfer Station – recycling and general waste
- Household Waste Recycling Centre (HWRC)
- Operational Depot - refuse and recycling collection and street cleaning
- Gully waste and street sweeping treatment facility

Riverside

- Open Windrow Composting site & transfer station
- Household Waste Recycling Centre (HWRC)
- Ecological treatment facility for street cleaning residues from road gully and sweepings waste
- Gas and water monitoring of former landfill site

Waste Strategy & Council Strategic Priorities

The Waste Strategy is linked to the council's wider strategic priorities as outlined in the City Plan and the Council Plan.

- Dundee will have a strong and sustainable city economy that will provide jobs for the people of Dundee, retain more graduates and make the city a magnet for new talent;
- Dundee will offer real choice and opportunity in a city that has tackled the root causes of social and economic exclusion, creating a community which is healthy, safe, confident, educated and empowered;
- Dundee will be a vibrant and attractive city with an excellent quality of life where people chose to live, learn, work and visit.

These plans outline the five strategic priorities to be addressed within the city involve the below themes:



The council is committed to delivering Best Value, Fairness and Sustainability by creating stronger, more resilient, influential and inclusive communities and neighbourhoods. Waste, recycling and local environmental quality feature in the key priorities identified for reaching this goal:

- Recycling waste to meet Scotland's zero waste and Circular Economy ambitions
- Providing sustainable waste management systems which comply with national policy and legislation and achieve Scottish Government targets
- Maintaining our streetscene to ensure a clean and litter free environment

Actions detailed within this strategy have therefore taken account of the above key priorities as well as those outlined in other related council strategies, such as the City Plan, the Council Plan, Climate Action Plan (CAP) and the Take Pride Action Plan.

Performance Management

Waste Management contributes to a range of key performance indicators (KPIs) which are detailed within the Council Plan. This measures progress and helps to identify how well the Council is performing in particular areas.

In the area of waste management, KPIs are used to measure the cost of refuse collection, waste disposal and street cleansing, as well as resident satisfaction with these services.

The indicators are also used to measure the proportion of waste that is recycled, composted and landfilled.

The following KPIs will continue to be used to monitor progress of the implementation of the waste strategy from 2026 – 2030;

- Tonnage of biodegradable municipal waste landfilled
- Net cost of waste collection per premise (£)
- Percentage of adults satisfied with refuse collection services
- Percentage of household waste recycled or composted
- Percentage of household waste landfilled
- Advance communication and behavioural change in promoting recycling
- Percentage of abandoned vehicles removed within 14 days
- Percentage of adults satisfied with street cleaning
- Net cost of street cleaning per 1,000 population (£)
- Local Environmental Audit & Management System Score

View performance indicators:

www.dundee.city.gov.uk/service-area/chief-executive/chief-executives-services/dundee-performs/performance-indicators

Waste Data Management Reporting

All local authorities in Scotland have a statutory duty to report waste data to the Scottish Environment Protection Agency (SEPA).

Quarterly site returns are submitted for each licensed/permited waste site operated by Dundee City Council. These returns are intended to monitor and manage waste activities ensuring compliance with environmental standards.

Annually each local authority completes a complex annual return using an online reporting tool called "**Waste Data Flow**".

Each local authority must provide SEPA with details of where all waste has been sent and how it was managed/treated i.e. reused, recycled, composted, diverted/recovered or landfilled. The system provides transparency, consistency and ensures that waste is being sent to approved/licenced facilities. Once submitted, SEPA will check and verify the data submitted by councils before publishing this around September of each year. Since 2013, recycling rates have only included household waste however, Councils must also submit data for all waste collections whether these are household or commercial in nature. It should be noted that whilst SEPA's annually reported waste data is based on a calendar year, all internal council KPI's monitor progress during a given financial year.

The published/verified SEPA data helps future decisions and improvements. It's also used as part of the reporting mechanism for initiatives such as the **Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR) scheme** which since 2023 has been introduced in a phased approach. EPR means that producers are held financially and physically responsible for the end-of-life management of their products, including packaging, e-waste, or textiles. Instead of local authorities or taxpayers bearing the cost of waste disposal, the responsibility shifts to the producers of those products. This approach aims to incentivise producers to design products that are more sustainable, recyclable, and easier to manage at the end of their useful life.

Digital Waste Tracking

In the near future, a mandatory UK wide online system called "**Digital Waste Tracking**" being developed by Department of Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (DEFRA) will be rolled out to the entire waste industry. This will essentially provide waste operators as well as regulators and bodies such as SEPA with a real-time picture of how waste is being transported and treated throughout the UK. This will provide a greater data picture, highlight operational opportunities/inefficiencies as well as reduce illegal waste activities. It's hoped that this new system will eventually replace the current Waste Dataflow system and streamline the reporting process.

Local Government Benchmarking Framework (LGBF)

Dundee City Council tracks recycling performance internally and benchmarks it against a group of similar “urban” Scottish authorities—Glasgow, Falkirk, Edinburgh, Aberdeen, North Lanarkshire, and West/East Dunbartonshire—via the Local Government Benchmarking Framework (**LGBF**).

These urban councils face common challenges, such as a high proportion of flatted properties, which typically show lower recycling participation than kerbside-served areas.

LGBF data compares Dundee’s performance to both the national average and its peer group. Recycling rates rose to 38.4% in 2019–20 but declined during the COVID-19 pandemic due to staffing issues and service reprioritisation. Recovery has been slow, and Dundee’s rates remain below both the family group and national averages.

The Benchmark Target (shown in red on the chart) is the average of Dundee City Council’s family group of similar local authorities..

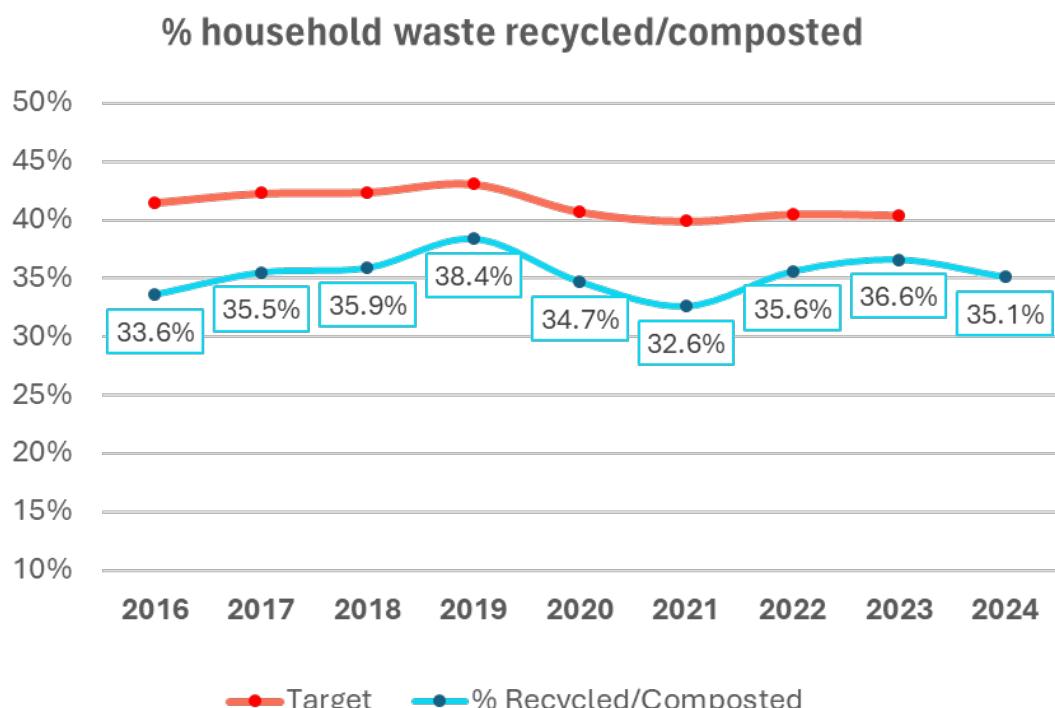


Figure 6 Portion of total household waste recycled/composted

Dundee City Council delivers strong value for money, with net costs per waste collection and disposal per premises significantly below both the LGBF family group and Scottish averages. Effective contract management with reprocessing partners plays a key role in achieving these cost efficiencies.

£ Net cost of waste collections per premises

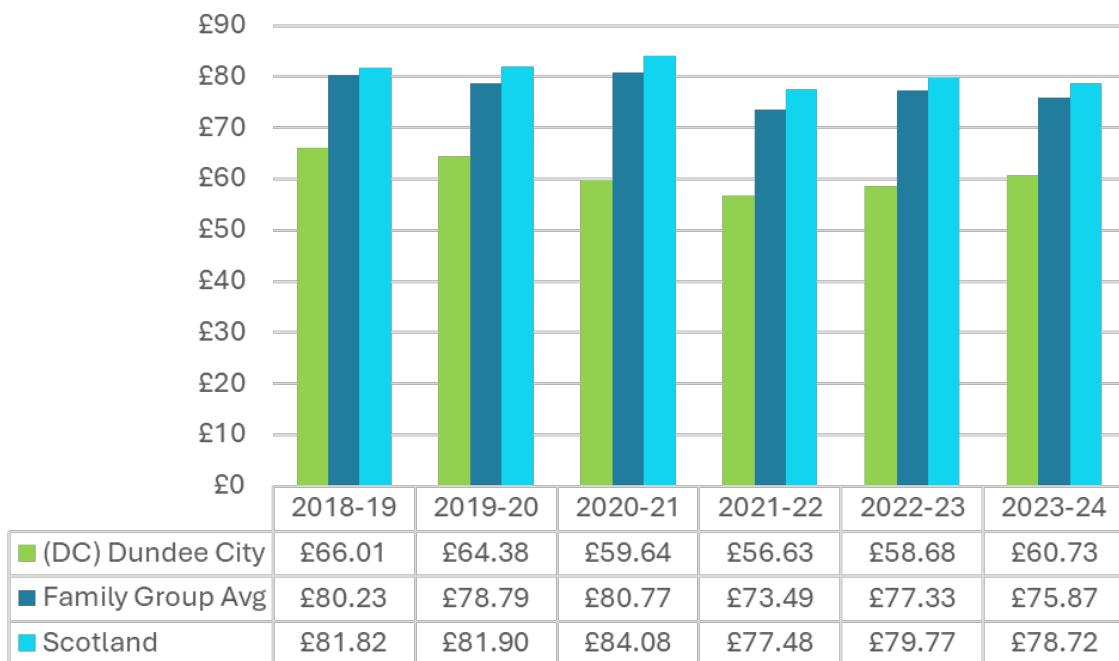


Figure 7 Net cost per waste collection per premises

(Dundee LGBF Family Group for Waste Collections/Disposal Aberdeen City, East Dunbartonshire, Edinburgh City, Falkirk, Glasgow City, North Lanarkshire, West Dunbartonshire)

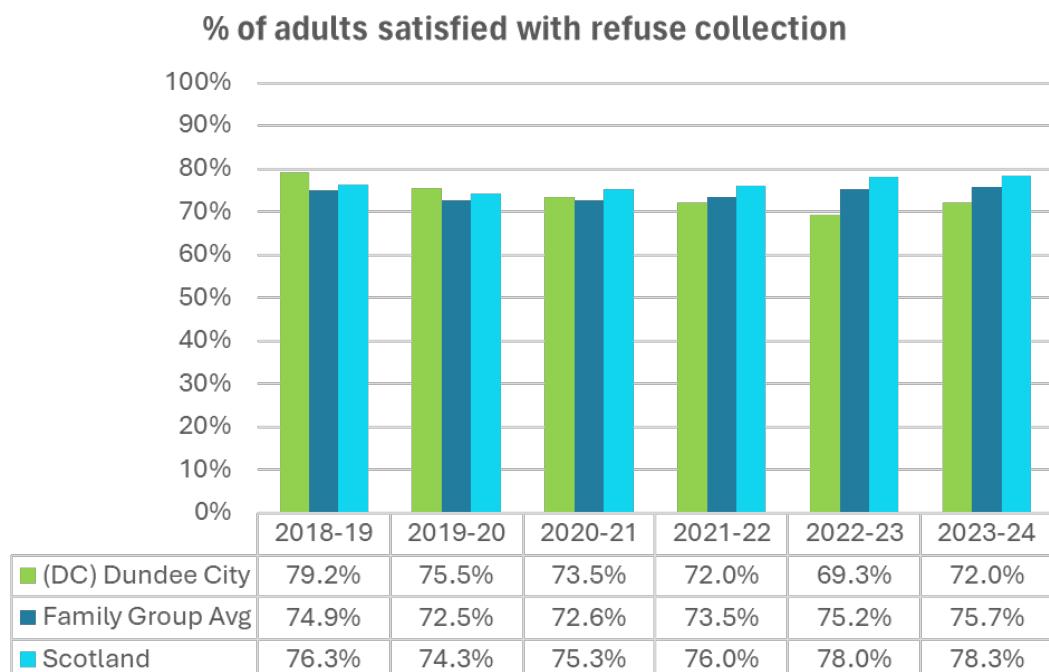
£ Net cost of waste disposal per premises



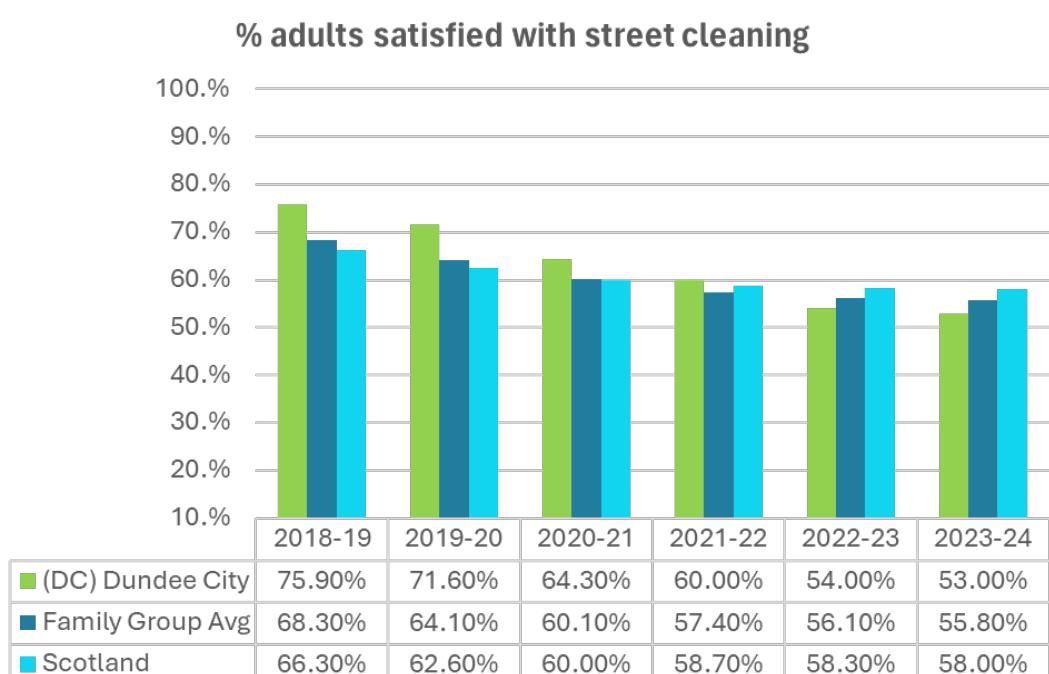
Figure 8 Net cost per waste disposal per premises

(Dundee LGBF Family Group for Waste Collections/Disposal Aberdeen City, East Dunbartonshire, Edinburgh City, Falkirk, Glasgow City, North Lanarkshire, West Dunbartonshire)

The LGBF in Scotland includes street cleaning and refuse collection satisfaction as one of its key indicators under the broader category of environmental services. This indicator measures public satisfaction with services such as street cleaning, litter and refuse collection, and the general appearance of public spaces. In Dundee, satisfaction has dropped over the last few years with the exception of refuse collection satisfaction which has improved in the last year.



*Figure 9: Percentage of adults satisfied with refuse collection
(Dundee LGBF Family Group for Waste Collections/Disposal Aberdeen City, East Dunbartonshire, Edinburgh City, Falkirk, Glasgow City, North Lanarkshire, West Dunbartonshire)
* Data source: Scottish Government Scottish Household Survey*



*Figure 10 Percentage of adults satisfied with street cleaning
(Dundee LGBF Family Group for Street Cleaning/Cleanliness – East Ayrshire, Eilean Siar, Glasgow City, Inverclyde, North Ayrshire, North Lanarkshire, West Dunbartonshire)
* Data source: Scottish Government Scottish Household Survey*

Landfill

Dundee has, historically, had one of the lowest levels of landfill in Scotland and usually the lowest level of landfill amongst all mainland authorities, with only Shetland landfilling less than Dundee annually.

The gap between Dundee's performance when compared to the rest of Scotland is significant.

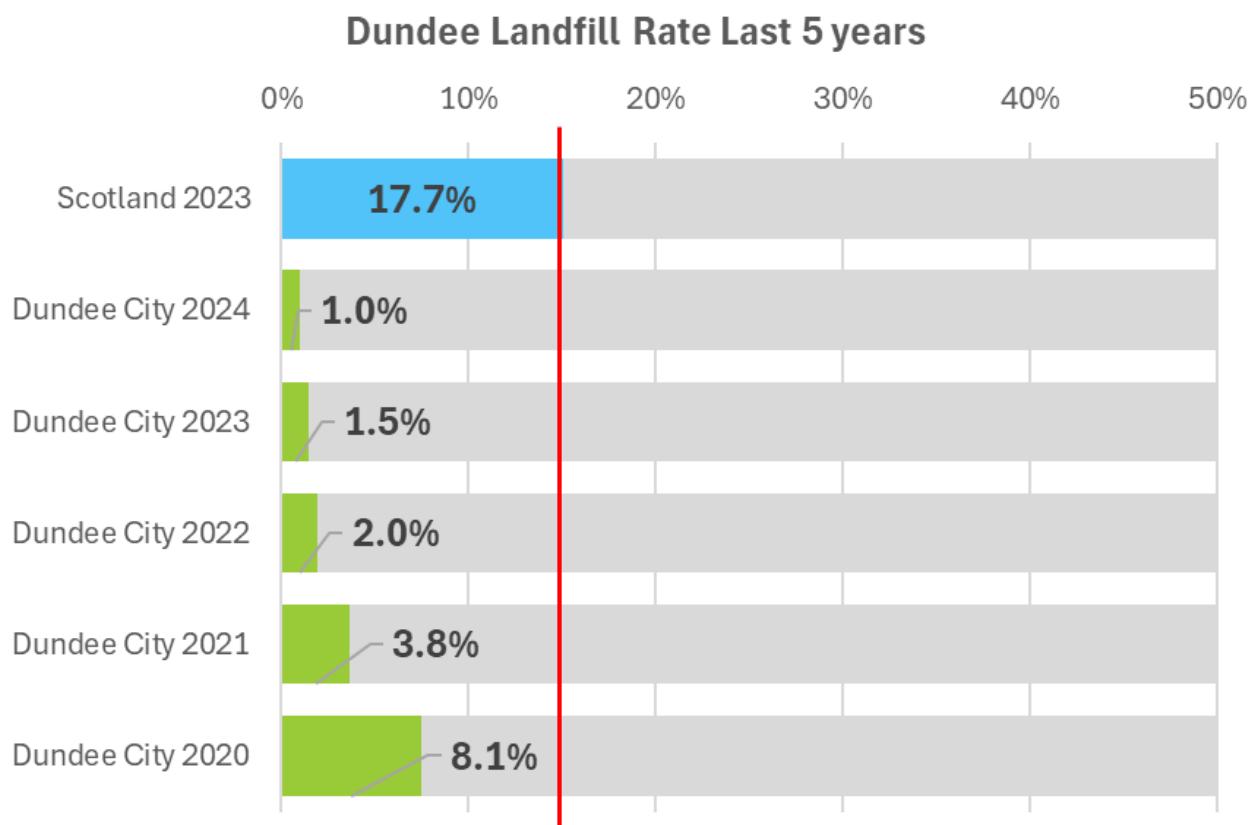


Figure 11 Dundee's landfill rate versus national rate. Source: SEPA

This is an achievement which highlights Dundee's long-standing commitment to finding alternatives to landfill. The forthcoming landfill ban and growth in the Scottish EfW market means that all Scottish authorities are required to develop similar solutions which match Dundee's lead in this area, following the implementation of the Dundee & Angus joint residual waste partnership in 2017.

2023 Scottish Local Authority Landfill Rates (%)

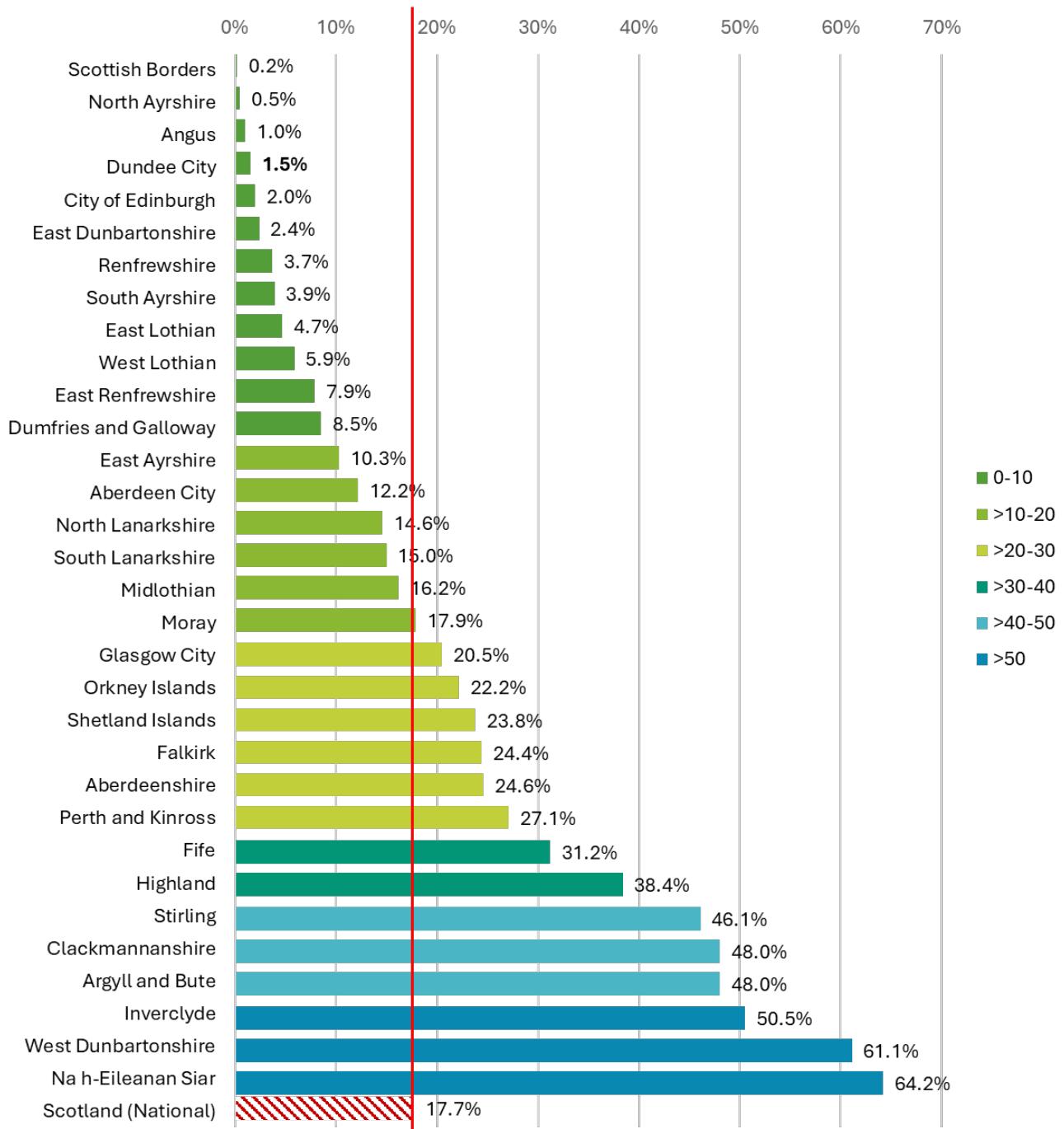


Figure 12 Dundee's landfill rate 2023 vs Scottish average & other local authorities. SOURCE: SEPA

Waste, Recycling & Contamination

Dundee has historically demonstrated leadership in recycling performance as an early adopter.

However, in recent years, the city's recycling rate has plateaued and now falls below the national average. The proportion of household waste collected for disposal compared to that collected for recycling further highlights the extent of this challenge.

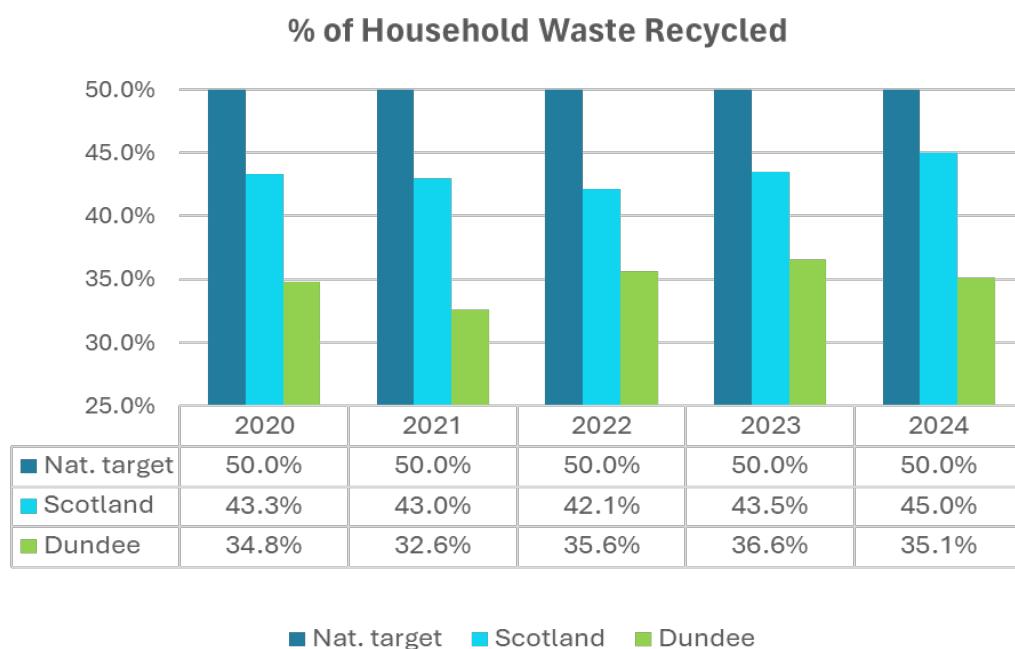


Figure 13 Percentage of household waste recycled - last 5 yrs Source: SEPA

Dundee Household Waste Managed 2024

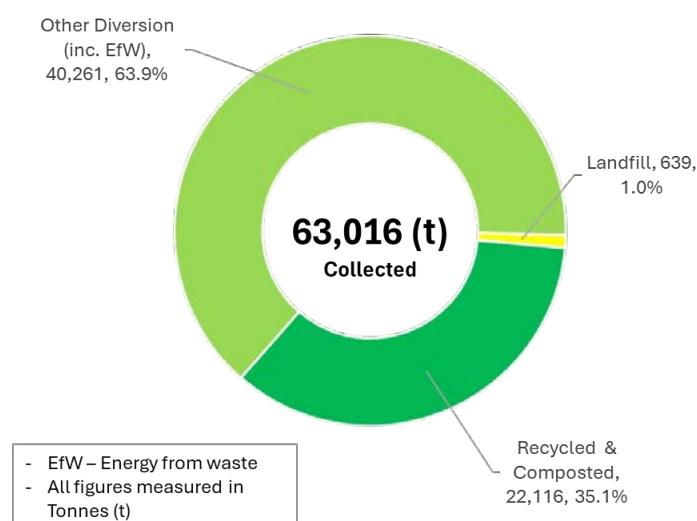


Figure 14 How Dundee's Household Waste was managed 2024 Source: SEPA

Contamination – Recycling Going to Waste!

To support the evaluation of this issue, a comprehensive independent compositional analysis has been conducted on household waste bins—specifically **targeting the non-recyclable (grey) bins and the metals, plastics, and cartons (burgundy) bins, which consistently show the highest levels of contamination.**

This analysis involves collecting and inspecting sample loads at council facilities to identify the key factors contributing to low recycling rates in specific areas.

Waste materials are systematically categorised—such as general waste, paper, plastics, electricals, and food waste—**providing clearer insights into the volume of recyclable materials still being incorrectly disposed of in non-recyclable bins.**

The following pages provide a breakdown of the contents from sample loads of both bin types and illustrate the scale of the problem.

Recyclable items typically found in the Non-recyclable Waste Bins (Grey)



Contents of Shared Euro bins

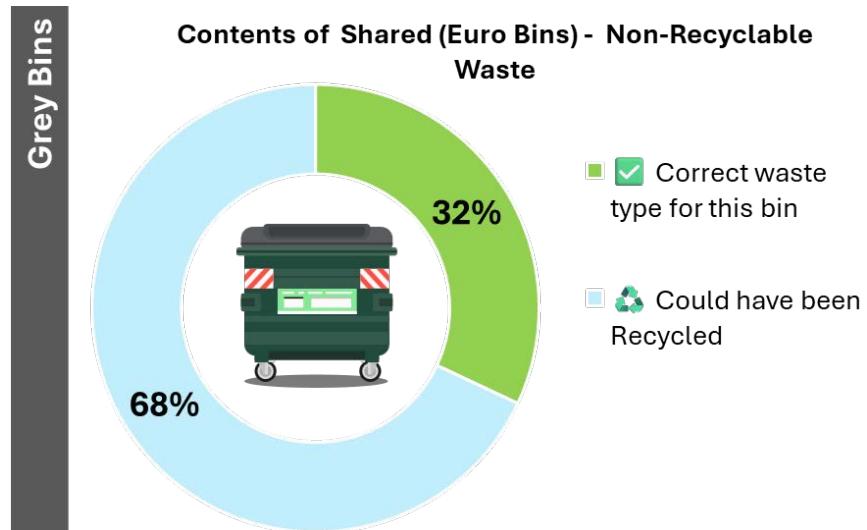


Figure 15 Contents of Shared Euro Bin – Non-Recyclable Waste (Grey bin)

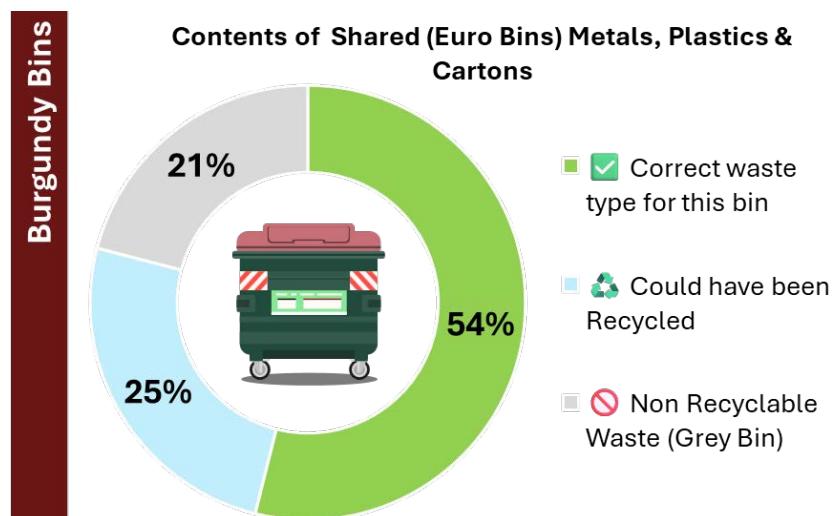


Figure 16 Contents of Shared Euro Bin – Metals, Plastics & Cartons (Burgundy bin)

Waste Composition (Shared Euro Bins – 40% of Household Properties)		Non-Recyclable Waste	Metals, Plastics & Cartons
Waste Streams	Grey Bins	Burgundy Bins	
Plastics, Metals & Cartons	11%	54%	
Paper & Card	13%	9%	
Electrical	6%	1%	
Non-Recyclable Waste	32%	21%	
Food & Garden Waste	30%	15%	
Textiles	8%	0.2%	
Percentage of waste that could have been recycled	68%	25%	

Contents of Wheelie Bins

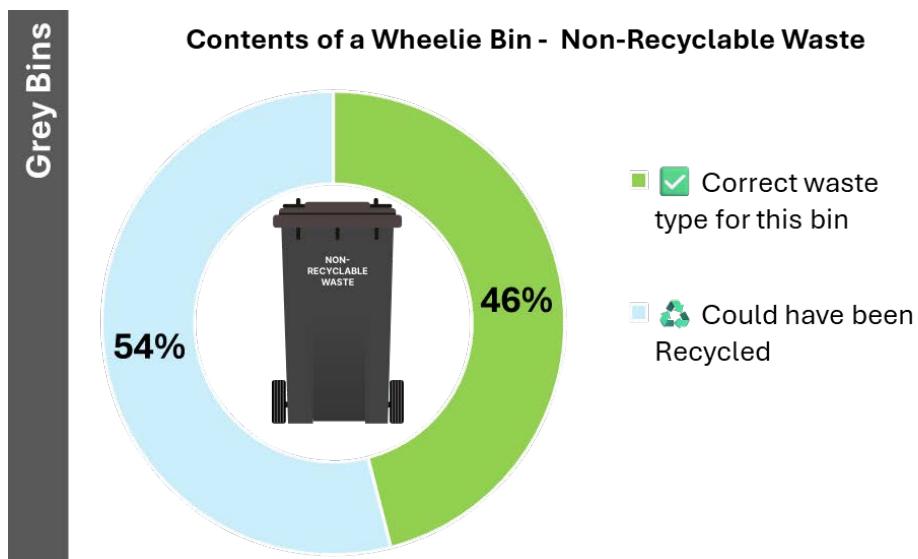


Figure 17 Contents of Wheelie Bin – Non-Recyclable Waste (Grey Bin)

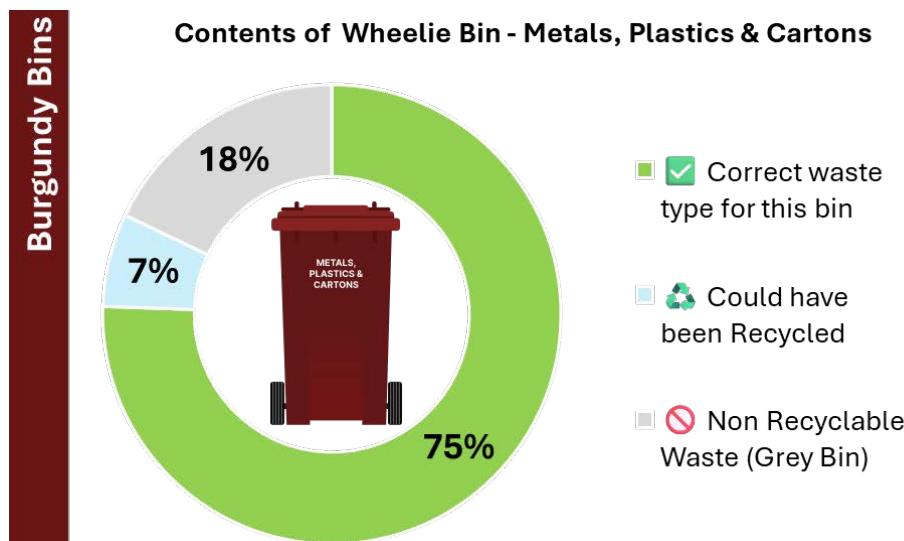


Figure 18 Contents of Wheelie Bin – Metals, Plastics & Cartons (Burgundy Bin)

Waste Composition (Individual Wheelie Bins – 60% - of Household Properties)		
Waste Streams	Non-Recyclable Waste	Metals, Plastics & Cartons
	Grey Bins	Burgundy Bins
Plastics, Metals & Cartons	9%	76%
Paper & Card	7%	2%
Electrical	1%	0.4%
Non-Recyclable Waste	46%	18%
Food & Garden Waste	34%	4%
Textiles	3%	0.2%
Percentage of waste that could have been recycled	54%	7%

It is noted that Dundee differs from most other authorities due to its urban make up and high proportion of flats and tenements, which make up around 50% of households in the city. These properties present significant challenges in terms of participation in recycling services and contamination of recycling bins. A recent sample of bins serving flatted properties in the city was analysed and results showed that communal general waste bins outside flatted properties are still routinely used for disposing of all wastes despite recycling bins being located alongside general waste bins. In addition, a significant amount of bulky waste is being disposed of in communal bins rather than being taken to recycling centres or collected via the bulky uplift service. Bulky waste refers to items which should not be disposed of in household bins such as furniture, electrical items, exercise equipment, carpets etc.

When residents fail to segregate their waste or use communal bins to dispose of bulky items, general waste bins tend to fill up more quickly. As a result, surplus waste is often placed in recycling bins, leading to contamination of recyclable materials and disrupting both the collection and recycling process.



Figure 19 – Example of fly-tipping & contamination

Contamination refers to any material in recycling bins that doesn't belong there. This can range from minor issues—like placing plastics, paper, glass, or food residues in the wrong bin—to major cases where entire bags of general waste are routinely disposed of in the recycling bins. The waste industry recognises that contamination can be either:

- **DELIBERATE** when recycling bins are knowingly misused for general waste disposal.
- **UNINTENTIONAL** when people mistakenly place the wrong items in recycling bins, thinking it's the right thing to do.

Where contaminated bins are presented from kerbside properties in wheelie bins it can be relatively simple to identify the source of the contamination and attempts can be made to address the issues with the householder directly. However, there remains no formal process of sanctions for repeat offences, and this is being addressed through the Circular Economy (Scotland) Act 2024. Collection crews often must resort to making ongoing alternative arrangements for contaminated bins to be emptied, to avoid contaminating entire vehicle loads of segregated recyclate. When contamination occurs in communal on-street bins, it becomes challenging to pinpoint the specific source, making it difficult to address the issue effectively. Contaminated recyclate sent to reprocessors can incur significant fees and render a large portion of carefully segregated recyclate unsuitable for reprocessing, necessitating disposal. This not only impacts public perception and the council's recycling performance but also incurs additional costs.

Despite new bin labels, multiple distributions of information leaflets to residents of flatted properties and direct engagement through doorstep visits by recycling advisors to explain recycling procedures and answer questions, the problem persists, and this will form part of future communications initiatives.



Street cleansing and litter performance

The cleanliness of Dundee's streets remains a key priority for the council.

The council provides a comprehensive street cleansing and litter service to the city, 52 weeks a year. This service is responsible for maintaining 645 km of streets; managing 4500 hectares of public spaces; uplifting street bins in all neighbourhoods across the city; collecting and disposing of all street litter.

New street furniture provided by the Council, such as new litter bins, is aimed at encouraging people to use the bins thereby improving environmental performance.

Through the ongoing, 'Take Pride in Your City' campaign, launched in 2015 and refreshed in April 2025, the Council aim to encourage positive changes to people's behaviour, improving the image of the city's environmental quality and the public perception of Dundee as a good environment to live, work, shop and visit. In addition, recognising the national strategy which outlines three cornerstones of intervention to tackle litter and fly tipping:

- Information - ensuring effective and consistent messaging
- Infrastructure - improving the facilities and services needed to reduce litter and promote recycling
- Enforcement - strengthening the deterrent effect of legislation

Four key strategic groups were identified to build on previous efforts:

- Local Environmental Quality
- Recycling
- City Centre Businesses
- Communications

Specifically in relation to litter management, the campaign will encourage increased public participation through promoting and facilitating community litter picks, working closely with fast food outlets and other retailers. Further encouragement of personal and shared responsibility is planned as part of the Take Pride initial, through increasing the number of city-wide litter actions and the delivery of a litter campaign, along with an ongoing focus on education and enforcement.

Street cleansing and litter performance is measured by the Local Environmental Audit and Management System (LEAMS), managed by Keep Scotland Beautiful (KSB).

Street cleansing and litter performance

LEAMS measures the percentage of areas assessed as having an acceptable level of cleanliness rather than completely litter free and challenges local authorities to tackle problem areas to achieve better results.

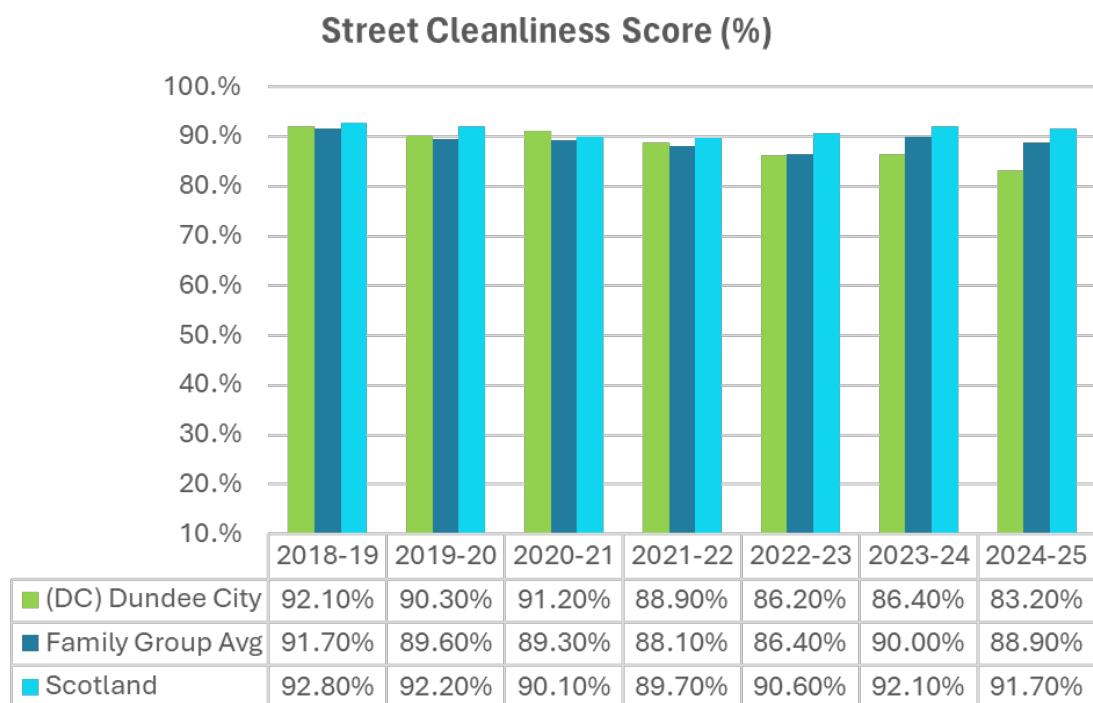


Figure 20- Street Cleanliness Score

(Dundee LGBF Family Group for Street Cleaning/Cleanliness – East Ayrshire, Eilean Siar, Glasgow City, Inverclyde, North Ayrshire, North Lanarkshire, West Dunbartonshire)

Legislative and policy drivers

There have been a number of national policy and legislative changes introduced in Scotland since the launch of the 2020 – 2025 strategy, and these now sit alongside the long-established pieces of legislation which govern how waste should be collected and managed in Dundee.

This is also set within the context of challenging budgetary pressures currently facing local authorities in Scotland.

Circular Economy

The Scottish Government developed a circular economy strategy for Scotland – “Making Things Last” – in 2016. This strategy incorporated waste prevention, product design, recycling systems, remanufacturing, skills, opportunities for businesses, climate change issues and the policies required to develop a successful circular economy. Producer responsibility was a key focus of this strategy, as was collaborative approaches between public, private and third sector organisations.

Making Things Last also provided a commitment from the Scottish Government to consider the role that a Deposit Return Scheme could play in Scotland.

In 2024 the Scottish Government introduced the Circular Economy (Scotland) Act. The Act provides the legislative framework required to support Scotland’s transition to a zero waste and circular economy, significantly increase reuse and recycling rates, and modernise and improve waste and recycling services and contains a number of measures compelling ministers to take measures to develop a circular economy, these are;

- Publishing a circular economy strategy
- Developing circular economy targets
- Reducing waste
- Increasing penalties for littering from vehicles
- Making sure individual householders and businesses get rid of waste in the right way
- Improving waste monitoring

A key element of the Circular Economy Bill is the development of Scotland's circular economy and waste route map to 2030 which has four strategic aims;

- Reduce and reuse
- Modernise recycling
- Decarbonise disposal
- Strengthen the circular economy

In addition, a local Tay Cities Region Circular Economy Strategy and Action Plan has been formulated to further these strategic aims. This has been developed with key external stakeholders, including Zero Waste Scotland and aims to maximise current reuse practices whilst offering support to 3rd sector organisations involved in this sector locally. The strategy aligns with national policy and it's hoped by embedding circularity locally via supply chains, procurement practices and business models, benefits such as reduced environmental impact and increased economic opportunities can be realised.

Packaging Extended Producer Responsibility (pEPR)

The Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR) regulations came into force across the UK on the 1st of April 2025. The purpose of the regulations is to introduce a full net cost recovery model for household and household like packaging which is implemented at the point of products being placed onto the market. Such a cost recovery model would mean producers meeting the costs of:

- Collection/transportation, sorting and treatment less revenue from material sales;
- Treating/disposing of packaging in the residual waste stream;
- Providing information to consumers.

Effectively, this would mean that any product being placed onto the market for sale to householders (food and drink, toys, household goods, clothing etc) would incur a charge for the producer of that product for the packaging – e.g. a manufacturer producing 20,000 Easter eggs in plastic casing inside a cardboard box would face a bill for the recovery costs of each of the materials used to package their product. It is anticipated that this will drive both enhanced recycling capability within the UK and a drive towards less (and more easily recyclable) packaging.

Producers of drinks containers who are part of the DRS scheme will be exempt from the EPR regulations.

Local Authorities are now able to recover their collection and treatment/disposal costs under the terms of the regulations and as part of the process local authorities are required to submit detailed information to the newly formed scheme administrator in relation to the volume, costs and operational efficiencies to provide assurances that the scheme is providing value for money for the producers.

Local authorities that are unable to ensure that their collections systems and administration arrangements can demonstrate that they are both efficient and effective are likely to be required to undertake an improvement process to ensure that they can continue to fully recover their costs.

Emission Trading Scheme

The UK operates an Emissions Trading Scheme (ETS) which is designed to reduce greenhouse gases from burning fossil fuels. It is a market-based mechanism which creates a financial incentive to reduce emissions by rewarding those who improve and penalising those who don't. The UK Government intends to extend the scope of the scheme to include carbon emissions from burning waste from 2028 onwards and has recently carried out a consultation exercise to seek views on the outline proposals.

The proposed changes will directly affect organisations that operate waste facilities within the scope of the extended regulations, including the Councils Baldovie EfW and almost all other Energy from Waste (EfW) facilities in the UK. This will result in significantly higher gate fees for the thermal treatment of waste and may also trigger a rise in landfill tax. Therefore, all councils with responsibility for disposal of waste must plan for the impact of ETS and those who collect waste should also consider the indirect impacts on them, and how they can support their disposal partners.

Waste (Scotland) Regulations 2012

In 2012, the Scottish Government introduced the Waste (Scotland) Regulations which built on the ethos of the Zero Waste Plan and introduced stringent measures for local authorities and businesses to improve how waste is managed within Scotland. The Regulations have been designed to realise the true value of resources that are discarded and to continue to play a key role in helping Scotland reach its ambitious targets.

Household Waste Recycling Charter and Code of Practice

In 2016, the Scottish Government launched their Charter for Household Recycling in Scotland – a voluntary agreement for Local Authorities, intended to increase both the quantity and quality of recyclate collected across Scotland. By signing the Charter, local authorities committed to introducing specific services and policies as detailed in the associated Code of Practice (CoP). The CoP outlined a single collection model which all Scottish local authorities should implement, with the intention being to ensure that the same materials were collected in the same colour of bins throughout the country, making it easier for residents to recycle regardless of where they lived, worked & visited.

Dundee signed the Charter in June 2016 and became the first Local Authority in Scotland to introduce the Charter-compliant single collection model in April 2018.

Revised Code of Practice

Following publication of the Circular Economy (Scotland) Act 2024 and the requirements of the Waste Routemap to 2030 the current Code of Practice which sits alongside the Charter for Household Recycling is currently under review as part of a co-design process and a wider engagement with Scottish local authorities. The intention, as stipulated in the CE Act, is for the Code of Practice to become a mandatory requirement for all Scottish local authorities in terms of a minimum level of service and will require to take cognisance of the impacts of packaging pEPR and the introduction of the revised deposit and return scheme as part of the co-design process.

The codesign process is likely to continue to the end of 2026 before any decision on the date of implementation will be announced.

Deposit Return Scheme

Scotland was the first country in the UK to announce the introduction of a Deposit Return Scheme (DRS). These are effective in many countries around the world in encouraging more people to recycle drinks containers such as plastic and glass bottles and metal cans. The scheme works by charging anyone who buys a drink in a single use container a small deposit of 20p for the bottle or can it comes in. They can get this deposit back when they return the empty bottle or can to a collection point to be recycled.

The public consultation on a deposit return scheme for Scotland received more than 3,000 responses from individuals and organisations, indicating the high level of public interest.

Following the announcement of the implementation of a DRS scheme an industry led scheme administrator was established called Circularity Scotland. Unfortunately, after protracted negotiations, the Scottish Government was unable to establish a legal position with the UK Government through the Competition and Markets Act in relation to the inclusion of glass containers in the Scottish system and the decision was taken to pause the Scottish system in favour of a UK wide DRS system collecting PET plastic bottles and metal beverage containers that is due to be implemented in Autumn 2027. Further guidance from the Scottish Government is now awaited on how this scheme will be implemented within local authorities.

Code of Practice on Litter and Refuse

The Code of Practice on Litter and Refuse (COPLAR) in Scotland provides guidance for public bodies to manage litter effectively and fulfil their duties under the Environmental Protection Act 1990.

The Code of Practice on Litter and Refuse (Scotland) 2018 outlines the responsibilities of public bodies in maintaining land free from litter and refuse. It emphasizes the importance of not only cleaning up litter but also implementing preventive measures to reduce littering behaviour. The code is designed to help organisations understand their duties under Section 89 of the Environmental Protection Act 1990, which mandates that they keep public spaces clean and safe.

Key Responsibilities include:

- **Duty to Keep Land Clean:** Public bodies must ensure that the land they manage is kept free from litter and refuse. This includes regular inspections and prompt removal of litter based on the level of footfall and potential litter sources.
- **Zoning:** The code requires public bodies to categorize their land into zones based on foot traffic and litter sources. Each zone has specific response times for litter removal, with higher footfall areas requiring quicker action.
- **Preventive Measures:** COPLAR stresses the need for preventive actions, such as community engagement and education, to reduce littering. This includes providing adequate waste disposal facilities and promoting responsible behaviour among the public.

Zero Waste Scotland's Corporate Plan

The ZWS Corporate Plan 2024 to 2030 sets the aim “Rewire Scotland’s economic system to drive a reduction of our consumption of natural resources through increased circularity and zero waste.”



- Increase circularity and ensure it becomes central to our future economic system.
- Evidence-led, highlighting the needs, means, and benefits of change socially, economically, and environmentally.
- Systems transformation for the greatest impact.
- Working in partnership as our principal means of delivery.
- Maximising our reach by enabling easy access to information, insight, and solutions.
- Retaining and attracting a talented, diverse, and inclusive workforce. It is noted that the only strategic outcome directly relevant to Dundee is maximising value from Waste and Energy. The partnership arrangement with Angus Council and MEB confirms that the city is already well set up for the future in this regard.

Implementation of the Landfill Ban

The Scottish Government's decision to delay the 2021 landfill ban until the end of 2025 does not directly impact Dundee, as the council has already secured a long-term local EfW contract. However, broader consequences are being considered with national stakeholders since alternatives to landfill may not be ready when the ban begins. If the current ban proceeds, unexpected issues could arise during unplanned outages at EfW facilities like Dundee's, as Scotland lacks landfill options and has limited alternative waste-to-energy capacity.

National Guidance

Managing Persistent Organic Pollutants (POPs) in Scotland

In October 2023, SEPA, in alignment with the Environment Agency in England, prohibited the landfill disposal of waste upholstered domestic seating (WUDs) due to concerns regarding the presence of POPs at high concentrations. The Council's residual waste treatment facility is currently used to dispose of this type of waste and further guidance on POPs can be found on the [SEPA website](#).

Waste prevention

Legislation, policy, and guidance documents consistently emphasise that waste prevention should form the basis of any sustainable waste management system to achieve stated objectives. Over the past decade, both local and national waste prevention and minimisation initiatives have been implemented with varying outcomes culminating in the introduction of the Circular Economy Act in 2024. The Act emphasizes waste prevention as a core principle by shifting away from the traditional "take-make-dispose" model toward a system that designs out waste from the start.

Public awareness regarding single-use items and their effects on waste has increased in recent years, resulting in a broader acceptance of the need for changes in behaviour. Waste prevention and re-use are closely linked; minimising waste requires considering reusable alternatives to single-use products such as plastic bottles, bags, and wrapping, as well as encouraging the reuse of furniture, clothing, and household goods rather than disposing of them.

According to the Waste Framework Directive, waste prevention refers to actions taken prior to a substance, material, or product becoming waste, aiming to reduce:

- The quantity of waste, which includes the reuse of products, extension of product lifespans, and reductions in packaging
- The negative impacts of waste on the environment and human health
- The presence of harmful substances in materials and products

Re-use is defined in the Directive as "any operation by which products or components that are not waste are used again for the same purpose for which they were conceived."

The development of the 'Revolve' accreditation quality standard for re-use continues to increase awareness of the availability and quality of reusable goods for households and businesses in Scotland.

Dundee's Social Enterprise partner at the Baldovie HWRC site Re-use Hub, Tayside Re-users, holds full 'Revolve' accreditation and accepts a wide range of items for re-use.

Strategic Themes & Key Outcomes

This strategy seeks to consolidate the work already undertaken to further improve sustainable waste management within Dundee to ultimately meet the aspiration of an entirely waste free Dundee.

Actions have been identified to achieve this overall aim. This will increase Dundee's recycling rate, influence widespread behavioural change and foster a greater sense of civic pride amongst residents, visitors and businesses.

In order to affect any significant change in Dundee's overall recycling performance, a step change in the behaviour of service users is required.

Whilst many Dundee citizens are committed recyclers, others have not yet made the shift away from their reliance on the general waste bin to dispose of all wastes indiscriminately. In common with other city authorities, this is a particular issue in flat property areas with communal bins in central locations due to lack of ownership and reduced efforts to recycle. Random sampling through repeated compositional analyses of these bins confirms that there is a significant amount of recyclable material, as detailed earlier in the document, still being thrown away in Dundee by residents.

We have introduced a permit scheme for those households that are entitled to an additional general waste bin, along with information on making full use of the recycling bins. Similarly, there are areas of the city where recycling bins – both individual and communal, are routinely used for the disposal of general waste. Allowing these behaviours to remain unchallenged effectively provides these residents with no incentive or pressure to change, nor any acceptance of personal responsibility for sustainably managing the waste they create.

Amongst those citizens making use of their recycling facilities, further action must be taken to address contamination issues, whether deliberate or unintended. Contamination is costly and can in many cases be easily addressed through communicating simple, easy to understand messages about what can and cannot be recycled and why. The impacts of deliberate contamination and the need for all citizens to take personal responsibility are equally important messages which must be communicated. Feedback from recycling advisor engagement and results of compositional analyses clearly highlights the scale of the challenge and it is therefore essential that a multi-faceted approach is taken in order to tackle this issue fully.

Whilst it is vital that the Council continues to ensure that accurate, up to date information on services are readily available to householders and trade customers and that any changes to services are widely communicated well in advance, it is equally important that residents and customers are made aware of the importance of waste minimisation and recycling and of their own responsibilities for doing so. In the case of trade waste, businesses must be made fully aware of their legal responsibilities under the Environmental Protection Act, The Controlled Waste Regulations and the Waste (Scotland) Regulations 2012.

Without action, recycling rates are unlikely to increase further, and future targets will not be reached. Further, the costs for disposal of general waste and contaminated recyclates will continue to put increased pressure on budgets while potential income from clean, high quality recyclate collections will remain unrealised. Collections of general waste in the city will remain stretched to accommodate a population which, in part, fails to engage with the services provided.

As a council, there is a requirement to take urgent action to address the issues in order to fulfil the vision set out in the City and Council Plans, tackle the impacts of climate change and take steps to meet the carbon reduction targets as identified within the 2019 Climate Action Plan, to encourage our citizens to Take Pride in their city. Changes in the national policy framework show that producer responsibility is coming to the forefront as packaging reforms and plastic taxes put increasing pressure on waste producers to change their methods. Producer responsibility must sit alongside citizen responsibility, both householders and businesses cannot be allowed to opt-out of their responsibility towards the behaviour change that will be required for Dundee to achieve its vision for the City and take its place in contributing positively to the Circular Economy.

Take Pride Action Plan

1. Deliver the action plan to reduce waste, and re-use or recycle more engaging with residents/communities and businesses.
2. Develop a plan that engages with internal and external stakeholders to deliver a waste and recycling service that is utilised to the maximum potential.
3. Stimulate increased re-use, upcycling and repair opportunities and the necessary skills and training to undertake these.
4. Work with organisations to improve the visibility of re-use and upcycling opportunities in the city through promotion of re-use as an alternative to buying new.
5. Manage waste sustainably by reducing, reusing, recycling and recovering waste to improve resource efficiency whilst working towards a circular economy.
6. Ensure the most efficient and effective solutions are in place for collecting and handling waste and maximising the amount of recycling collected.
7. Implement robust policies which detail proactive and reactive actions to deal with issues relating to contamination, side waste, use of multiple bins and recycling from kerbside, communal and commercial properties to reduce littering and fly tipping.
8. Instigate a series of activities to highlight the importance of proper waste and resource management and conduct a pre and post campaign recycling rate analysis to measure participation and contamination alongside feedback from householders to measure success.
9. Continue to communicate frequently with residents around waste/recycling services to improve participation/recyclate quantity and quality
10. Build on previous Social Media campaigns and adoption of the Bin App to maximise the impact of and future use of these channels. Increase the uptake of the Bin App through social media posts and general promotion activities.
11. Explore initiatives to significantly reduce the quantity of single-use plastics used in Dundee organisations including Council premises and wider commercial establishments.
12. Continued delivery of sustained waste education campaign programme which aligns to the curriculum for excellence and embeds behavioural change at all stages of the educational journey.
13. Trade waste team to engage fully with Commercial Waste customers as part of the overall monitoring of trade waste contracts to increase their understanding of their responsibilities and requirements in relation to waste and recycling as part of their overall civic duty.



14. Review existing public recycling points on an annual basis to improve accessibility for residents, refurbish and/or replace where necessary, identify potential locations for new recycling points, and ensure signage and labelling at each centre is clear.
15. Support the Scottish Governments Deposit Return Scheme and other viable take back schemes including extended producer responsibility initiatives.
16. Raise awareness of policy changes such as the Deposit Return Scheme (DRS). Ensure an efficient waste/recycling operating model is in place.



Strategic Aims

To drive meaningful progress toward Dundee's environmental and sustainability goals, this strategy is built around four interconnected strategic aims.

Each aim represents a critical pillar of transformation, guiding the city's efforts to become cleaner, greener, and more resilient.



1. Policy & Strategy Implementation

Establishing clear, forward-thinking policies and strategies that align with national and local priorities, ensuring a cohesive and actionable roadmap for change.

2. Communications & Stakeholder Engagement

Building strong relationships and fostering transparent, inclusive dialogue with stakeholders to ensure shared ownership and collective action.

3. Behavioural Change

Encouraging and enabling shifts in public and organisational behaviour through education, incentives, and community-led initiatives.

4. Performance Improvements

Driving continuous improvement through data-led decision-making, monitoring, and evaluation to ensure accountability and measurable impact.

The following sections explore how these strategic aims will be implemented in practice, setting the foundation for a more sustainable future.

Policy & Strategy Implementation

To drive meaningful progress towards a waste-free Dundee, a well-defined plan with measurable actions and a structured programme is essential.



City-wide recycling services were first introduced to Dundee in line with the Waste (Scotland) Regulations in 2012. Since then, Dundee has undergone several major service changes driven by national policy and legislation, significantly enhancing the quality and accessibility of services available to residents.

As the policy landscape continues to evolve, it is crucial that Dundee is prepared. This strategy has identified actions to ensure that ongoing policy is monitored and that solutions are developed to match these new legal requirements whilst continuing to tackle the challenges currently faced in Dundee.

At a local level this requires building on existing policies relating to contamination, side waste and additional bins as well as ensuring robust strategies are in place for communication and waste education.

Dundee will also proactively monitor and respond to emerging national policies, including:

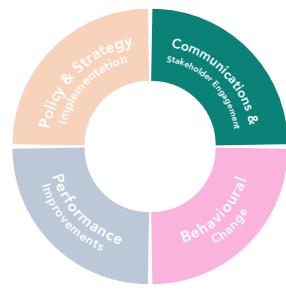
- Scotland's Circular Economy & Waste Route Map to 2030
- Deposit Return Scheme (DRS)
- Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR).
- National Recycling Charter & Revised Code of Practice
- Emissions Trading Scheme

Key Outcomes

- ✓ Increased participation in recycling services
- ✓ Decrease in volume of recyclables disposed of as general waste in Dundee
- ✓ Reduction in contamination levels of recycling collections
- ✓ Increased Re-Use tonnage
- ✓ Decrease in single-use plastic waste
- ✓ Implement local policies in line with national drivers

Communications and Stakeholder Management

Closely aligned to the further development of Policy and Strategy is the need for clear communication with residents, businesses and visitors of Dundee.



Households have routinely received letters and information leaflets from the Council anytime a service change takes place, as well as kerbside properties receiving their annual bin collection calendar each December. These direct mailings aside, information is provided on the website, MyBins App and via social media platforms, such as Facebook and X, year-round.

Funding awards from Zero Waste Scotland has also allowed specialist recycling advisors to be recruited on a temporary basis in the past. This has enabled targeted, face to face householder visits to help understand any barriers to residents using their services and to facilitate recycling.

Commercial waste officers also undertake visits to advise businesses of their obligation to segregate and recycle waste.

In order to ensure that recycling increases and waste is minimised there is a requirement to further increase communications and positive messaging around this subject. A detailed plan will be developed as a key action of this strategy with supporting targets to improve stakeholder engagement.

Key Outcomes

- ✓ Decrease in number of routine queries and complaints received
- ✓ Increased number of website & social media hits for information pages
- ✓ Improved staff survey results regarding communication and information
- ✓ Increased participation in recycling services
- ✓ Recognise commercial customer needs whilst maintaining service efficiency
- ✓ Regularly update stakeholders with progress reports
- ✓ Proactively ensure that council staff are reminded of the importance of their role in developing and maintaining a quality service
- ✓ Ensure best value for the council through contractor engagement
- ✓ Increase uptake of Dundee MyBin App

Behavioural Change

Residents and businesses across the city have responded to the need to adapt their behaviour and accept changes to their waste services, ultimately influencing the overall recycling performance in Dundee positively.



However, it has been confirmed that too much recyclable material is still being discarded within general waste bins. Therefore, there is a need for further progress in this area with residents accepting changes and adapting behaviours accordingly. This is fundamental in ensuring that waste is minimised and recycling is increased.

There is also a need to focus on supporting initiatives which support waste prevention, reducing the overall amount of waste produced in the city and shifting focus towards reuse. This will also require further behavioural change by residents.

To support this change, it is important that key messages are communicated to confirm that;

- inaction is no longer an option
- opting out of changing habits is not acceptable
- it's every resident's personal responsibility to reduce waste

This change in behaviour should also be led by the council which should act as an exemplar to residents and businesses alike.

Key Outcomes

- ✓ Reduced contamination in household recycling bins
- ✓ Reduced side waste
- ✓ Improved quality and volume of recyclate collected
- ✓ Reduced littering & fly tipping
- ✓ Increased positive engagement with key messaging
- ✓ Increase in number of local businesses which Take Pride in their environment and help improve their local area

Performance Improvements

While Dundee has made progress in waste and recycling, further work is essential to ensure continued success and meet the city's ambitious environmental goals. Internally, the Council must remain focused on delivering best value services—ensuring that waste and recycling operations are not only efficient and cost-effective, but also responsive to the needs of residents and businesses.



This includes ongoing optimisation of collection routes and regular reviews of service provision to ensure resources are deployed where they are most needed. Maintaining high service standards while adapting to new legislative and policy requirements will be key to sustaining public trust and participation.

Commercial waste services also play a vital role in Dundee's waste landscape. The Council must continue to support local businesses in meeting their legal obligations, offering tailored waste and recycling solutions that are both practical and compliant.

Equally important is the need to increase reuse across the city. Dundee's investment in reuse and partnerships with social enterprises has already diverted significant volumes of material from disposal. Expanding these initiatives—alongside promoting repair, upcycling, and sustainable consumption—will help embed reuse as a core component of the city's waste strategy.

Residents and businesses must continue to make full use of the services available and embrace their role in protecting Dundee's environment. By Taking Pride in their city, they can help drive up recycling rates, reduce waste sent for disposal, and keep Dundee Bonnie.

Key Outcomes

- ✓ Optimise collection route efficiency
- ✓ Review recycling provision annually
- ✓ Review and revise waste data recording
- ✓ Implement smart waste technology systems within the city
- ✓ Increase recycling
- ✓ Decrease contamination of recyclates
- ✓ Decrease waste arisings

Action Plan

Action	Summary	Policy & Strategy Implementation	Communications & Stakeholder Engagement	Behavioural Change	Performance Improvements	Links to Council Plans & KPI's	Priority	Timescale	Measurable Outcomes
National Policies	<p>Deposit Return Scheme (DRS) Devise a policy to support the introduction of the revised DRS scheme for single use beverage containers from 2027 in Dundee in line with policy & legislative parameters.</p>	X				Neighbourhood Services Plan	High	Oct-26	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> * Policy developed to support DRS implementation by October 2026 and successful transition / introduction by October 2027
National Policies	<p>Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR) Adhere to reporting requirements of EPR legislation and identify target materials for future collections.</p>	X				LGBF KPI Net cost of collection / disposal	High	Ongoing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> * Establish a working group between Waste Operations, Waste Partnership, Fleet, and Finance to ensure all reporting data required is available on an ongoing basis by March 2026 * An increase in target packaging materials year on year, baseline to be established * Successful EPR submissions completed on time annually
National Policies	<p>Strategic National Partnerships Build on strong working partnerships with Scottish Government, Zero Waste Scotland & SEPA in the preparation for and delivery of forthcoming policy & legislative changes to ensure a benefit for the city.</p>		X				Medium	Ongoing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> * Continue to attend and participate in national forums/discussions / co-design to ensure Dundee is aligned for any forthcoming changes * Deliver Recycling Infrastructure Fund (RIF) improvements by March 2026 * Ensure legislative and regulatory compliance for waste management licensed sites

Action Plan

Action	Summary	Policy & Strategy Implementation	Communications & Stakeholder Engagement	Behavioural Change	Performance Improvements	Links to Council Plans & KPI's	Priority	Timescale	Measurable Outcomes
National Policies	Waste Tracking & Reporting Ensure compliance with waste data reporting requirements and prepare for the forthcoming mandatory digital waste data tracking.	X			X		High	Dec-26 to Dec-27	* Ongoing waste data submissions successfully accepted on an annual basis * Work alongside DEFRA/SEPA to ensure successful implementation of Digital Waste Tracking
National Policies	National Recycling Charter & Revised Code of Practice Fully participate in the Household Waste Recycling Charter co-design process and prepare for forthcoming introduction of a mandatory Code of Practice.	X				Neighbourhood Services Plan / City Plan / Climate change Plan	High	Dec-26	* Continue to attend and participate in national forums & discussions to ensure Dundee is aligned and compliant with mandatory Code of Practice when implemented post December 2026
Provision of Best Value Household Services	Annual Citywide Review of Household Waste & Recycling Provision Review capacity and location of all public recycling points & communal bins, refurbishing or replacing units as required and ensuring all signage is relevant and targeted. Review all collection methodologies alongside fleet requirements, utilising route optimisation software including in-cab devices to ensure carbon impact is minimised.				X	Take Pride, LGBF KPI Net cost of collection/ disposal & Climate Plan	High	Ongoing	* Recycling provision reviewed annually * Increased participation in recycling services measured on an annual basis * Optimised collection route efficiency

Action Plan

Action	Summary	Policy & Strategy Implementation	Communications & Stakeholder Engagement	Behavioural Change	Performance Improvements	Links to Council Plans & KPI's	Priority	Timescale	Measurable Outcomes
Provision of Best Value Household Services	<p>Side Waste & Contamination Intervention</p> <p>Build on existing side waste and contamination policies to increase awareness of side waste & contamination and provide detailed information, advice and support to assist residents in utilising bins for the correct purpose. Implement targeted intervention across kerbside, communal and commercial properties and areas where persistent contamination of recycling containers and side waste/fly-tipping occurs.</p>	X	X		X	Neighbourhood Services Plan / City Plan / Climate change Plan	High	Dec-26	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> * A reduction of contaminated waste streams & charges for MPT and paper & card * A reduction in contamination charges * Improved quality and volume of recyclate collected * Increased revenue from recycling * Increased public awareness of Dundee's waste & recycling system * Reduction in contamination levels of recycling collections * Improved quality and volume of recyclate collected * Increased participation in recycling services * Reduced littering (associated with side waste) * Implement local policies in line with national drivers

Action Plan

Action	Summary	Policy & Strategy Implementation	Communications & Stakeholder Engagement	Behavioural Change	Performance Improvements	Links to Council Plans & KPI's	Priority	Timescale	Measurable Outcomes
Development of Communication & Engagement Strategies	<p>Annual Communication Plan</p> <p>Develop and implement an annual communications strategy for recycling, including engagement with residents and businesses citywide, through multiple media platforms to harness increased buy-in and support significant behavioural change. This plan will include key activities, dates and planned messaging around each key events. Website information will be regularly reviewed and updated to ensure accuracy.</p>	X	X	X		Neighbourhood Services Plan	Medium	Apr-26 then annually thereafter	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> * An increase in web site traffic for waste-related pages * A reduction in mailbox queries * An increase in social media metrics * Implement, gather and measure website feedback to ensure good user experience
Development of Communication & Engagement Strategies	<p>MyBins Dundee Mobile App</p> <p>Continue to promote the MyDundee Bin App and utilise all functions to communicate with residents, educate and encourage behaviour change. Review impact and improvements to further develop App in 2026 -2027.</p>		X	X		Take Pride	Low	Ongoing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> * Increase in app users from 12,500 to 15,000 by December 2026 * Reduction in costs and resources via traditional means of communications including associated postage costs * Decrease in number of routine queries and complaints received

Action Plan

Action	Summary	Policy & Strategy Implementation	Communications & Stakeholder Engagement	Behavioural Change	Performance Improvements	Links to Council Plans & KPI's	Priority	Timescale	Measurable Outcomes
Development of communication & engagement strategy plans	<p>Waste Education Strategy for Schools</p> <p>Work closer with Education colleagues to implement waste education strategy in schools across Dundee to promote waste awareness and positive recycling and re-use messages.</p>	X				Take Pride	Medium	Dec-26 then annually	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> * Establish baseline of school recycling rates to enable future measurement.
Internal DCC Resource Management	<p>Digital Transformation of Waste Awareness for Staff</p> <p>Deliver staff briefing session, where required, on the importance of sustainable waste management within the Council and ensure clear communication across all offices. Continue to engage with Facilities Management Staff to improve waste management within Council buildings, ensure correct infrastructure is in place and increase participation.</p>		X		X		Medium	Ongoing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> * Proactively ensure that council staff are reminded of the importance of their responsibilities whilst disposing of waste whilst at work * Improved staff survey results regarding communication and information * Improved quality and volume of recyclate collected from DCC buildings * Increased number of engaged schools/eco groups, ensuring all schools have an internal waste system to encourage recycling * Improved staff survey results regarding communication and information * Improved quality and volume of recyclate collected from DCC schools

Action Plan

Action	Summary	Policy & Strategy Implementation	Communications & Stakeholder Engagement	Behavioural Change	Performance Improvements	Links to Council Plans & KPI's	Priority	Timescale	Measurable Outcomes
Increasing Reuse in Dundee	Encourage and Increase Reuse at HWRCs Promote the use of HWRC's for reuse and recycling via social media posts, Dundee MyBins App and online information videos detailing recycling journeys.		X			Services Plan / City Plan / Climate change Plan	Medium	Mar-26	* Increased number of website & social media hits for information pages * Installation of reuse facility at Riverside and upgrade of Baldovie re-use cabin by March 2026
Increasing Reuse in Dundee	Increasing Reuse in Dundee Draft a formal reuse plan to identify and co-ordinate reuse activities alongside Circular Communities Scotland including supporting the development of partnerships with the wider third sector community.	X	X			Services Plan / City Plan / Climate change Plan	Medium	Mar-26	* Increased Re-Use tonnage * Installation of reuse facility at Riverside and upgrade of Baldovie re-use cabin by March 2026
Increasing Reuse in Dundee	Encourage & Promote Reuse via Social Media Support a "Don't ditch the good stuff" social media campaign to promote the materials which can easily be recycled but are usually discarded.				X	Services Plan / City Plan / Climate change Plan	Medium	Mar-26	* Increased Re-Use tonnage * Installation of reuse facility at Riverside and upgrade of Baldovie re-use cabin by March 2026

Action Plan

Action	Summary	Policy & Strategy Implementation	Communications & Stakeholder Engagement	Behavioural Change	Performance Improvements	Links to Council Plans & KPI's	Priority	Timescale	Measurable Outcomes
Waste Prevention	Utilising Waste Compositional Analysis for Better Outcomes Conduct regular compositional analysis for all waste streams to inform a waste prevention plan, obtain detailed information on packaging materials and target high impact materials plastics, textiles and food waste. Identify the primary contaminants across all recycling collections and develop a suite of communication materials and target specific areas of concern to support performance improvement and behavioural change.	X	X	X	X		Medium	Mar-26	* Data requirement for annual submission to EPR Scheme administrator. An increase in target packaging materials year on year, baseline to be established. * EPR Submissions completed on time annually and successfully accepted.
Take Pride	Take Pride - Community Clean Ups Undertake community clean ups in localities across the city through a partnership approach to improve the local environment and deal with waste materials appropriately.	X	X			Take Pride	Medium	Ongoing	* Reduced fly tipping * Reduced littering * Increase in number of local businesses which Take Pride in their environment and help improve their local area

Action Plan

Action	Summary	Policy & Strategy Implementation	Communications & Stakeholder Engagement	Behavioural Change	Performance Improvements	Links to Council Plans & KPI's	Priority	Timescale	Measurable Outcomes
Take Pride	<p>Take Pride - Promote Take Pride & Encourage Responsibility</p> <p>Encourage residents and city centre business to take personal and shared responsibility for their environment through the Take Pride in your City campaign, with particular focus on litter & flytipping. Identify local recycling champions who are keen to promote the Take Pride messaging and work with stakeholders to deliver messaging across schools, shopping centres & city centre spaces.</p>		X	X		Take Pride	Medium	Ongoing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> * Increased number of website & social media hits for information pages * Increased engagement with stakeholders * Increased number of website & social media hits for information pages * Reduced littering * Improved quality and volume of recyclate collected"
Take Pride	<p>Take Pride - Litter Nudge & Litter Picks</p> <p>Deliver a litter nudge campaign in a pilot area, such as city centre. Promote, facilitate and encourage registration of litter picks across the city (in partnership with the community, KSB, community officers, and businesses), encouraging an even spread across wards.</p>			X	X	Take Pride	Medium	Ongoing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> * Reduced Littering (in targeted areas) * Reduced Fly-tipping * Increase in number of local businesses which Take Pride in their environment and help improve their local area * Increase in number of litter picks and associated activity

Action Plan

Action	Summary	Policy & Strategy Implementation	Communications & Stakeholder Engagement	Behavioural Change	Performance Improvements	Links to Council Plans & KPI's	Priority	Timescale	Measurable Outcomes
Provision of Commercial Waste Services	<p>Commercial Waste Services</p> <p>Continue to provide commercial services to local businesses to improve environmental performance, legislative compliance and boost income revenue. Includes promotion of commercial services via all available media channels.</p>		X		X	Take Pride	Medium	Ongoing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> * Increased number of visits by trade waste team * Increased core business and receipt of income * Improved quality of recyclate from commercial sources * Improved service delivery and customer satisfaction

Glossary of Terms

Association of Public Sector Excellence (APSE) is a not-for-profit membership-based organisation dedicated to promoting excellence in the delivery of frontline services to local communities. They work with more than 300 local authorities across the UK to share information and expertise in services including waste and refuse, parks and grounds, highways, street lighting, leisure, school meals, housing and building maintenance and strategic policy advice.

Bulky Uplift Collection of large household items which should not be placed into household waste bins such as furniture, carpets, exercise equipment and large electrical items.

Contamination is when incorrect materials are placed into the wrong collection container. This can either be deliberate (i.e. used indiscriminately) or non-deliberate (i.e. due to a lack of understanding or awareness about what is accepted).

Energy from Waste (EfW) A means of waste disposal whereby the general waste is shredded and incinerated which generates heat & steam which is then converted into electricity

Environmental Protection Act (EPA) 1990 – Part two deals with regulations surrounding the controlled disposal of waste (household, industrial or commercial).

Household Waste Recycling Centre (HWRC) a site provided for residents for the recycling and disposal of household waste. HWRCs, or recycling centres, are also known as civic amenity sites.

Keep Scotland Beautiful (KSB) is the charity that campaigns, acts and educates on a range of local, national and global environmental issues to change behaviour and improve the quality of people's lives and the places they care for. They are committed to making Scotland clean, green and more sustainable.

Materials Reclamation Facility (MRF) A facility to process waste for the purpose of recovering materials using a variety of processes to separate out different materials, ranging from manual sorting to advanced mechanical sorting techniques. The contents of the burgundy recycling bins are processed via this route.

Rapid Response Teams (RRT) Dedicated council street cleansing teams charged with delivering flexible and responsive front-line services to communities to remove litter, fly-tipping and graffiti in open spaces.

Scottish Environment Protection Agency (SEPA) Role in protecting the environment and human health including environmental regulation, mitigating and adapting to climate change, monitoring and reporting on the state of the environment, raising awareness of environmental issues, engaging with the public through citizen science projects, and resolving environmental harms.

Society for Local Authority Chief Executives (SOLACE) Solace is the representative body for Chief Executives and senior managers working in the public sector in the UK.

Third Sector Organisations a term used to describe the range of organisations that are neither public sector nor private sector. It includes voluntary and community organisations (both registered charities and other organisations such as associations, self-help groups and community groups), social enterprises, mutuals and co-operatives.

Transfer Station Facility where waste is taken to after being collected by refuse collection vehicles where it is stored and bulked prior to onward transport for treatment or disposal.

Waste Compositional Analysis (WCA) is a study that examines the weight and types of materials present in different waste streams. It typically involves collecting samples from these streams and sorting them into predefined categories, which are then weighed to provide detailed insights into the composition of the waste.

Waste Management Licence (WML)/Pollution Prevention Control (PPC): Permit issued by SEPA where waste is either being stored, treated or disposed of. Issued to operators of waste management facilities to ensure that they do not cause pollution of the environment or cause harm to human health and which becomes seriously detrimental to the amenities of the locality.

Zero Waste Scotland (ZWS) Funded by the Scottish Government to support the delivery of the Zero Waste Plan, the Circular Economy and other low carbon and resource efficiency policy priorities.

References

- Scotland's Zero Waste Plan June 2010
- The Waste (Scotland) Regulations 2012
- European Waste Framework Directive 2008/98/EC
- Climate Change (Scotland) Act 2009
- Kerbside Good Practice Guide September 2012
- Making Things Last: a circular economy strategy for Scotland 2016
- Duty of Care: A Code of Practice 2014
- Charter for Household Recycling & Code of Practice – Household Recycling in Scotland 2016
- Thermal Treatment of Waste Guidelines 2014
- Code of Practice on Sampling and Reporting at Materials Recovery Facilities 2024 SESO – Scottish Environment Statistics Online
- Dundee City economic profile 2023
- Improvement Service – Local Government Benchmarking Framework report 2023/24
- The Circular Economy Act (Scotland) 2024
- The Scottish Household Survey Data Explorer

Figures

- Figure 1 Household Recycling Rates - Source: SEPA Published Data
- Figure 2 Examples of new revised bin labels for shared bins
- Figure 3 Council Budget Allocation 2025-26
- Figure 4 Council Waste Management Costs
- Figure 5 Council Tax Allocation 2025-26
- Figure 6 Portion of total household waste recycled/composted
- Figure 7 Net cost per waste collection per premises
- Figure 8 Net cost per waste disposal per premises
- Figure 9 Percentage of adults satisfied with refuse collection
- Figure 10 Percentage of adults satisfied with street cleaning

- Figure 11 Dundee's landfill rate versus national rate. Source: SEPA
- Figure 12 Dundee's landfill rate 2023 vs Scottish average & other local authorities.
SOURCE: SEPA
- Figure 13 Percentage of household waste recycled - last 5 yrs Source: SEPA
- Figure 14 How Dundee's Household Waste was managed 2024 Source: SEPA
- Figure 15 Contents of Shared Euro Bin – Non-Recyclable Waste (Grey bin)
- Figure 16 Contents of Shared Euro Bin – Metals, Plastics & Cartons (Burgundy bin)
- Figure 17 Contents of Wheelie Bin – Non-Recyclable Waste (Grey Bin)
- Figure 18 Contents of Wheelie Bin – Metals, Plastics & Cartons (Burgundy Bin)
- Figure 19 Example of fly-tipping & contamination
- Figure 20 Street Cleanliness Score (%)

Supporting Information

All supporting information can be found on our website:

www.dundee.gov.uk/recyclefordundee

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Waste Strategy Team, Neighbourhood Services

Dundee City Council

Integrated Impact Assessment

Committee Report Number: 324-2025

Document Title: Waste and Recycling strategy and action plan

Document Type: Strategy

Description:

A five year plan, following on from the 2020-2025 strategy, to improve Dundee's recycling performance and promote sustainable waste management practices across the city. The strategy outlines actions centred around four key themes, which link to wider council plans and priorities and seeks to improve performance, encourage behaviour change and develop a number of key policies in line with national policy.

Intended Outcome:

Over the course of the five year strategy timescale, it is intended that the actions identified, will have helped to raise the profile of waste reduction, reuse and recycling in the city. This will assist in meeting the key performance indicators that are set out for waste and recycling (percentage of household waste recycled and landfilled). New national policies will have been introduced and these will help drive forward the wider behavioural change that is required to make residents aware of the impacts of their actions in relation to waste, litter and recycling.

Period Covered: 17/11/2025 to 31/12/2030

Monitoring:

Each of the identified actions within the strategy has outcomes attached, whereby performance can be monitored. This will be reviewed by the Waste team at regular intervals over the duration of the plan.

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Equality, Diversity and Human Rights

Impacts & Implications

Age: No Impact

Disability: No Impact

Gender Reassignment: No Impact

Marriage & Civil Partnership: No Impact

Pregnancy & Maternity: No Impact

Race / Ethnicity: No Impact

Religion or Belief: No Impact

Sex: No Impact

Sexual Orientation: No Impact

Are any Human Rights not covered by the Equalities questions above impacted by this report?

No

Fairness & Poverty

Geographic Impacts & Implications

Strathmartine:	No Impact
Lochee:	No Impact
Coldside:	No Impact
Maryfield:	No Impact
North East:	No Impact
East End:	No Impact
The Ferry:	No Impact
West End:	No Impact

Household Group Impacts and Implications

Looked After Children & Care Leavers: No Impact

Carers: No Impact

Lone Parent Families: No Impact

Household Group Impacts and Implications

Single Female Households with Children: No Impact

Greater number of children and/or young children: No Impact

Pensioners - single / couple: No Impact

Unskilled workers or unemployed: No Impact

Serious & enduring mental health problems: No Impact

Homeless: No Impact

Drug and/or alcohol problems: No Impact

Offenders & Ex-offenders: No Impact

Socio Economic Disadvantage Impacts & Implications

Employment Status: No Impact

Education & Skills: No Impact

Income: No Impact

Caring Responsibilities (including Childcare): No Impact

Affordability and accessibility of services: No Impact

Fuel Poverty: No Impact

Cost of Living / Poverty Premium: No Impact

Connectivity / Internet Access: No Impact

Income / Benefit Advice / Income MaximisationNo Impact

Employment Opportunities: No Impact

Education: No Impact

Health: No Impact

Life Expectancy: No Impact

Mental Health: No Impact

Overweight / Obesity: No Impact

Child Health: No Impact

Neighbourhood Satisfaction: No Impact

Transport: No Impact

Environment

Climate Change Impacts

Mitigating Greenhouse Gases: Positive

Over the duration of the plan the actions identified should lead to a positive reduction in overall waste arisings and a subsequent increase in waste that is recycled and re-used.

Adapting to the effects of climate change: Positive

Over the duration of the plan the actions identified should lead to a positive reduction in overall waste arisings and a subsequent increase in waste that is recycled and re-used.

Resource Use Impacts

Energy efficiency & consumption: No Impact

Prevention, reduction, re-use, recovery or recycling of waste: Positive

Over the duration of the plan the actions identified should lead to a positive reduction in overall waste arisings and a subsequent increase in waste that is recycled and re-used.

Sustainable Procurement: No Impact

Transport Impacts

Accessible transport provision: No Impact

Sustainable modes of transport: No Impact

Natural Environment Impacts

Air, land & water quality: No Impact

Biodiversity: No Impact

Open & green spaces: No Impact

Built Environment Impacts

Built Heritage: No Impact

Housing: No Impact

Is the proposal subject to a Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA)?

Screening has determined that the proposal is unlikely to have any significant environmental effects. The reason(s) for this determination are set out in the Screening Report, a copy of which will be available to view at <http://www.dundeecity.gov.uk/cplanning/sea/>

Corporate Risk

Corporate Risk Impacts

Political Reputational Risk: No Impact

Economic/Financial Sustainability / Security & Equipment: No Impact

Social Impact / Safety of Staff & Clients: No Impact

Technological / Business or Service Interruption: No Impact

Environmental: Positive

Over the duration of the plan the actions identified should lead to a positive reduction in overall waste arisings and a subsequent increase in waste that is recycled and re-used.

Legal / Statutory Obligations: Positive

The waste strategy and action plan will ensure key actions are identified that will ensure legislative and regulatory compliance with regard to waste and recycling.

Organisational / Staffing & Competence: No Impact

Corporate Risk Implications & Mitigation:

The risk implications associated with the subject matter of this report are "business as normal" risks and any increase to the level of risk to the Council is minimal. This is due either to the risk being inherently low or as a result of the risk being transferred in full or in part to another party on a fair and equitable basis. The subject matter is routine and has happened many times before without significant impact.

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