



Circular Economy Route Map for Glasgow

2025 – 2030

FOREWORD

As the City Convenor for Climate, Glasgow Green Deal, Transport and City Centre Recovery, it is a great pleasure to present this update to our Circular Economy Route Map. Glasgow has been on a transformative journey to adapt to the impacts of climate change and become a more sustainable, resilient and thriving city. This Route Map is an important step in this journey. Cities across the world consume more than 75% of the world's natural resources and are responsible for generating over 50% of solid waste. They are the cradle of development in built environment, food, manufacturing, and procurement. As such we need to take full advantage of the opportunities of a circular economy to create a sustainable and prosperous city, which thrives in a global context.

Glasgow is committed to a fair and inclusive transition to climate resilience and net zero. Communities and people across Glasgow are increasingly experiencing the impacts of the climate and ecological emergency. To ensure their success, the tools and solutions to transform the City will need to be co-created with the people and communities of Glasgow and delivered across the City. Circular economics is the fundamental principle underpinning this transition, the framework to address complex issues underpinned by a throwaway society, and to build thriving communities.

The principles of extending the life of products, taking care and repairing items, sharing resources and knowledge, creating buildings that can adapt to our ever changing needs, growing food locally in a way that maintains the health of soils, they all support communities and the city at its core. These circular actions help retain the precious value of products and resources. They help us create systemic change, prevent pollution and rebuild nature. They ultimately help us build resilience. Glasgow has been committed to taking action for many years. The Circular Economy Route Map for Glasgow 2025-2030 provides an update on our Route Map published in 2020. It celebrates the great examples and progress whilst highlighting the need to push forward and stimulate further action. It aligns with strategic priorities, legislative updates and it builds on existing activities and initiatives and drives progress towards an equitable circular city.

Working collaboratively with the city's stakeholders to deliver this Route Map, we continue our work towards a sustainable, resilient and thriving future for all Glaswegians. Glasgow City Council is committed to engaging with communities, the people of Glasgow and stakeholders to deliver this Route Map. I invite you to take the time to read through this strategy and action plan and we look forward to continuing this journey with you.



Councillor Angus Millar

City Convenor for Climate, Glasgow Green Deal,
Transport and City Centre Recovery

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

All life on Earth faces new challenges for survival because of climate change. From extreme weather events and climbing temperatures, to food shortages and health risks, human activities rooted in a throwaway culture exacerbated by overconsumption have resulted in the climate crisis we now face. In 2019 Glasgow declared a climate and ecological emergency in part to demonstrate its commitment to tackling these challenges.

The Circular Economy Route Map for Glasgow 2025-2030 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.

This Route Map brings together the Circular Economy Route Map published in 2020, and the Plastic Reduction Strategy published in 2019 with an integrated and updated approach to ensure alignment with strategic priorities and to stimulate action across all priorities. The document provides the most up to date strategic context and discusses the key drivers for a circular economy in Glasgow; the climate and ecological emergency, net zero commitments and the need for the city to be a resilient, thriving economy, within local environment and planetary boundaries.

The Circular Economy Route Map 2025-2030 will be delivered through stakeholders coming together to deliver priorities highlighted within the Action Plan. This is a city-wide plan consisting of 29 actions, grouped under seven themes aimed at facilitating Glasgow's transition to becoming a circular city. The themes for action are:

- Built and natural environment
- Circular hubs
- Circular practices
- Engagement, communication and skills
- Monitoring and evaluation
- Plastics
- Procurement

Each theme has a clear set of priorities and objectives and reflects a key element to the circular economy transition.

This is not a journey without its difficulties. The Route Map acknowledges challenges such as financial and resource pressures, behaviour change and the need for circular economy to be developed at international and national levels. The document also recognises that there are opportunities for the city, including reviving local communities and for the Council to lead by example.

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1

INTRODUCTION

1.1 Setting the scene

It is widely understood and acknowledged that the world is facing an unprecedented existential threat, the climate and ecological emergency. The science is clear, and we need to collectively shift the way we do things in order to ensure a world where both current and future generations can thrive.

In 2018, the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC)¹ published its Special Report on Global Warming of 1.5°C. The report outlined that the world had 12 years to significantly ramp down carbon emissions and keep global warming under 1.5°C if catastrophic environmental breakdown is to be avoided. Glasgow City Council's declaration of a Climate and Ecological Emergency in 2019, was a key local response. Glasgow's Climate Plan was produced subsequently providing a path towards a resilient city that aims to mitigate changes and adapt to unavoidable changes.

The creation of a circular economy has emerged as a viable option to address the challenges created by the climate and ecological emergency, exacerbated by a disposable and throwaway society. Systemic and radical change is required to alter behaviour and existing take-make-dispose practices. Embracing circular economy at local level, Glasgow published the Circular Economy Route Map in 2020 which set out a framework and a detailed action plan to enable Glasgow to a sustainable transition and future.

Significant progress has been achieved in growing circular economy practices across the city, but more is needed. Increased impetus and focus on impact is essential. In the aftermath of a global pandemic, cost of living crisis, and a currently unstable economic environment, councils and cities face ever more challenging resource and financial pressures. Embracing circular practices provides a valid alternative path to a prosperous and resilient city that flourishes and lives well within the local and global boundaries of our planet.

1.2 Definition of a Circular Economy

Historically, we take materials from the earth, make products, and often eventually throw them away as waste. This is a linear economy. It has resulted in degradation of natural resources, breakdown of ecosystems, pollution, and increasing harmful emissions. It has contributed to the climate and ecological emergency we now face. We need to move away from this linear model, towards a circular economy.

The Ellen MacArthur Foundation, a charity founded in 2010 to accelerate the transition to circularity, has become a leading influence on business, government, and academia. They define the circular economy as:

¹ Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (<https://www.ipcc.ch/>)

“ a system where materials never become waste and nature is regenerated. In a circular economy, products and materials are kept in circulation through processes like maintenance, reuse, refurbishment, remanufacture, recycling, and composting. The circular economy tackles climate change and other global challenges, like biodiversity loss, waste, and pollution, by decoupling economic activity from the consumption of finite resources.”²

A circular economy is underpinned by the accessibility of renewable energy, and it is based on three principles:

- **Eliminate** waste and pollution
- **Circulate** products and materials
- **Regenerate** nature

The diagram below shows the building blocks of a circular economy and what a circular economy can mean in practice.

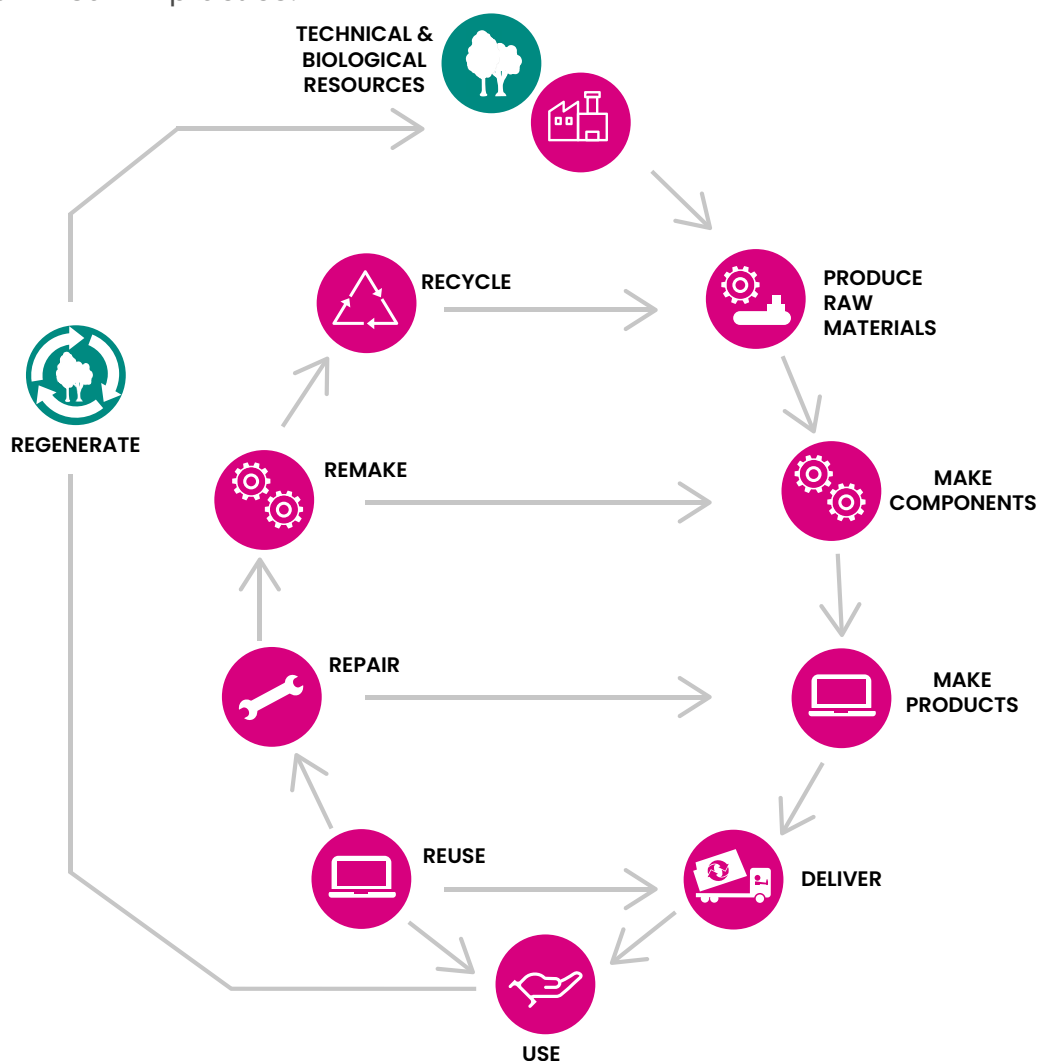


Figure 1: Circular economy in practice

² Ellen MacArthur Foundation, Circular economy introduction (<https://www.ellenmacarthurfoundation.org/topics/circular-economy-introduction/overview>)

1.3 Circular economy at city level

Cities are where most food, energy and resources are directed to. They also have a wealth of resources, data, and talent. They therefore are a vital part in the transition to a circular world. They are cradles for innovation and economic activity and are major engines of positive circular growth. Citizens, the public and private sector, and communities come together to form our city, and everyone plays a key role in transforming Glasgow into a circular city.

“ A circular city³ is one that has fully adopted the principles of the circular economy. In practice this means products, services, infrastructure, buildings, and vehicles are designed to be durable, adaptable, modular, easy to maintain and repurpose, and locally sourced. Everything can be composted, reused, or recycled. Nature is flourishing and abundant. A circular city is powered and heated by renewable energy and heat. Citizens, government, research facilities, and businesses work together to enable this. The result is a resilient and thriving city. ”

Local authorities play a key role in the circular economy transition at the city level. This has been highlighted in the Circular Economy in Glasgow report⁴ by the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD). As a local authority, Glasgow City Council can act as a promoter, facilitator and enabler of circular economy in Glasgow.

Citizens play a similarly crucial role. The people of Glasgow are consumers and in a circular city they are empowered and encouraged to engage in reusing items, repairing products, and embracing a sharing economy. It is the role of the city, businesses, and the public sector to collectively create the opportunity and the conditions for these to flourish. Figure 2 visualises the role of citizens, the public and private sector in a circular city.

Glasgow's businesses can drive innovation and adoption of circular business models. Businesses can design durable goods that can be reused and repaired and they can engage citizens encouraging them to return goods to be repaired or recycled. Industry bodies can help drive collaboration and partnerships.

Communities and community-driven social innovation, like reuse and repair hubs, can help build resilient neighbourhoods and help Glaswegians engage with circular economy. Community input is vital for creating localised solutions to sustainability challenges.

³ Ellen MacArthur Foundation, Circular cities (<https://www.ellenmacarthurfoundation.org/topics/cities/overview>)

⁴ OECD, The Circular Economy in Glasgow, United Kingdom (https://www.oecd.org/en/publications/the-circular-economy-in-glasgow-united-kingdom_7717a310-en.html)

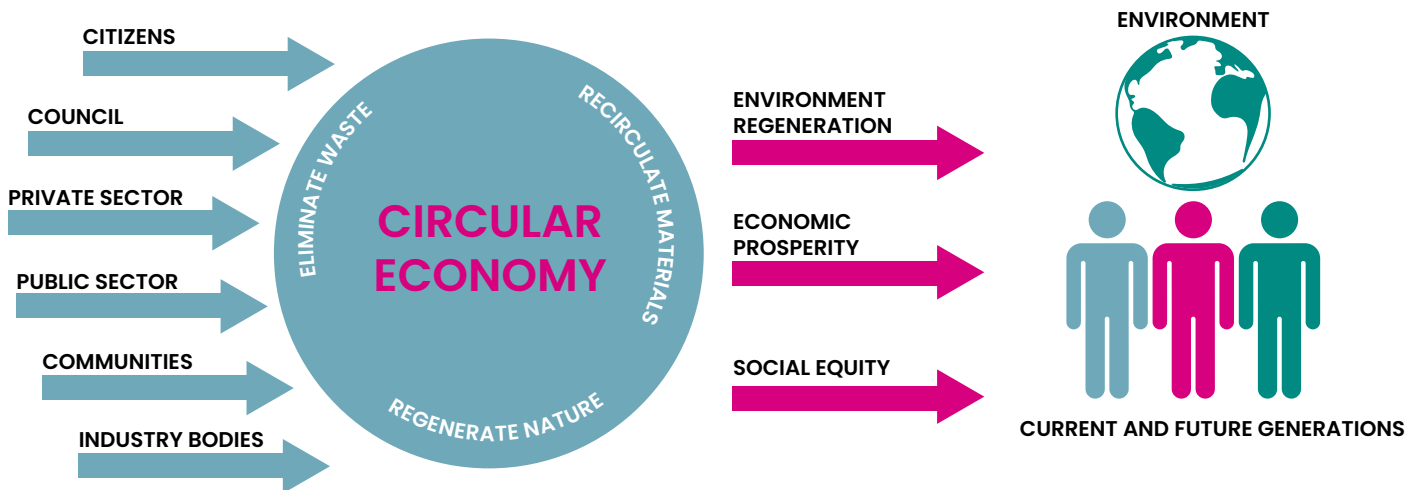


Figure 2: Circular Economy – Contributors, outcomes and beneficiaries

Working collaboratively and by taking advantage of the manageable size of the city, the compact population, the physical layout and technological connectivity, Glasgow is a city well positioned to accelerate circularity. With an established infrastructure and commitment to sustainability, nurturing the concept of the circular economy at city level undoubtedly still requires a systemic change.



1.4 Glasgow – The vision for a circular city

Glasgow has declared its aspiration to be a circular city by 2045. We are committed to this aspiration. Glasgow's vision for bringing this to life is:

Everyone has come together to transform Glasgow into a circular city. People share more in their communities, reuse is normal and integrated into Glasgow's retail. There are sharing libraries and reuse hubs and stores across the city where people can buy pre-loved clothes, shoes, furniture, IT equipment and all electricals. Single-use plastics are no longer used. Reusable alternatives are widely available.

Businesses across the city have adopted circular business models and they now work together sharing resources and knowledge. Remanufacturing is one of the city's strongest sectors, recovering materials and products remaking them into new technologies and infrastructure. New buildings are designed in modular ways, with adaptability in mind so that they can change according to the needs of the city. Old buildings have been retrofitted safeguarding the historic legacy of Glasgow, and materials are constantly recovered and reused.

Nature connectors are spread across the city supporting local ecosystems and wellbeing. There are plenty of spaces for food growing and most food in the city is sourced locally and seasonally.

Even though the effects of climate change are noticeable, Glasgow has worked hard to grow into a circular, fair, and inclusive city where environmental sustainability, economic prosperity, and social equity co-exist. Although our work continues, Glasgow has become the Dear Green Place allowing all people and the environment to flourish.

1.5. Purpose of the document

The purpose of this document is to update the Circular Economy Route Map for Glasgow and to ensure alignment with strategic priorities, to integrate the Plastic Reduction Strategy and Action Plan and to stimulate action across all priorities.

The Plastic Reduction Strategy and Action Plan was published in 2019, with the aim to bring about extensive plastics reduction in the city. The Circular Economy Route Map for Glasgow 2020-2030 was published in 2020 with the aim to truly embrace a circular, inclusive economy where materials and products stay in use and nature is regenerated.

The Circular Economy Route Map for Glasgow 2025-2030 brings these strategies and action plans together and ensures that the approach to plastic reduction, messaging and overall engagement, aligns with relevant approaches in circular economy, resource management and climate action. This document also considers progress made to date, acknowledges challenges moving forward and provides an updated view of the journey towards Glasgow becoming a circular city.

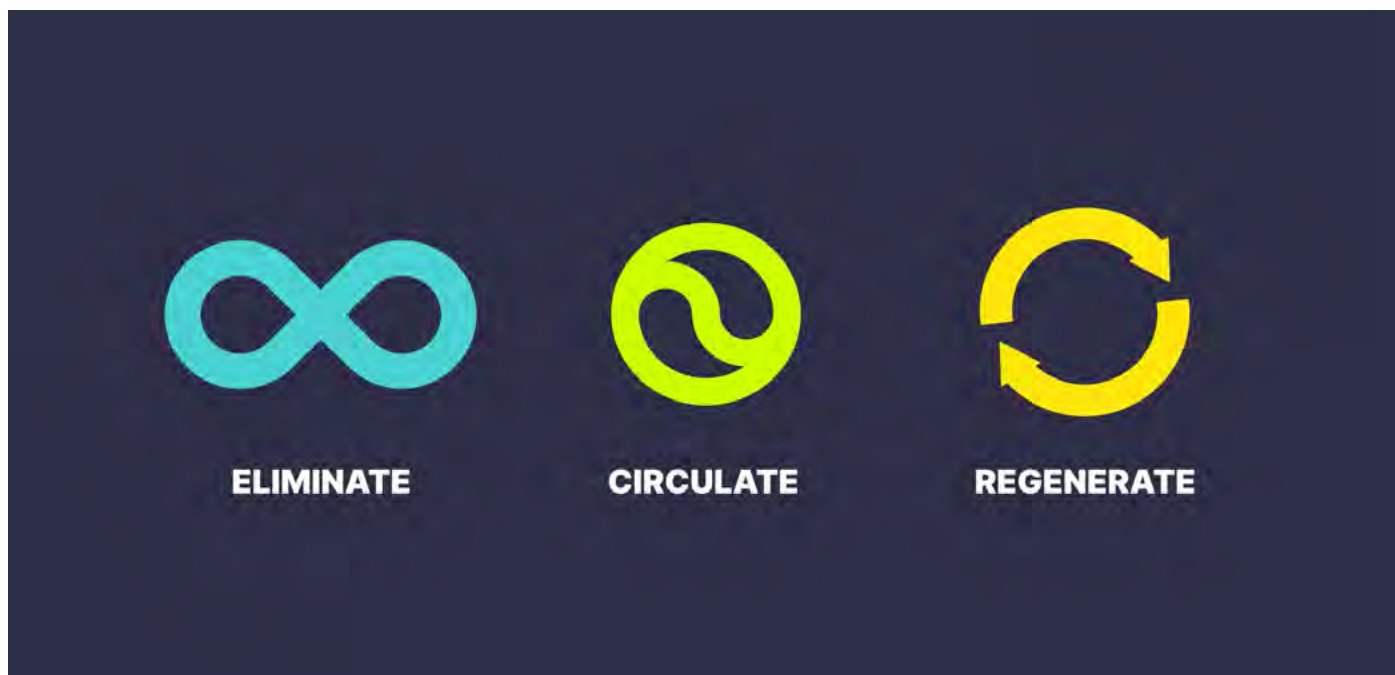


Figure 3: Circular economy principles⁵

⁵ Ellen MacArthur Foundation, Circular economy Principles (<https://www.ellenmacarthurfoundation.org/circular-economy-principles>)



KEY DRIVERS

Key Drivers

2.1 Strategic context

To support the complex action required to address the climate and ecological emergency at national level, a range of legislative and policy instruments have recently been developed. Most notably, the Circular Economy (Scotland) Bill⁶ was passed by the Scottish Government in August 2024. The legislation aims to give the Scottish Government and local authorities the tools needed to increase reuse and recycling rates, set targets, as well as modernise and improve waste and recycling services.

Scotland’s Circular Economy⁷ works to complement the provisions of the Circular Economy (Scotland) Act. It sets the Scottish Government’s strategic plan to deliver Scotland’s sustainable resource and circular economy ambitions to 2030. It outlines what the Scottish Government intends to do, by when, and how it will work with others to drive sustainable use and management of Scotland’s resources.

Glasgow City Council will continue to work with the Scottish Government through existing channels and mechanisms, and with stakeholders and communities across the city to ensure activities align and contribute locally towards the circular economy transition. The Circular Economy Route Map for Glasgow has been developed with respect to various international and national drivers including policy and legislation. At a local level, the breadth of Glasgow’s Route Map reflects that the circular economy interacts with several local authority functions and policies. Figure 4 visualises this interaction and complex strategic context.

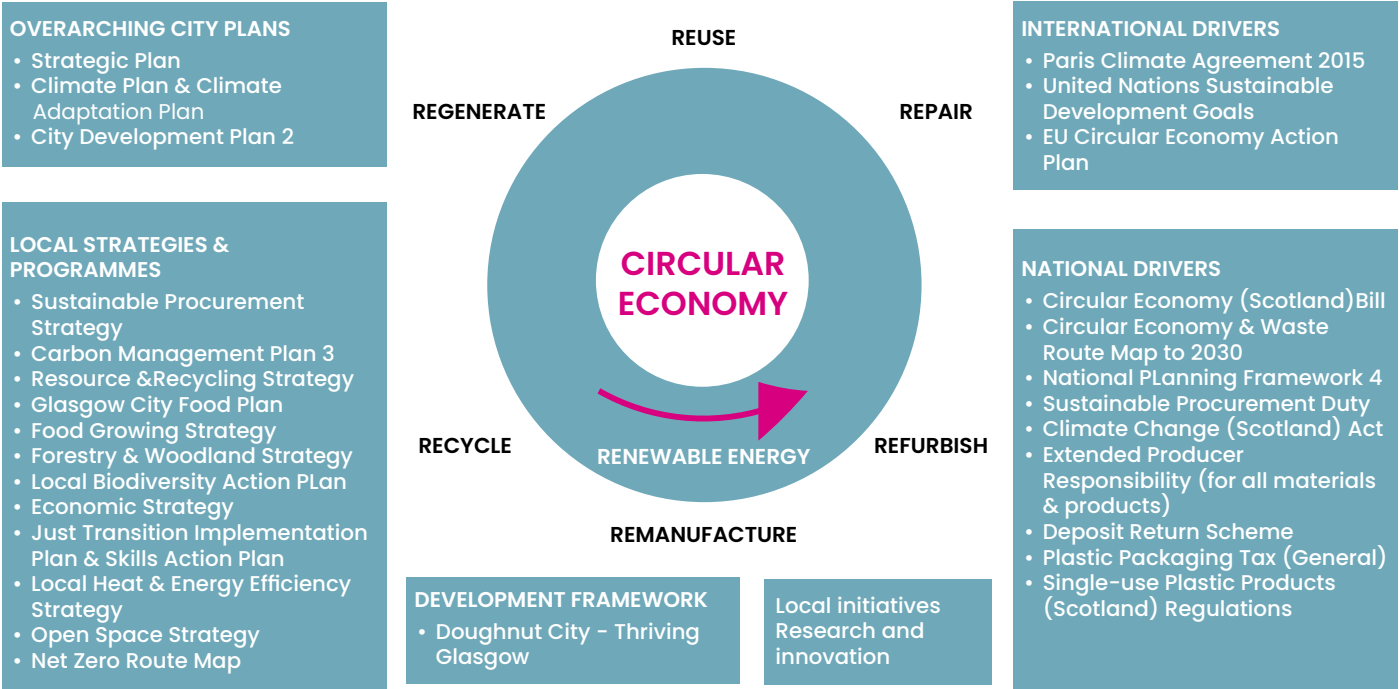


Figure 4: Strategic context for Glasgow’s Circular Economy Route Map

⁶ UK Legislation, Circular Economy (Scotland) Act 2024 (<https://www.legislation.gov.uk/asp/2024/13>)
⁷ Scottish Government, Circular Economy and Waste Route Map to 2030 (<https://www.gov.scot/publications/scotlands-circular-economy-waste-route-map-2030/>)

2.2 Climate and ecological emergency and climate resilience

The biggest of all challenges we face is the climate and ecological emergency. The Paris Agreement brought together nations to combat climate change and adapt to its irreversible effects. At the same time biodiversity is being lost at an increasing rate⁸. Each principle of the circular economy has the potential to increase resilience to the physical effects of climate change and have a positive impact on biodiversity, whilst enabling sustainable economic growth.

It has been shown that circular economy can improve air quality by reducing greenhouse gas emissions, reduce water contamination by eliminating waste and pollution, and protect biodiversity⁹. For the environment, circulating products means less resources are required, which in turn means more space available for wildlife. For the economy, in keeping materials in use, businesses can separate economic growth from the continuous consumption of raw finite materials that might also be vulnerable to climate risks. Moving away from a throwaway society is not just as an interesting option to consider in the effort to meet climate targets, adapt in a changing environment and reverse biodiversity loss. It is a realistic and powerful framework of solutions for a prosperous future.

Glasgow's Climate Plan recognises and highlights this potential. It encourages the city, all partners and stakeholders to support the adoption of circular practices to enable Glasgow's transition to becoming a resilient, inclusive, and flourishing city.

2.3 Net zero

As outlined in the Climate Plan, Glasgow has committed to becoming net zero carbon by 2030. Glasgow's Net Zero Route Map¹⁰ has highlighted that a holistic approach to implementation of net zero interventions is required to facilitate systemic change at the pace required.

Energy, heat, transport, and waste make up over 95% of the city's emissions. In a circular city, we can share goods like clothes, laptops, phones, household electricals, we can reuse them multiple times, we can repair them when they are broken and recycle them at the end of their life to create new products. This results to less waste and smaller demand of virgin materials. In a circular city, cars, trains and buses are designed in a way that wastes are minimised during production. At the end of their life, materials and parts used in them are recovered, refurbished and remanufactured. In a circular city, parts that are used in solar panels, wind turbines and heat pumps are recovered, recycled and used in new products.

⁸ <https://www.ipbes.net/news/Media-Release-Global-Assessment>

⁹ Ellen MacArthur Foundation, Completing the picture – How a circular economy tackles climate change (<https://www.ellenmacarthurfoundation.org/completing-the-picture>)

¹⁰ Glasgow City Council, Net Zero Route Map (<https://citizen.glascc1-prd.gosshosted.com/article/10953/New-route-map-plots-path-to-Net-Zero>)

These practices are already happening to a some extent. We now need to normalise them and scale them up, help all citizens, communities and organisations adopt them. Through a reduction in materials needed for creation and in a reduction in the waste generated, this activity is will help Glasgow reduce its emissions and support its journey towards becoming net zero carbon.

2.4 Sustainable development

Transitioning to a green, circular economy is also about societal aspects, which should always form an equal part of the conversation. In a circular economy, goods stay in use for longer, they are reused and repaired, they are shared in communities, their parts are remanufactured into new products.

This facilitates new industries, inclusive economic development, affordable services and products, and local supply chains, which offer opportunities to build a local workforce. Glasgow's Just Transition Implementation Plan¹¹ acknowledges this interaction. Glasgow is committed to having a transition that is fair and inclusive for all citizens. Aligning the just transition with the shift to a circular world can ensure that the benefits of this thriving city and economy can be equitably distributed.

At international level, in 2015, the world's governments came together to adopt 17 United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)¹² Glasgow City Council is committed to embedding the Sustainable Development Goals into everything it does, as reflected in the Strategic Plan 2022-2027¹³. Society and environment are interconnected, yet out of balance.

Another sustainable development approach, the 'Doughnut'¹⁴, advocates that in order for humanity to prosper beyond only economic growth, a minimum social foundation should be achieved for everyone, and growth should be within the environmental boundaries of our planet. At a local level, Glasgow has worked with the pioneers of this approach to scale down the Doughnut to a Thriving Portrait for the city¹⁵.

¹¹ Glasgow City Council, Just Transition Implementation Plan (https://www.glasgow.gov.uk/media/10564/Just-Transition-Implementation-Plan/pdf/Just_Transition_Implementation_Plan.pdf?m=1710933059047)

¹² United Nations, Sustainable Development Goals (<https://sdgs.un.org/goals>)

¹³ Glasgow City Council, Strategic Plan 2022-2027 (https://www.glasgow.gov.uk/media/5867/Strategic-Plan-2022-to-2027/pdf/Strategic_Plan_2022_to_20271.pdf?m=1702657470553)

¹⁴ Kate Raworth, Exploring Doughnut Economics (<https://www.kateraworth.com/doughnut/>)

¹⁵ Thriving Glasgow Portrait ([https://www.glasgow-doughnut.co.uk/Thriving%20Glasgow%20Portrait%20Report%20\(GALLANT\).pdf](https://www.glasgow-doughnut.co.uk/Thriving%20Glasgow%20Portrait%20Report%20(GALLANT).pdf))

Key Drivers

A circular economy is a way of re-evaluating everything we do. It is a powerful tool that can be used to advance sustainable development and realise the potential of both the SDGs and the Thriving Portrait. It can do that by transforming the way we produce and consume goods, reducing waste and promoting the use of renewable resources. By supporting cleaner industries, reducing inequalities, fostering economic opportunities, the circular economy is the tool for creating a sustainable and equitable future for every Glaswegian.

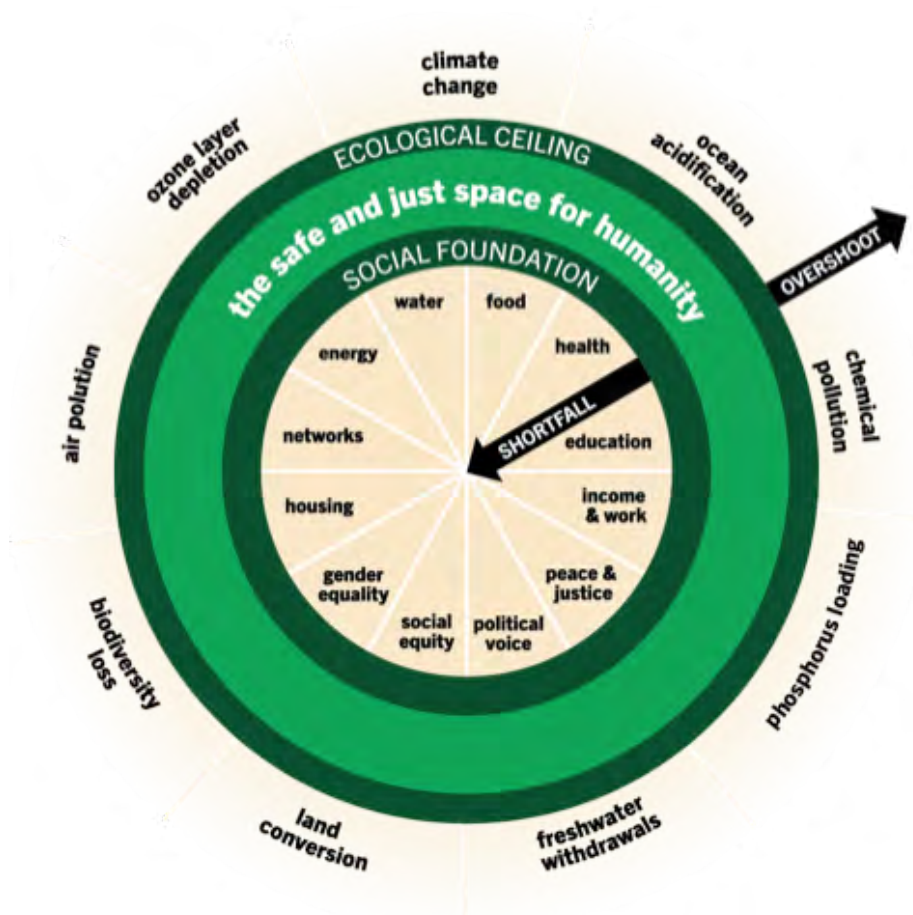


Figure 5: The Doughnut of social foundation and planetary boundaries (Kate Raworth, The Doughnut Economics Action Lab)¹⁶

¹⁶ Doughnut Economics Action Lab (<https://doughnuteconomics.org/>)



3

GOVERNANCE, MONITORING AND REPORTING

Successful delivery of the Circular Economy Route Map and Action Plan will require effective governance, monitoring and reporting.

3.1 Governance

Governance of the Circular Economy Route Map is required to outline how it is managed, including how stakeholders are held to account for the delivery of actions. Various Council services and teams, and wider partners are responsible for delivering the Circular Economy Route Map 2025-2030.

A Circular Economy Working Group was established in early 2024, led by Glasgow City Council's Sustainability team. The Working Group consists of stakeholders that play a key role in the circular transition across the city. Its aim is to facilitate and drive the delivery of the Circular Economy Route Map and Action Plan. Figure 6 below visually outlines the governance structure for the Circular Economy Route Map 2025-2030, and how this fits within Glasgow City Council's wider processes such as:

- City Administration Committee: Approval of updated Circular Economy Route Map
- Net Zero and Climate Progress Monitoring City Policy Committee: Reporting and review
- Climate and Sustainability Board: Oversight of projects
- Circular Economy Working Group: Driving delivery of actions, project tracking, and co-ordination.

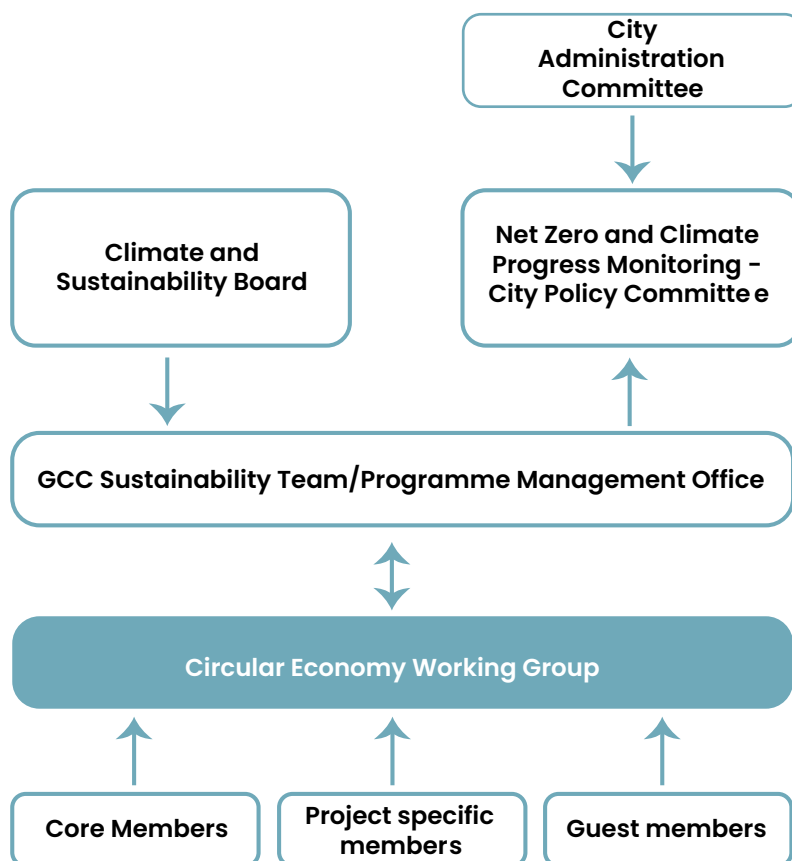


Figure 6: The governance structure of the Circular Economy Route Map 2025-2030

3.2 Monitoring and reporting

The Circular Economy Route Map 2025-2030 sets out delivery priorities and key actions as prioritised by the Working Group leading up to 2030. As with most sustainability work, this is a constantly evolving space requiring constant monitoring and evolution of actions. The Route Map is expected to evolve and change to reflect progress, ongoing engagement, and new team will monitor progress and report on an annual basis. Monitoring of actions will be undertaken by the leading teams and will be reported through the Circular Economy Working Group.

Progress on the delivery of the Circular Economy Action Plan will be reported annually to Glasgow City Council's Net Zero and Climate Progress Monitoring City Policy Committee. Any changes to the strategic context of the Route Map will be presented to the City Administration Committee for approval after any subsequent reviews.





4

DELIVERING THE ACTION PLAN, THEMES AND PRIORITIES

4.1 Action Plan

The Circular Economy Route Map 2025-2030 will be delivered through stakeholders coming together to deliver priorities highlighted within the Action Plan. Both the Circular Economy Route Map and Action Plan reflect and align with strategic priorities of stakeholders, taking into account progress to date, existing projects, national legislation, policy, and initiatives.

As Glasgow City Council, we recognise our responsibility to embrace circular economy as an organisation, in our operations. We also acknowledge our role in creating enabling conditions across the city through planning functions, as a policy maker, funder, facilitator, and promoter. But to deliver the Circular Economy Route Map for Glasgow, we cannot do this in isolation. Collaboration with our partners, key stakeholders, and the citizens of Glasgow will be required. It is essential that all stakeholders play their part in stimulating and driving action. This is reflected in the Action Plan, where actions can be viewed through their scope. This means that there are:

- **Council internal actions**, which are actions aimed at the Council embracing circular practices as an organisation and leading by example.
- **Council-led actions with city-wide impact**, which are actions that the Council can take to support the uptake of circular economy practices and create enabling conditions for citizens to participate in circular economy activities.
- **City-wide actions**, which are actions that partners and key stakeholders lead to support the circular economy transition for Glasgow.

It should be noted that for each action a set of measurable outcomes has been identified to ensure the Action Plan is as actionable and measurable as possible. They will be used to help us monitor progress towards the implementation of the Action Plan. Where data is not available for proposed outcomes, alternative measurements and indicators will be used.

The Circular Economy Action Plan consists of 29 actions, grouped under seven themes aimed at facilitating Glasgow's transition to becoming a circular city. The Action Plan is presented in detail in Appendix 1. The agreed themes, priorities and objectives are outlined in Table 1. Glasgow City Council will continue to work with stakeholders, communities across Glasgow, and organisations to support initiatives that align with the themes and priorities identified in the plan.

Table 1: Action Plan themes, priorities and objectives

Built and Natural Environment
Priority: Circular construction - Enable circular construction for all construction projects within the city
Priority: Natural environment regeneration - Support greening of land to enable nature regeneration
Circular Hubs
Priority: Construction material reuse hub - Develop a network for the city-wide recovery and reuse of construction materials
Priority: Circular Markets / Reuse Hubs - Facilitate a network of local circular economy communities and material reuse hubs and markets across the city
Circular Practices
Priority: Support for circular businesses, organisations, and communities - Deliver ongoing support mechanisms
Priority: Reduce, reuse, repair, remanufacture and recycling practices - Enable uptake of circular practices across the city
Engagement, Communication and Skills
Priority: Engage with stakeholders - Support collaboration and knowledge exchange, and facilitate implementation of a circular economy
Priority: Develop ongoing communications methods - Raise awareness of the circular economy and celebrate success across the city
Priority: Skills for a circular economy and transition - Support training and reskilling for a circular economy
Monitoring and evaluation
Priority: Baseline of circular economy activity - Create a baseline of activity, material production, consumption and waste at city level
Priority: Metrics and indicators - Develop metrics and indicators to monitor progress across the city
Plastics
Priority: Single-use plastic usage reduction across Glasgow - Facilitate reduction of SUP's and promote circular alternatives
Priority: Single-use plastic usage reduction within Glasgow City Council - Facilitate reduction of SUP's and adopt circular alternatives
Procurement
Priority: Circular public procurement - Embed key principles of circularity into Glasgow City Council procurement policy and practices

4.2 Built and natural environment

The world around us is a combination of built, human-made, and natural environment. In the built environment, a circular economy can help realise positive outcomes by designing out waste and pollution, and by keeping products and materials in circulation at their highest value. Applying these principles to the way we design buildings, roads, energy infrastructure and other elements of the built environment, greenhouse gas emissions can be reduced, whilst creating cities and neighbourhoods that are more liveable and convenient for everyone.

Circular economy advocates that human activities should strengthen the natural environment rather than breaking it down¹⁷. Human activities should intentionally help regenerate nature and replenish natural resources. As we move away from a single-use, extraction-based system to a system where products are continually repaired and remanufactured and reused, less virgin materials are needed. This means that more land will be left available for greenspace, trees, and rewilding. As we retrofit existing building stock instead of building new, more land will be left available for open space and food growing in cities.

It is therefore essential as we transition to a circular and inclusive economy to create a circular built environment and to actively regenerate nature.

4.2.1 Circular construction

In Scotland, creating a circular built environment could reduce material consumption by 11.2% and carbon footprint by 11.5%¹⁸. In Glasgow, as with most cities, the construction and demolition sector significantly contributes to waste generation and carbon emissions.

At national level, the National Planning Framework 4 (NPF4)¹⁹ published in 2023 introduced requirements to encourage developers to minimise waste and carbon intensity in construction projects. In Glasgow, work has begun on the new local development plan (Glasgow City Development Plan 2 (CDP2)) based on NPF4 policy priorities and statutory requirements. Glasgow's current local development plan places particular emphasis on placemaking. With the recent adoption of NPF4, there will be an emphasis on tackling the climate and nature crises. Scotland's Circular Economy Route Map to 2030 also identifies the strategic aim to take measures to support reduction of waste and reuse. Within this aim the key objective to focus on embedding circular construction practices is highlighted. Both these developments signal the need to accelerate action in implementing measures to support the shift to a circular built environment.

¹⁷ William McDonough and Michael Braungart, *Cradle to Cradle: Remaking the way we make things* (https://link.springer.com/chapter/10.1007/978-3-319-91971-3_8)

¹⁸ Circle Economy, *The Circularity Gap Report – Scotland* (https://cdn.prod.website-files.com/5e185aa4d27bcf348400ed82/6399cc007f63ad41fae0b240_CGR%20Scotland.pdf)

¹⁹ Scottish Government, *National Planning Framework 4* (<https://www.gov.scot/publications/national-planning-framework-4/pages/1/>)

Delivering the Action Plan, Themes and Priorities

Through the CDP2, planning guidance and conditions, Glasgow City Council can normalise circular strategies in the built environment and construction and this has been identified as a priority in Glasgow's Action Plan.

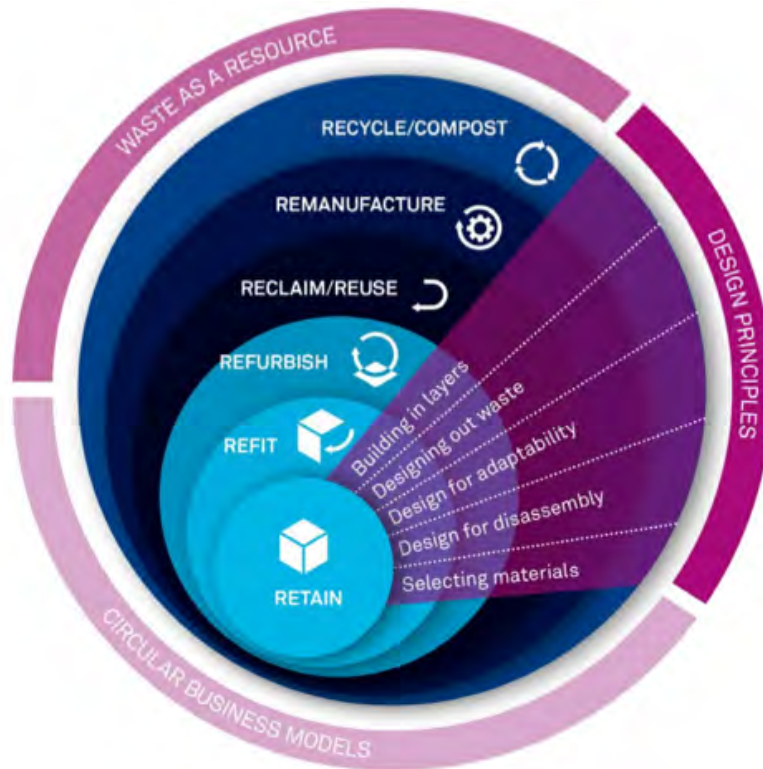


Figure 7: Circular economy principles in the built environment (Source: Building Revolutions' (2016), David Chesire, RIBA Publishing)

A circular economy is underpinned by renewable power and heat, and circular strategies can complement such decarbonisation measures. Glasgow's Local Heat and Energy Efficiency Strategy (LHEES)²⁰ was published in 2023 with the aim to support heat decarbonisation. The ambition of Glasgow's LHEES is to provide affordable, reliable and low carbon heat that helps the city reach its net zero carbon target in a just and inclusive manner by 2030. The renewable energy transition sits at the heart of the Council's efforts.

As we move towards the implementation of Glasgow's LHEES and net zero targets, we now need to ensure that emerging infrastructure follows relevant circular strategies, such as extending the lifetime of products and designing for reuse, repair, remanufacturing and recycling.

²⁰ Glasgow City Council, Local Heat and Energy Efficiency Strategy (LHEES) (https://www.glasgow.gov.uk/media/11376/Local-Heat-and-Energy-Efficiency-Strategy-LHEES/pdf/Glasgow_LHEES_2023.pdf?m=1715263579300)

4.2.2 Natural environment regeneration

On local level, local authorities are instrumental in supporting and implementing nature regeneration through greening unused, vacant and derelict land, and brownfields, increasing tree canopy cover and providing space for sustainable food growing.

Significant progress has been made on this front through Glasgow's Forestry and Woodlands Strategy²¹, the Open Space Strategy²², and Food Growing Strategy²³. Building on these efforts to become a truly regenerative city by design, in order to halt and reverse biodiversity loss, remains a priority. Glasgow City Council will continue to implement strategies and actions to increase woodlands, meadows, and wetlands coverage across the city, to increase food growing initiatives on vacant and derelict land, and to support greening of the city.

4.3 Circular Hubs

Reuse of goods and materials has an essential role to play in a sustainable and inclusive circular economy. After designing out waste and reducing consumption, reuse ensures that maximum value is retained and keeps goods and materials in circulation for longer, reducing the need for the use of virgin resources and minimising waste.

In Glasgow, there is a significant opportunity to develop and support local networks and locations where communities and citizens can reuse products such as clothes, furniture, household appliances and IT equipment. There is also an opportunity to learn by example from other cities and multi-city projects to develop systems where organisations and businesses can reuse products and materials for buildings, roads, and any kind of infrastructure.



²¹ Glasgow City Council, Forestry and Woodlands Strategy (<https://storymaps.arcgis.com/stories/472d4c2d3709458dad3c75cdf44077bb>)

²² Glasgow City Council, Open Space Strategy (https://citizen.glasgoc1-prd.gosshosted.com/media/1376/Glasgow-Open-Space-Strategy-2020/pdf/Glasgow_Open_Space_Strategy_2020.pdf?m=638025593095370000)

²³ Glasgow City Council, Food Growing Strategy (https://www.glasgow.gov.uk/media/3531/Let-s-Grow-Glasgow-Food-Growing-Strategy/pdf/Food_strategy_draft_document_3_Dec_002.pdf?m=1678812273977)

4.3.1 Construction material reuse hub

The construction and maintenance of housing accounts for around 20 million tonnes (17%) of the total material consumption in Scotland²⁴. In 2021, the construction and demolition sector generated 4 million tonnes of construction and demolition waste in Scotland.

The way we currently design, construct and demolish our buildings, roads and all kinds of infrastructure is deeply rooted in a linear model. There is an increasing body of evidence that reuse, and other circular strategies are required if we want to achieve carbon reduction targets and mitigate further climate change²⁵. At the same time, reuse of construction materials can help the sector and cities become more resilient by creating local markets, helping to shield from supply chain disruptions and price fluctuations of virgin materials, whilst creating upskilling opportunities and local employment.

Glasgow City Council recognise that as a local authority it can collaborate with communities, businesses and stakeholders across the city to enable, participate in, and facilitate recovery, storage and reuse of construction materials within Glasgow.

4.3.2 Circular markets and reuse hubs

Reuse hubs and reuse-focused communities are a growing space and have significant potential to play in mainstreaming the circular economy and enabling community wealth building. Glasgow has a strong presence of reuse communities, social enterprises, and charities from children's clothing and toys, to bikes, to equipment for the film industry.

The Council will continue to work with the vibrant communities of reuse across Glasgow to support them by showcasing best practice, raising awareness and providing spaces where possible. The Council will also explore the different models for reuse hubs, including governance and operational types and it will continue to work with stakeholders to identify and facilitate a scalable pilot for a circular hub in Glasgow.

4.4 Circular Practices

Moving away from a throw-away and single-use society, extending the life of products by maintaining or repairing them is integral to preserving natural resources, utility and value in products. Repair and maintenance provide a sustainable alternative to throw-away practices. On societal level, repair can re-energise Glasgow's local communities, help retain wealth and expand digital inclusion. Remanufacturing is another circular practice that returns a used product to a new condition, with a warranty, that matches the quality of the original product. Recycling still has a role to play as we transition to a circular world.

²⁴ Circle Economy, The Circularity Gap Report – Scotland (https://cdn.prod.website-files.com/5e185aa4d27bcf348400ed82/6399cc007f63ad41fae0b240_CGR%20Scotland.pdf)

²⁵ Zero Waste Scotland, A Feasibility Study of Regional Materials Hubs in Scotland (<https://cdn.zerowastescotland.org.uk/managed-downloads/mf-ozhoulvi-1729841187d>)

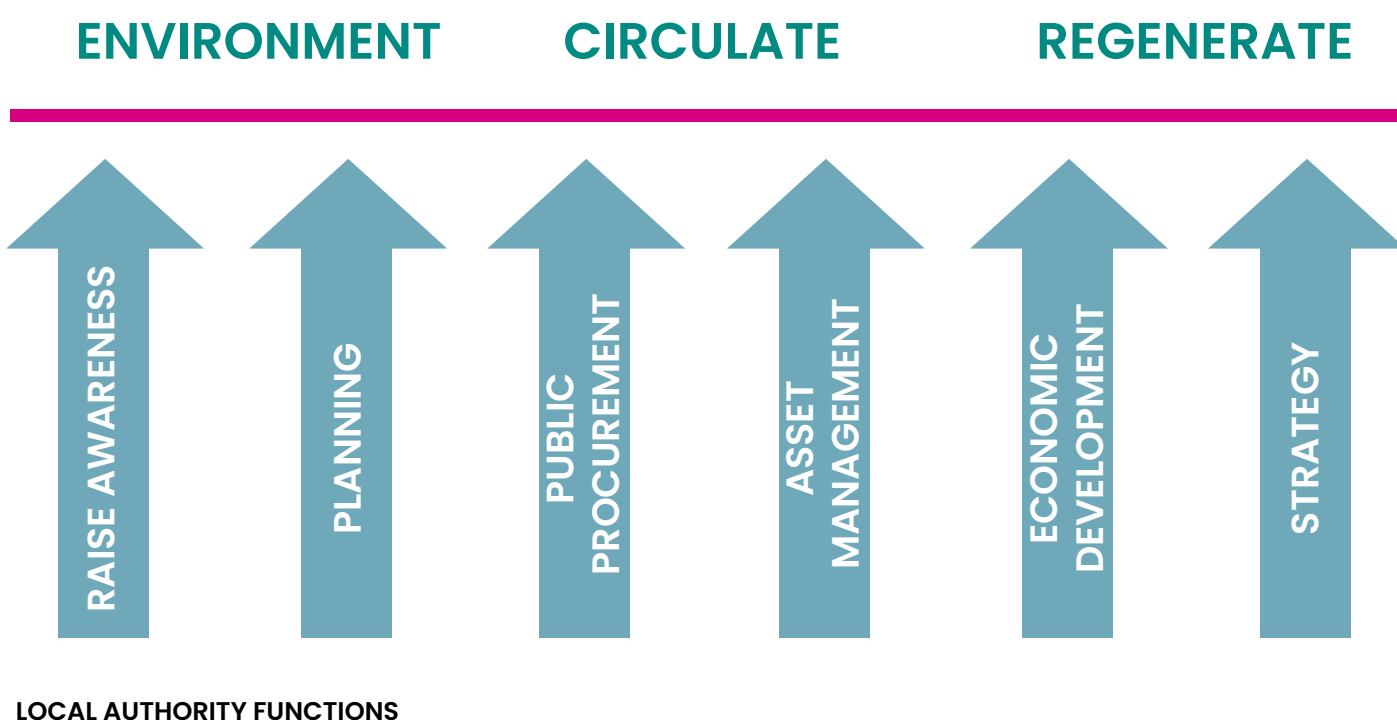
Delivering the Action Plan, Themes and Priorities

When coupled with reuse and through initiatives like Deposit Return Schemes and product stewardship, recycling can help close material loops and retain value. Businesses, communities, third sector organisations, academic institutions, and industry bodies need to work together to help realise the potential of a circular economy.

4.4.1 Support for circular businesses, organisations, and communities

Glasgow City Council has a significant role to play in supporting these organisations as a promoter, facilitator, policy maker, and through helping identify and secure funding.

PRINCIPLES OF CIRCULAR ECONOMY



LOCAL AUTHORITY FUNCTIONS

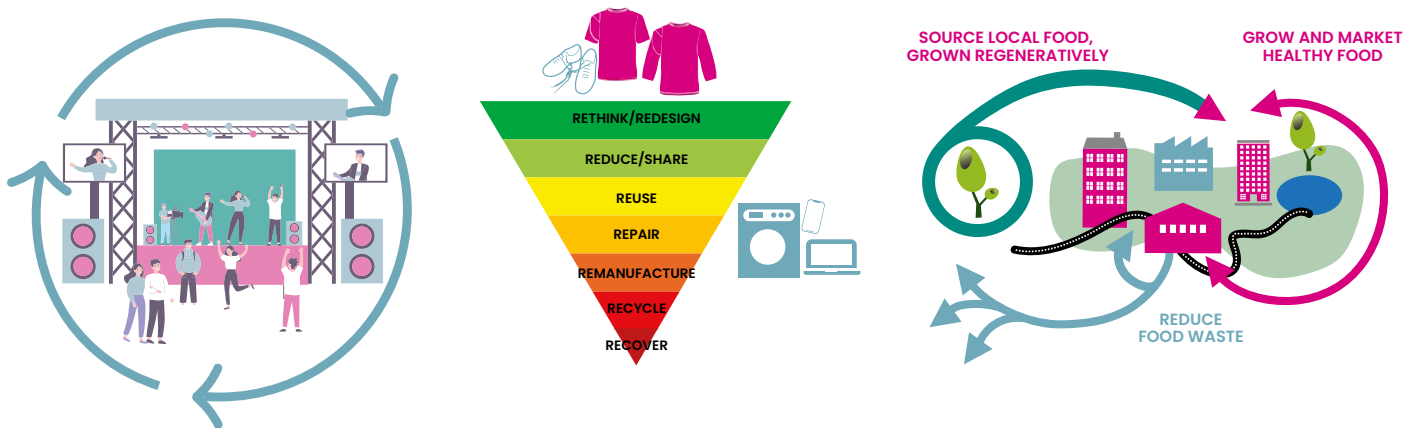
Figure 8: The role of local authorities in the uptake of circularity across value chains

Another way in which local authorities can support the uptake of circular practices is by opening up vacant land and buildings for use by circular economy communities, businesses and other organisations. Even though this can be a complex process, the Council will continue to work to identify existing and new ways that can support communities and organisations to take advantage of vacant and unused land and buildings for circular activities.

4.4.2 Reduce, reuse, repair, remanufacture and recycling practices

Similarly to plastics, textiles and electricals are significant consumer goods value streams in cities. Glasgow benefits from having various communities, social enterprises, and organisations that focus on repair and reuse of textiles and electrical equipment with the aim to improve accessibility for communities across the city, whilst reducing the impact of these goods. In addition to consumer goods and built environment materials, food is the third significant value stream in Glasgow. The events sector in Glasgow is also a significant attraction and sector for the city.

It is a priority to bring Glasgow's stakeholders together to demonstrate the benefits of implementing other circular principles such as repair, remanufacturing, and recycling to the city's significant material streams.



Source: Ellen MacArthur Foundation, Food and the circular Economy deep dive (modified)

Figure 9: Circular economy practices in value chains

In this effort to tackle cultural norms, encourage behaviour change and spread the message of circular economy and its benefits in communities, the environment and in tackling the climate and ecological emergency, education is crucial. This is widely recognised by Glasgow's stakeholders. Glasgow City Council will prioritise building capacity and awareness within our organisation.

4.5 Engagement, Communication and Skills

4.5.1 Engagement

It is imperative that we make sure that we take everyone with us as we transition to a circular city. The Sustainable Glasgow Charter²⁶ is a valuable organisational and institutional engagement mechanism. Other collaborative networks such as open forums are a similarly powerful tool to engage with communities of practice and experts across the city.

²⁶ Sustainable Glasgow Charter (<https://sustainableglasgow.org.uk/sustainable-glasgow-charter>)

Glasgow City Council will continue to engage with citizens, communities, businesses, third sector organisations and all stakeholders as a core function and priority of the circular economy transition.

4.5.2 Communications

To be successful, circular economy initiatives and practices need to be shared, widely understood, embraced and actively supported. This is where communication plays a key role. Effective and ongoing communication is essential in raising awareness, fostering participation and partnerships, and driving behaviour change.

Local authorities have a strong voice and have existing open channels with residents and communities. Glasgow City Council will continue to campaign and advocate for the circular economy transition and the benefits of shifting to reuse and repair in reducing waste, developing skills and maintaining wealth within local communities.

The Sustainable Glasgow Partnership is a network of organisations which aims to position Glasgow as a leading city in the development of the green and wider circular economy. The Council aims to work with the Partnership and its platforms to showcase circular activity, celebrate success, share best practice, and signpost to platforms and initiatives across the city.

4.5.3 Skills development

The circular economy transition has a significant impact on the shape of jobs and competencies. Developing the right skills, adapting to new requirements, and up-skilling Glasgow's workforce is a critical element in the implementation of a circular economy. As industries transition away from "take-make-dispose" models to reuse, repair and remanufacturing, the need for specialised and new skills rises.

Glasgow and stakeholders across the city are committed to a fair and inclusive transition to a net zero, and climate resilient economy. In doing so, they aim to support the development of a sustainable supply of skilled professionals to deliver the circular economy transition.

4.6 Monitoring and evaluation

Being able to measure our progress towards realising the vision for Glasgow to be a circular city is essential. Given the importance of evaluation, developing metrics and indicators for the transition is a priority at various levels, for organisations, businesses and governments.

This is still collectively recognised as a challenge. However, progress is being made at international and national level.

4.6.1 Baseline of circular economy activity

As an initial step, based on learning from peers and working with partners across the city, we will work to carry out a baseline of the circular economy in Glasgow. We will gather information on known data and features on the economy, material production, consumption, and waste in the city to build on information already held. This will also include any existing targets and commitments Glasgow has made. We will work to present this in a simplified visual, refined over time.

The fact remains that monitoring is underpinned by data access and availability and any framework will only be as good as the data it is based on. Learning from international examples and working closely with Zero Waste Scotland, we will continue to work towards developing a monitoring framework to measure the progress Glasgow is making towards realising its vision of becoming a circular city.



4.6.2 Metrics and indicators

At national level, Zero Waste Scotland are leading the way towards the development of Circular Economy indicators framework for Scotland. Additionally, as the recently published Circular Economy and Waste Route Map to 2030 outlines, the Scottish Government will set new circular economy targets by 2027. These will follow the development of a monitoring and indicator framework to allow for more holistic tracking of Scotland's consumption levels and wider measures of circularity. We eagerly anticipate the Scottish Circular Economy strategy and associated monitoring and indicator framework.

As we move towards 2030, we will work internally to understand challenges and opportunities and data availability. We will also work closely with Zero Waste Scotland to understand how national indicators and metrics can be scaled down to support monitoring and progress evaluation at local scale.

4.7 Plastics

Single-use plastics and the way we consume plastics has become a serious issue with adverse impacts on the environment, life on land and under the water. According to the Ellen MacArthur Foundation, if we continue to use plastics in the current take-make-use once-waste model by 2050 there will be more plastics in the oceans than fish²⁷. It is widely believed that we cannot simply recycle our way out of the plastic pollution crisis.

This is why we need to align our efforts to eliminate unnecessary and single-use plastic with the principles of a circular economy. We need to understand and design out pollution, eliminate the single-use plastics that we don't need, prioritise reuse, recycle what can no longer be used.

Glasgow has acknowledged this issue and published a Plastic Reduction Strategy and Action Plan which aims to support the city to move towards becoming free from unnecessary plastics by 2030, phasing out all single-use plastics throughout Glasgow by the end of 2022. The strategy is designed to support city-wide reduction and behaviour change activities, and for the Council to lead by example.

The implementation of the Environmental Protection (Single-use Plastic Products) (Scotland) Regulations 2021 has significantly helped the shift away from certain plastic items across Scotland and therefore across Glasgow. A recent set of measures, including the reformed Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR) for Packaging Waste, the Plastic Packaging Tax, the ban on disposable vapes, and the ban on wet wipes containing plastic, all signal that plastic pollution remains a concern at a national level.

²⁷ Ellen Macarthur Foundation: The New Plastics Economy, Rethinking the Future of Plastics



Significant progress has been achieved. There is however more can be done to support reduction of single-use, unnecessary plastic across the city and for Glasgow City Council to reduce plastic in our own operations. Glasgow's vision for plastic is renewed and refreshed, in line with principles of a circular economy prioritising, sharing and reuse, repair, and remanufacturing.

4.7.1 Single-use plastic usage reduction across Glasgow

The Council aims to build on the positive impact of the Scottish Water Top-Up tap initiative to enable citizens and visitors of Glasgow to refill and reduce the usage of single-use plastic bottles. We will continue to seek opportunities and funding to expand the water tap network.

As advocates of reducing single-use plastic usage and waste production, the Council will continue to work with partners and stakeholders across the city as well as bodies like the Sustainable Glasgow Partnership to promote the concepts of 'single-use plastic free' events, venues, retail spaces and any premises. Learning from successful initiatives, the Council will continue to advocate for responsible resource consumption and for any venue, such as circular economy hubs, to consider single-use plastic free as the default approach.

4.7.2 Single-use plastic usage reduction within Glasgow City Council

As we move towards 2030, two areas will be prioritised in plastic reduction efforts within the Council. Educational settings and Council venues. Progress has been achieved in certain areas and the Council now has an opportunity to build on the positive progress to eliminate single-use plastic wherever possible in schools and in council cafes and venues.

4.8 Procurement

As a local authority, Glasgow City Council has significant control over procurement and purchasing power. Public procurement is the purchase of goods and services by the public sector. It can range from purchasing office equipment or food, to constructing new buildings and complex capital infrastructure projects. The Council understands that by applying the principles of a circular economy from the smallest purchase to the largest, public procurement can become a powerful enabler to support the transition towards Glasgow becoming a circular city. In doing so, Glasgow City Council has the opportunity to lead by example, influence good practice with suppliers and in the process reduce operational material and carbon footprint.

This is already acknowledged in Glasgow's Sustainable Procurement Strategy 2023-2027, which sets out a clear action to continue to build on our approach in utilising lifecycle mapping, whole-life costings and circular economy throughout the procurement process. Scotland's Circular Economy and Waste Route Map to 2030 similarly recognises the significance of public procurement. The Scottish Government will further develop the Sustainable Procurement Tools²⁸ to including a focus on climate and circular economy obligations.

²⁸ Scottish Government, Sustainable Procurement Tools (<https://sustainableprocurementtools.scot/>)

4.8.1 Circular Public Procurement

With the support of the Sustainable Procurement working group, the Council will build on the positive work carried out to date and identify opportunities to improve circular procurement practices. The Council will seek to prioritise opportunities that would have the largest impact and will explore how to further engage with, and participate in innovative circular models such as access-to-service as opposed to ownership.

4.9 Challenges and opportunities

The journey to becoming a circular city is not one without challenges. Local authorities are facing increasing financial pressures and shrinking budgets. At the same time, resource constraints will require prioritisation to focus on activities and initiatives that can have the greatest impact.

Across the city, the cost of living crisis is increasing pressures for businesses, the public sector, the people of Glasgow. The current economic climate is expected to affect the pace of the circular economy transition.

The successful delivery of the Action Plan will depend on both funding and resources being in place. Several actions will require feasibility studies to determine viability and the most appropriate mechanisms for implementation. In most instances, funding will need to be secured to make initiatives and actions possible. All stakeholders are committed to working together to explore potential sources of funding as well as collaborative structures that can ensure projects are successful.

Systemic change at national and international level is required in order to develop and implement a circular economy. This can sometimes result in a slower pace. But the truth remains that no one can achieve this alone. Collaboration with, and participation from, residents, businesses, and the public and private sector is required.

Behaviour change at organisational, individual and societal level may potentially be one of the greatest challenges in transitioning to circular systems. Ingrained habits, convenience and structures that prioritise short-term gains instead of long-term sustainability can be hard to change, especially when coupled with financial pressures. Enabling circular practices to flourish might be exactly the kind of opportunity and alternative path that Glasgow can follow to a prosperity. Through scaling up reuse and repair, sharing, remaking products and regenerating nature Glasgow has the opportunity to make better use of finite resources, reverse biodiversity loss and eliminate pollution. For the Council, implementing circular practices is an opportunity to lead by example and influence change as one of the biggest employers in the city.

Last but certainly not least, circular economy is the opportunity for Glasgow to revive its communities in an equitable way. Circular economy is the opportunity for community wealth building and living well locally, as part of global community.

Appendix 1: Circular Economy Action Plan

Action No.	Action	Measurable outcome	Lead and supporting partners	Timeline	Scope
Built and Natural Environment					
Priority: Circular construction – Enable circular construction for all construction projects within the city					
1	Create a “Circular Economy Statement” requirement in the City Development Plan 2 for new developments in response to NPF4 Policy 12 Zero Waste. As part of this process: a) Work with the Carbon Neutral Cities Alliance (CNCA) to identify potential embodied carbon targets for construction in Glasgow. b) Review existing tools, work with other planning authorities and key stakeholders at national level to identify and develop best practice. c) Undertake a study to identify thresholds on the size of development to which Circular Economy Statements will be required. d) Publish supporting Circular Economy Statement guidance.	Implementation of Circular Economy Statements in policy for planning applications in City Development Plan 2 (CDP2) Publication of guidance as part of City Development Plan 2 (CDP2) Implementation will be measured and monitored as part of City Development Plan 2 (CDP2)	Lead: GCC Sustainability Supporting partners: GCC Planning, Chamber of Commerce, Circular Glasgow, Zero Waste Scotland, Carbon Neutral Cities Alliance (CNCA), Ellen MacArthur Foundation	Policy guidance drafted over 2025-2026 Policy guidance in CDP2 Proposed Plan 2027 CDP2 Proposed Plan adopted 2028	Council led – City wide impact
2	Undertake a feasibility study, and identify funding to support if required, for the implementation of deconstruction/demolition audits to be required for existing buildings at the point of transformation. This will include identifying the mechanism that is best suited to integrate the findings of the study.	Feasibility study undertaken. Where the study finds feasible avenues of implementation, the findings from the feasibility study have been fed into the identified suitable mechanism.	Lead: GCC Sustainability Supporting partners: GCC Building Standards, GCC Planning, Chamber of Commerce, Zero Waste Scotland, Sustainable Glasgow	To start in 2026 Feasibility study to be completed within 2026	Council led – City wide impact

Appendix 1: Circular Economy Action Plan

Action No.	Action	Measurable outcome	Lead and supporting partners	Timeline	Scope
3	Following the implementation of priority policies, a) Identify and support a pilot building material passport project in Glasgow. b) Review findings and feed into a report aimed at identifying how Glasgow City Council can enable, contribute and implement the development of local building material databases.	Report on building material passports adapted to Glasgow's context Ongoing monitoring Pilot delivered	Lead: GCC Sustainability Supporting partners: GCC Planning, GCC Building Standards, Glasgow Universities, Chamber of Commerce, Zero Waste Scotland, Sustainable	To start in 2029 Identify potential pilot by end of 2029 Building material passport report for Glasgow by 2030	Council led – City wide impact
4	Appoint a consultant to undertake a study on the potential requirement for local heat network developers to submit Circular Economy Statements. This will include identifying how to best implement this requirement. Findings will feed into the Climate Delivery Vehicle.	Study is carried out	Lead: GCC Sustainability Supporting partners: GCC - All, Sustainable Glasgow, Zero Waste Scotland, Carbon Neutral Cities Alliance (CNCA)	To start in 2026 Consultant appointed by end of 2026 Study to be undertaken by 2027	Council led – City wide impact
Priority: Natural environment regeneration - Support greening of land to enable nature regeneration					
5	Building on the Forestry and Woodland Strategy, the Glasgow Tree Plan, Open Space Strategy and Food Growing Strategy, support the implementation of strategies and nature regeneration actions by seeking funding to deliver outcomes on specific sites. This will be carried out by committing resources to support programmes, such as the Greening the City and Green Connectors.	Number of food growing initiatives through vacant and derelict land funding, reported via Food Growing Strategy Hectareage of land brought into a higher biodiversity management regime via Green Connectors funding, by creating woodlands, meadows, wetlands and hedgerows, reported via Local Biodiversity Action Plan Greening the City implemented, reported via City Centre Strategy	Lead: GCC Greenspace and Biodiversity Supporting partners: GCC Planning, GCC Food Growing, GCC City Property, GCC Sustainability, GCC Property Asset Management	Food growing initiatives by financial year 2025/26 Green Connectors activities by 2025 Greening the City initial outcome by 2025 Other projects by 2030	Council led – City wide impact

Appendix 1: Circular Economy Action Plan

Action No.	Action	Measurable outcome	Lead and supporting partners	Timeline	Scope
Circular Hubs					
Priority: Construction material reuse hub – Develop a network for the city-wide recovery and reuse of construction materials					
6	Facilitate the setup of a Construction Material Reuse Hub in Glasgow by: a) Identifying and delivering suitable pilots for the reuse of construction materials in a public construction project in Glasgow. b) Review findings and feed into wider project delivery for the roll out of a physical and digital construction material reuse hub across the city. c) Launch a construction material reuse hub, including online platforms to develop linkages across businesses and communities on excess resources and surplus materials.	Pilot Construction Material Reuse Hub set up Findings from the pilot used to inform and influence the setup of a city-wide construction material reuse hub Tonnes of construction materials reused Tonnes of construction materials recycled	Lead: GCC Sustainability Supporting Partners: GCC Planning, GCC Waste and Fleet Management, GCC Property Asset Management, GCC Corporate Procurement Unit, Chamber of Commerce, Circular Glasgow, Zero Waste Scotland, Scottish Environment Protection Agency (SEPA)	Pilot by end of 2027 Review of outcomes by end of 2028 Large scale pilot by end of 2029	Council led – City wide impact
Priority: Circular Markets / Reuse Hubs – Facilitate a network of local circular economy communities and material reuse hubs and markets across the city					
7	Facilitate the setup of a suitable Circular Market / Reuse Hub in Glasgow by: a) Undertake a scoping study for the development of Circular Economy Community Hubs and Reuse Hubs for consumer goods (textiles, electricals, furniture, household, etc.), to identify a Hub model that best suits Glasgow. b) Feed outcomes of the study to a plan for a hub pilot. Undertake pilot, including online versions of hubs. c) Support existing and emerging community-led Circular Economy Hubs by showcasing and sharing best practice.	Scoping study undertaken Pilot Circular Market or Reuse Hub set up Number of community-led Circular Economy Hubs supported by Council	Lead: GCC Sustainability Supporting partners: GCC Planning, GCC Waste and Fleet Management, GCC Property Asset Management, GCC Corporate Procurement Unit, Chamber of Commerce, Circular Glasgow, Zero Waste Scotland, Local communities and third sector organisations	Scoping study by end of 2025 Initial pilot by end of 2027	Council led – City wide impact

Appendix 1: Circular Economy Action Plan

Action No.	Action	Measurable outcome	Lead and supporting partners	Timeline	Scope
Circular Practices					
Priority: Support for circular businesses, organisations, and communities – Deliver ongoing support mechanisms					
8	Deliver ongoing business support mechanisms that facilitate and promote circular practices. This will include the following activities: a) Map circular economy activity in Glasgow, by engaging with organisations to identify best practice, challenges and opportunities, supported by the GCC Sustainability team. b) Deliver the Green Business Grant and the Business Growth Programme, with circular economy support provided where appropriate. c) Review outcomes of existing financial support mechanisms (led by GCC Economic Development).	Number of organisations engaged by GCC Number of activities mapped Report reviewing support for circular organisations produced Number of funding/support programs and number of organisations funded/ supported	Lead: GCC Economic Development Supporting Partners: Chamber of Commerce, GCC Sustainability, Scottish Enterprise, Scottish Government, Business Gateway	Ongoing engagement Mapping completed by 2025 Outcome report by end of 2025	Council led – City wide impact
9	Support the opening of vacant and unused Glasgow City Council sites, through appropriate mechanisms, in order to provide space for circular innovation and start-ups. a) Undertake an audit of council property to identify under-utilised and vacant premises that could be suitable for use as circular hubs, and/or space that could be made available for circular organisations and hubs. b) Engage organisations and communities on an ongoing basis to scope opportunities for activating space/sites, led by GCC Sustainability. c) GCC Sustainability team to work with officers in GCC Property Asset Management to expand understanding of circular economy opportunities and explore how new or existing mechanisms, such as People Make Glasgow Communities, could enable use of vacant GCC sites for circular opportunities.	Report on vacant sites and potential circular economy activity Number of vacant/under-utilised sites activated for circular activities Number of circular economy projects/ organisations/initiatives participating in People Make Glasgow Communities	Lead: GCC Sustainability Supporting Partners: GCC Property Asset Management, People Make Glasgow Communities, GCC Planning, GCC Economic Development, City Property, Scottish Government	Report on vacant sites by 2025 (by GCC Sustainability)	Council led – City wide impact

Appendix 1: Circular Economy Action Plan

Action No.	Action	Measurable outcome	Lead and supporting partners	Timeline	Scope
Priority: Reduce, reuse, repair, remanufacture and recycling practices – Enable uptake of circular practices across the city					
10	Add a Circular Economy module, which will include a reference to plastic, textile, electricals and food waste reduction, in Glasgow City Council's Climate Literacy course in GOLD.	Number of employees undertaking the course	Lead: GCC Sustainability Supporting partners: GCC Organisational Development	Course developed by of financial year 2025/26	Council – internal
11	Undertake a waste audit within the Council estate to quantify the volume and type of waste. Identify key streams and actions to reduce in line with the Resource and Recycling Strategy.	Audit undertaken Target waste streams and actions identified	Lead: GCC Waste and Fleet Management Supporting partners: Scottish Government, GCC Sustainability	Audit carried out by 2026	Council – internal
12	Carry out a scoping study for setting up a network of collection points for reuse and recycling electricals items. Identify external funding* for setting up the network, if required. This action will be updated in line with any developments in upcoming reforms to the Waste Electrical and Electronic Equipment (WEEE) regulations. *Funding application will be led by GCC Sustainability. Operational implementation, if successful, will be led by GCC Waste and Fleet Management.	Number of collection points installed Weight of electrical items recycled	Lead: GCC Waste and Fleet Management Supporting partners: GCC Sustainability, GCC Property Asset Management, GCC Planning	Funding identified by end of 2025 Application submitted in 2026 Project implemented by end of 2027 (subject to successful funding)	Council led – City wide impact

Appendix 1: Circular Economy Action Plan

Action No.	Action	Measurable outcome	Lead and supporting partners	Timeline	Scope
13	Enable citizens to participate in repair by: a) Identifying and undertaking a suitable, Glasgow specific incentivised repair pilot scheme for citizens, focusing on textiles and electricals, learning from international examples. b) Support repair and reuse initiatives, such as those that specialise in digital inclusion, circular communities, circular textile systems. c) Feeding findings into a plan to establish an ongoing repair scheme for citizens.	Pilot set up Number of citizens engaging Number of organisations engaging Tonnes of items repaired and reused	Lead: GCC Sustainability Supporting partners: GCC Economic Development, GCC Just Transition, Zero Waste Scotland	Scoping will begin in 2026 Pilot set up by 2028	Council led – City wide impact
14	Embed sustainability, including circularity and biodiversity, into outdoor events by: a) Participating in the Sustainability and Biodiversity for Events in Parks working group (SBEPG) to oversee the work undertaken. b) Developing best practice guidance and Condition of Let requirements to enable event providers to report on event sustainable, circular and biodiversity impacts, through the emissions reporting framework. The process will start with large events and roll out to small events. c) Create and share case studies of circular events, festival venues on appropriate platform to communicate best practice.	Percentage reduction total emissions (kgCO2e) after three years of the revised conditions of let being implemented	Lead: GCC Parks and Major Events Supporting partners: GCC Greenspace and Biodiversity, Glasgow Life, GCC Sustainability, Event organisers applying to GCC to undertake an outdoor event	Conditions of Let developed for large, medium and small-scale events before 2027	Council led – City wide impact
15	Support the delivery of the Glasgow City Food Plan to promote sustainable food growing practices and reduce food waste arisings in Glasgow, by committing resources to participate in working groups, communications campaigns, and actions aimed at delivering waste reduction.	Number of initiatives to support locally sourced food Number of initiatives to reduce waste	Lead: Glasgow Centre for Population Health (GCPH) - Glasgow's Food Policy Partnership (GFPP) Supporting partners: GCC Corporate Procurement Unit, GCC Catering and Facilities Management, GCC Waste & Fleet Management, GCC Sustainability, GCC Greenspace and Biodiversity	Completion of working groups by 2031	City wide

Appendix 1: Circular Economy Action Plan

Action No.	Action	Measurable outcome	Lead and supporting partners	Timeline	Scope
16	Encourage and demonstrate the benefits of the uptake of circular business models and practices by: a) Identifying and supporting business activity on the ground. b) Building on Plate Up for Glasgow and Grounds for Recycling campaigns, where relevant and subject to support and funding availability. c) Running a series of Circular Economy Mixer events. d) Knowledge sharing through the Circular Glasgow Network.	Number of businesses engaged Number of campaigns (where relevant) Number of Mixer events	Lead: Chamber of Commerce Supporting partners: Circular Glasgow, GCC teams, Zero Waste Scotland, Circular Communities Scotland, Third sector organisations	Ongoing	City wide
17	Develop the remanufacturing sector in Glasgow. a) Create collaborative demonstrators with manufacturers, aimed at developing and sustaining circular business models and developing skills. b) Expand the ReMake Hub, part of the Remake Innovation Accelerator, aiming to provide skills and technologies for manufacturers to adopt circular practices. This is subject to secured funding (led by National Manufacturing Institute Scotland). c) Develop the ReMake Value Retention Centre (RVRC), aimed at decarbonising manufacturing by promoting circular practices. (Led by National Manufacturing Institute Scotland.)	Number of demonstrators ReMake Value Retention Centre developed	Lead: National Manufacturing Institute Scotland Supporting partners: Scottish Institute for Remanufacturing, GCC Sustainability, Sustainable Glasgow Partnership, Chamber of Commerce, Circular Glasgow, Glasgow Universities, GCC Economic Development	2026	City wide
Engagement, Communication and Skills					
Priority: Engage with stakeholders – Support collaboration and knowledge exchange, and facilitate implementation of a circular economy					
18	Review and update the Sustainable Glasgow Charter to: a) Include reference to the uptake of circular practices and strategies to further support Glasgow's net zero targets. b) Reinforce the city's commitment to retrofit as the preferred building method in Glasgow, when possible.	Publication of updated Sustainable Glasgow Charter Number of new Charter members	Lead: GCC Sustainability Supporting partners: Sustainable Glasgow Partnership, Charter signatories, Chamber of Commerce	Review and engagement to be carried out by end of 2025 Update to be completed by end of 2026	Council led – City wide impact

Appendix 1: Circular Economy Action Plan

Action No.	Action	Measurable outcome	Lead and supporting partners	Timeline	Scope
19	Identify best suited platforms to host an action-focused Circular Construction Forum and Circular Textile Forum. Set up forums and feed findings and outcomes in relevant actions plans.	Number of stakeholders engaged in forums Number of actions/projects derived from forums	Lead: GCC Sustainability Supporting partners: Circular Glasgow, Chamber of Commerce, Zero Waste Scotland, GCC - All, Ellen McArthur Foundation, ReLondon, Glasgow Universities, Local communities and third sector, organisations, Glasgow industry sectors (based on specific forums)	Construction forum launched in 2025 Textile forum launched by end of 2026	Council led – City wide impact
Priority: Develop ongoing communications methods – Raise awareness of the circular economy and celebrate success across the city					
20	Use the Sustainable Glasgow Partnership to showcase circular activity, celebrate success and share best practice. The website will also signpost to other existing platforms, such as Circular Glasgow, reuse platforms, and the Council's page on recycling, etc.	Website set up Number of visitors Number of case studies	Lead: GCC Sustainability Supporting partners: Sustainable Glasgow, Circular Glasgow, Chamber of Commerce, Circular Communities Scotland	Scoping study by end of 2025 Platform identified in 2026 Launch in 2027	Council led – City wide impact
21	Undertake an ongoing communications campaign to promote repair, reuse and recycling of household goods and textiles and raise awareness of the circular economy.	Number of campaigns	Lead: GCC Waste & Fleet Management Supporting partners: GCC Sustainability, GCC - All, Zero Waste Scotland, Circular Glasgow	To follow textile and electricals infrastructure	Council led – City wide impact

Appendix 1: Circular Economy Action Plan

Action No.	Action	Measurable outcome	Lead and supporting partners	Timeline	Scope
Priority: Skills for a circular economy and transition – Support training and reskilling for a circular economy					
22	Enable re-skilling for a circular and just economy by: a) Supporting the delivery of the Just Transition Skills Action Plan and commit resources to participate in Glasgow's Just Transition working groups, led by GCC Economic Development. b) Providing training through Step Up to Net Zero and circular economy workshops, led by Circular Glasgow & Chamber of Commerce.	Glasgow's Just Transition Skills Action Plan implemented Number of participants in Step Up to Net Zero and number of participating organisations in Step Up to Net Zero Number of circular economy workshops and/or training programs	Lead: GCC Just Transition / Circular Glasgow Supporting partners: Glasgow Local Employability and Skills Partnership (LEP), Sustainable Glasgow Partnership, Chamber of commerce, Circular Glasgow, GCC teams	Glasgow's Just Transition Skills Action Plan implemented - Completion by 2030 Circular Economy workshops & training ongoing	City wide
Monitoring and evaluation					
Priority: Baseline of circular economy activity – Create a baseline of activity, material production, consumption and waste at city level					
23	Create a report/webpage of known data and features on the economy, material production, consumption, and waste in the city, including existing targets or commitments Glasgow has made, with the aim to stimulate action. This will include identifying the most suitable platform for hosting the report/webpage.	Report/webpage set up	Lead: GCC Sustainability Supporting partners: Zero Waste Scotland, GCC Economic Development, GCC Waste and Fleet Management, Chamber of Commerce, Circular Glasgow, Scottish Environment Protection Agency (SEPA)	Initial scoping by end of 2025 Data sets identified by end of 2026 Dashboard development by end of 2027	Council led – City wide impact

Appendix 1: Circular Economy Action Plan

Action No.	Action	Measurable outcome	Lead and supporting partners	Timeline	Scope
Priority: Metrics and indicators – Develop metrics and indicators to monitor progress across the city					
24	Scale down the Scottish Circular Economy metrics and indicators framework to city level, working with Zero Waste Scotland. Develop metrics and indicators that enable monitoring and evaluation of progress towards Glasgow becoming a circular city.	Glasgow-specific metrics and indicators developed	Lead: GCC Sustainability Supporting partners: Zero Waste Scotland, GCC - All, GCC Performance and Information Management Unit	To start in 2027 Initial indicators developed by end of 2029	Council led – City wide impact
Plastics					
Priority: Single-use plastic usage reduction across Glasgow – Facilitate reduction of SUPs and promote circular alternatives					
25	Where possible, identify funding streams to expand the network of Top-Up taps and/or water fountains across the city. Work with outdoor event organisers to encourage water refill points through Sustainable Events guidance.	No. of top-up taps/water fountains in Glasgow	Lead: GCC Greenspace and Biodiversity Supporting partners: Scottish Water, GCC Major Events, GCC Sustainability, GCC Planning	Ongoing scanning for funding Network to expanded by 2030	Council led – City wide impact
26	Develop and install the River Clyde fence boom: a) Submit a funding application to the Marine Fund Scotland to support the implementation of a litter fence boom on the River Clyde to capture waste prior to it entering the marine environment. If the application is successful, progress with installation activities. b) Review findings and waste composition analysis to identify best recycle, recovery route for collected waste, and to identify campaigns and actions to target key waste streams contributing to litter.	Litter fence boom set up Weight of litter collected	Lead: GCC Sustainability Supporting partners: Chamber of Commerce, Glasgow Universities, Marine Scotland	Funding to be submitted in 2025 Installation by end of 2026 Outcome report in 2027	Council led – City wide impact

Appendix 1: Circular Economy Action Plan

Action No.	Action	Measurable outcome	Lead and supporting partners	Timeline	Scope
Priority: Single-use plastic usage reduction within Glasgow City Council – Facilitate reduction of SUPs and adopt circular alternatives					
27	Reduce single-use plastic in school settings by: a) Work with suppliers and use the Procurement Tracker to identify single-use plastic items (packaging and catering) currently used in school meals. b) Undertake an options appraisal to identify opportunities to deliver a more sustainable approach to school meals. c) Review findings and feed these into a plan for eliminating single-use plastic usage across Glasgow schools.	Pilot for single use plastic reduction in schools Percentage reduction on single use plastic in schools	Lead: GCC Catering and Facilities Management Supporting partners: GCC Sustainability, GCC Procurement Unit, GCC Education	Current usage study by Q3 2025 Options appraisal by Q1 2026 Pilot in 2026	Council – internal
28	Reduce single-use plastic in Council and Encore venues by: a) Building on findings from Glasgow Royal Concert Hall reusable beverage system, undertake pilot projects that aim to reduce single-use plastic in packaging, food and/or beverages. b) Assess findings of pilots. Feed into understanding of how reusable food/drink items can be increased across all Council and Encore venues. c) Undertake a feasibility study for implementing a beverage cup recycling scheme for Council and Encore venues to ensure any remaining single-use cups are recycled, building on the success of the Glasgow Cup Movement.	Reusable alternatives pilot undertaken Feasibility for beverage/coffee cup recycling scheme undertaken Percentage reduction on single-use plastic in Council and Encore venues	Lead: GCC Catering and Facilities/Encore Supporting partners: GCC Waste and Fleet Management, GCC Corporate Procurement Unit, GCC Sustainability, Glasgow Life, Keep Scotland Beautiful	Pilot by 2025 Findings reviewed in 2026 Recycling system feasibility from 2027	Council – internal

Appendix 1: Circular Economy Action Plan

Action No.	Action	Measurable outcome	Lead and supporting partners	Timeline	Scope
Procurement					
Priority: Circular public procurement – Embed key principles of circularity into Glasgow City Council procurement policy and practices					
29	Identify opportunities to improve circular procurement practices, whilst taking into consideration best practice and case studies. Seek to prioritise those opportunities that would have the largest positive impact. a) Map and review current circular procurement policies, practices, and activity across the Council, with the support of the Sustainable Procurement Working Group and the sustainable register. b) Building on the Council's use of Scottish Government's Sustainability Test and implementing where possible.	Mapping exercise undertaken Number of activities with circular/sustainable outcomes	Lead: GCC Corporate Procurement Unit Supporting partners: GCC Sustainable Procurement Working Group, GCC Sustainability, Zero Waste Scotland, Ellen MacArthur Foundation	Mapping exercise by end of 2025 Identify opportunities by end of 2026 Undertake a pilot by end of 2027 Circularity criteria extended by end of 2029	Council – internal

Biodiversity loss	Biodiversity loss refers to the reduction of any aspect of biological diversity (i.e. diversity of plants, animals and other organisms) found in an area.
Climate and ecological emergency	When we talk about the climate emergency, we are referring to: 'Climate change' and long-term shifts in the Earth's weather patterns. When we talk about the ecological emergency, we are referring to: 'Biodiversity loss' and the decline or disappearance of the variety in living things.
Circular economy	A systems solution that is based on three principles: eliminate waste and pollution, circulate products and materials (at their highest value), and regenerate nature. It is underpinned by a transition to renewable energy and materials.
Climate crisis	The climate crisis refers to the serious problems that are being caused, or are likely to be caused, by changes in the planet's climate, such as weather extremes and natural disasters, sea-level rise, loss of biodiversity.
Community wealth building	A place-based approach to local economic development, which redirects wealth back into the local economy, and places control and benefits into the hands of local people.
Just transition	Means that the journey to reduce emissions and adapt to climate impacts is fair, and creates a better future for everyone – regardless of where they live, what they do, and who they are.
Linear economy	An economy in which finite resources are extracted to make products that are used, often once, and then thrown away ('take-make-waste'). It is a wasteful and polluting system that degrades natural systems.
Pre-loved	Pre-loved refers to goods that are not new but having been used before.
Recycle	Transform a product or component into its basic materials or substances and reprocessing them into new materials. Embedded energy and value are lost in the process.
Refurbish	Return a product to good working order. This can include repairing or replacing components, updating specifications, and improving cosmetic appearance.
Remanufacture	Re-engineer products and components to as-new condition with the same, or improved, level of performance as a newly manufactured one. Remanufactured products or components are typically provided with a warranty that is equivalent to or better than that of the newly manufactured product.
Repair	Bring a faulty or broken product or component back to a usable state to fulfil the same purpose.
Reuse	Re-use occurs when items are used again for their original purpose. It can involve checking, cleaning and repairing items.
Sharing and sharing economy	Treating products as assets that can be used by multiple customers, multiple times. Manufacturers can retain ownership and provide shared access, or customers can create peer-to-peer sharing models.
Virgin resources	Materials that have not yet been used in the economy. These include both finite materials (e.g. iron ore mined from the ground) and renewable resources (e.g. newly produced cotton).