



Glasgow City Council

Net Zero and Climate Progress Monitoring City Policy Committee

Report by George Gillespie, Executive Director of Neighbourhoods, Regeneration & Sustainability

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CIRCULAR ECONOMY ROUTE MAP FOR GLASGOW 2025-2030

Purpose of Report:

To provide Committee with the updated Circular Economy Route Map and Action Plan for Glasgow.

Recommendations:

The Committee is asked to:

- 1) Note the contents of this report;
- 2) Note the review process for the Circular Economy Route Map and Action Plan;
- 3) Note the updated Circular Economy Route Map for Glasgow 2025-2030 and refer it to the City Administration Committee for approval.

Ward No(s):

Citywide: ✓

Local member(s) advised: Yes ☐ No ☐ consulted: Yes ☐ No ☐

1. Introduction

1.1 In December 2020, Glasgow City Council (GCC) published the [Circular Economy Route Map and Action Plan](#) which aims to guide a change in city-wide economic practices from the current extractive system towards a regenerative system. Glasgow's Circular Economy Route Map addresses the need to move away from the "take-make-dispose" model to a circular system where products and materials are kept in circulation through processes like maintenance, reuse, refurbishment, remanufacture, recycling and composting. The associated Action Plan focuses on how to deliver this across a range of stakeholders including the Council, private sector, and civil society.

1.2 This report presents:

- The considerations for the Circular Economy Route Map and Action Plan review and timeline.
- The updated Circular Economy Route Map for Glasgow 2025-2030 and associated Action Plan.

2. Circular Economy Route Map and Action Plan review

2.1. During the first quarter of 2023/24, the Ellen McArthur Foundation (EMF) acted as a critical friend to Glasgow and conducted [an evaluation](#) of Glasgow's Circular Economy Action Plan. In summary, the EMF proposed that in order to ensure that Glasgow's Circular Economy Route Map and Action Plan is deliverable, there is a need to update its focus on fewer, more tangible actions and to create a Working Group to drive its delivery. These recommendations were taken on board and the Circular Economy Working Group was created in January 2024, led by the Council's Sustainability team within NRS, with the aim to collaboratively review and update Glasgow's Circular Economy Action Plan and drive delivery.

2.2 Furthermore, in [May 2024](#), a proposal to integrate the Plastic Reduction Strategy Action Plan into the Circular Economy Action Plan was presented to Net Zero and Climate Progress Monitoring City Policy Committee. The purpose of this was to better embed plastic reduction into the Council's Circular Economy strategy and ensure consistent reporting.

2.3 A need was identified to review and update Glasgow's Circular Economy Route Map and Action Plan to align with current strategic priorities and focus on fewer, tangible areas where most impact can be achieved. This was presented in detail to the Net Zero and Climate Progress Monitoring City Policy Committee in [September 2024](#). Diagram 1 below summarises the process of review of the Circular Economy Route Map and Action Plan, which started in January 2024 with the launch of the Circular Economy Working Group.

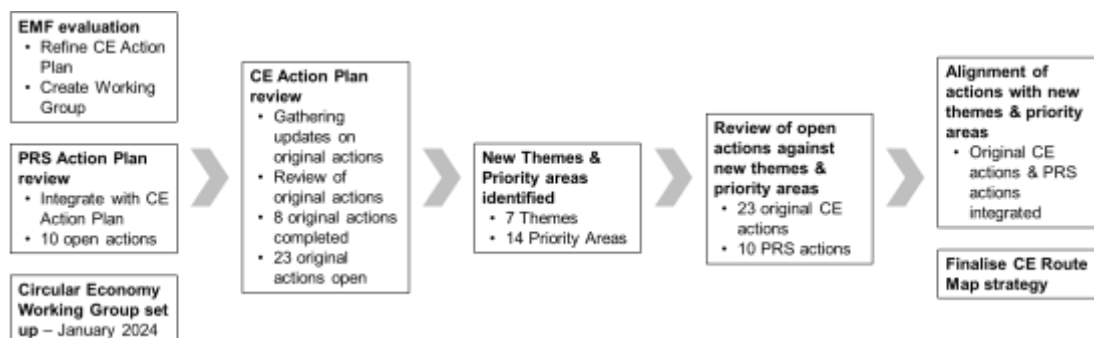


Diagram 1 – Circular Economy Route Map and Action Plan review process

- 2.4 All steps of the review process have now been undertaken through engagement with the Circular Economy Working Group. Since September 2024, Plastic Reduction Strategy Action Plan and Circular Economy Action Plan actions have been refined, including timelines, lead and supporting teams, and aligned with updated Circular Economy themes and priority areas, as these have arisen through the Circular Economy Working Group review.
- 2.5 The review and update of the Circular Economy Route Map strategic document has also been completed. A summary of the updated Circular Economy Route Map for Glasgow 2025-2030 is presented in Section 3 below. The complete document is presented in Appendix 1.
- 2.6 At this point it should be noted that the reports provided to the Net Zero and Climate Progress Monitoring City Policy Committee both in [May 2024](#) and [September 2024](#), presented in detail the progress of Plastic Reduction actions and Circular Economy actions respectively and highlighted all actions being carried over to the update Circular Economy Route Map for Glasgow 2025-2030. There are two actions from the original Plastic Reduction Strategy Action Plan which have since been considered closed. These are “Action 9: Take initial steps in developing the first plastic free shopping area in Glasgow” and “Action 22: Undertake research on the viability of smart recycling schemes that offer incentives for positive recycling practices.”
- 2.7 Significant progress has been achieved in reducing single-use plastic across the city. As the Council and stakeholders accelerate efforts, making venues, events, festivals, Circular Hubs and markets single-use plastic free will be considered as the preferred option. “Action 9: Take initial steps in developing the first plastic free shopping area in Glasgow” is therefore considered closed as it will be integrated in efforts to make events circular and establish circular hubs across Glasgow.
- 2.8 Glasgow City Council introduced twin stream recycling collection infrastructure to flats in three areas during the last six months of 2023. Following successful pilot implementation, the twin stream recycling service has been introduced to kerbside properties from Spring 2024. Additionally, albeit delayed until October 2027 to align with schemes in the rest of the UK, Scotland’s Deposit Return Scheme (DRS) is expected to progress. Both these measures are expected to increase the quantity and quality of single-use plastic recycling. With that in

mind, as well as aligning with circular economy principles, Action 22 will not be taken forward.

3. Updated Circular Economy Route Map for Glasgow 2025-2030

- 3.1 The Circular Economy Route Map for Glasgow 2025-2030 is presented in full in Appendix 1. It builds on progress to date and sets out a framework for Glasgow to further progress to a sustainable future. It presents a vision for a circular city and provides a set of actions to support the transition to a circular economy.
- 3.2 The document provides the most up to date strategic context and discusses the key drivers for a circular economy in Glasgow; the climate emergency, net zero commitments and the need for the city to be a resilient, thriving economy, within the local environment and planetary boundaries. It also covers some of the challenges and opportunities that the transition to a circular economy presents.
- 3.3 The key focus of the Circular Economy Route Map is the updated themes and priority areas, as these have been identified through the Circular Economy Working Group review process, and the Circular Economy Action Plan with actions that align with current strategic priorities and have a refined focus. Table 1 below presents the 7 themes and 14 priority areas.

Built and Natural Environment
Priority: Circular construction
Priority: Natural environment regeneration
Circular Hubs
Priority: Construction material reuse hubs
Priority: Circular markets / Reuse hubs
Circular Practices
Priority: Support for circular businesses, organisations, and communities
Priority: Reduce, reuse, repair, remanufacture and recycling practices
Engagement, Communication and Skills
Priority: Engagement
Priority: Communication
Priority: Skills for a circular economy and transition
Monitoring and evaluation
Priority: Baseline of circular economy activity
Priority: Circular economy metrics and indicators
Plastics
Priority: Single-use plastic reduction across Glasgow
Priority: Single-use plastic reduction within Glasgow City Council
Procurement
Priority: Circular public procurement

Table 1: Circular Economy Action plan themes and priorities

- 3.4 An “Easy read” version of the Circular Economy Route Map for Glasgow 2025-2030 is presented in Appendix 2. The “Easy read” version provides a summary of the Route Map and Action Plan in a short and succinct way. It is a way of making information easy for citizens, communities, third sector organisations, businesses, industry bodies and everyone in Glasgow to understand what Glasgow does to support the transition to a circular economy.
- 3.5 A highlight of actions and projects are presented in Appendix 3. These showcase progress to date with the aim to celebrate success.

4. Next Steps

- 4.1 Following approval by the City Administration Committee, a session will be held during Climate Week in May 2025 to share the new document and engage with stakeholders and people on the updated Circular Economy Route Map.
- 4.2 A progress update on the integrated Circular Economy Route Map and Action Plan for Glasgow 2025-2030, under the new themes and priority areas, will be provided to the Net Zero and Climate Progress Monitoring City Policy Committee following summer recess. Moving forwards activities and projects will be reported on an annual basis.
- 4.3 Moving forward, the NRS Sustainability team will drive the delivery of several actions within the Action Plan, as well as provide program management support. However, specialist input, continued input of commitment and resources will be required will be from various functions within the Council as well as city stakeholders. The Circular Economy Working Group will continue to meet and work collaboratively to drive and deliver the agreed actions.

5. Policy and Resource Implications

Resource Implications:

<i>Financial:</i>	There are no direct financial implications arising from the report.
<i>Legal:</i>	The report raises no legal issues.
<i>Personnel:</i>	The Circular Economy Route Map and Action Plan is managed within existing resource in the Sustainability team. A wide range of internal colleagues will continue to be involved in the project delivery.
<i>Procurement:</i>	There are no direct procurement implications arising from the report.

Council Strategic Plan: The project supports Grand challenge 1, 2, 3 and 4:

- Reduce Poverty and Inequality In Our Communities; Mission 3: Improve the health and wellbeing of our local communities, by embedding circular practices and values.
- Increase Opportunity and Prosperity for All Our Citizens; Mission 1: Support Glasgow residents into sustainable and fair work, by creating skills for a circular economy; Mission 2: Support the growth of an innovative, resilient and net zero carbon economy, by embedding circular practices and supporting the creation of reuse/repair hubs.
- Fight Climate Emergency in a Just Transition to Net Zero; Mission 2: Become a Net Zero Carbon City by 2030, by reducing consumption and waste.
- Enable staff to deliver essential services in a sustainable, innovative and efficient way for our communities; Mission 1: Create safe, clean and thriving neighbourhoods, by embedding circular practices.

Equality and Socio-Economic Impacts:

Does the proposal support the Council's Equality Outcomes 2021-25? Please specify.

The Circular Economy Route Map specifically supports positive action in relation to tackling inequalities and creating a positive socioeconomic impact through the promotion of circular practices and reskilling/upskilling people for a green and circular economy.

What are the potential equality impacts as a result of this report?

A positive impact – an EQIA screening has been undertaken on the Circular Economy Route Map. Climate Change impacts all of society. However, vulnerable communities can be disproportionately impacted. By implementing a low carbon, circular economy in a just and fair manner, we can work towards minimizing climate impacts.

Please highlight if the policy/proposal will help address socio-

Through taking action towards becoming a Circular City it is envisaged that socioeconomic disadvantage would be reduced and climate

economic disadvantage.

resilience would improve through changing our reliance on a take-make-dispose model to a regenerative economy.

Climate Impacts:

Does the proposal support any Climate Plan actions? Please specify:

The project supports the following Climate Plan actions directly; Action 6: Net zero City Plan; Action 11: Just transition; Action 40: Adoption of circular practices; Action 45: Delivery of the Plastic Reduction Strategy; Action 59: Circular economy transition.

What are the potential climate impacts as a result of this proposal?

Accelerating the transition to a circular, low carbon economy will result in reduction in overall levels of consumption, reduction in use of primary raw materials and support towards nature regeneration.

Will the proposal contribute to Glasgow's net zero carbon target?

The Circular Economy Route Map seeks to enable the city to reduce its carbon emissions more rapidly and build resilience to the impacts of current and future climate change. A Circular Economy can support towards net zero by changing the way we consume and the way we make and use materials and food.

Privacy and Data Protection Impacts:

*Are there any potential Data protection impacts as a result of this report
Y/N*

Not applicable to this report.

If Yes, please confirm that a Data Protection Impact Assessment (DPIA) has been carried out

N/A

7 Recommendations

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