



Glasgow City Council

**Environment and Liveable Neighbourhood City Policy
Committee**

**Report by George Gillespie, Executive Director of
Neighbourhoods, Regeneration and Sustainability**

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RESOURCE AND RECYCLING STRATEGY 2020-30 – 2022 UPDATE

Purpose of Report:

To update Committee on the progress made to deliver the action plan set out in the Resource and Recycling Strategy 2020-30 and provide an overview of emerging policy changes within the resource industry.

Recommendations:

It is recommended that Committee notes:

- (a) The progress made in delivering the actions committed within the Resource and Recycling Strategy 2020-30 and detailed in Appendix A – Action Plan.
- (b) The strategic priorities for 2023, which are key to delivering the ambitions of the Resource and Recycling Strategy 2020-30.

Ward No(s):

Citywide: ✓

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

1. Introduction

- 1.1 The purpose of this report is to update Committee on the progress made to deliver the action plan set out within the Resource and Recycling Strategy 2020-30 and provide an overview of emerging policy changes within the resource and recycling industry.

2. Background

- 2.1 The Resource and Recycling Strategy (RRS) 2020-30 was presented to the Environment, Sustainability and Carbon Reduction City Policy Committee (Committee) on 2nd February 2021 and subsequently approved by the [City Administration Committee \(CAC\)](#) on 3rd June 2021.
- 2.2 The RRS responds to the Climate Emergency and seeks to reduce the carbon impact of waste on the environment. This will be achieved by improving the quality and quantity of materials captured for reuse and recycling.
- 2.3 The RRS complements other carbon reduction strategies, such as the Circular Economy Route Map for Glasgow 2020-30 and the Climate Plan.

3. Policy Landscape

- 3.1 The resource and recycling industry continues to undergo significant policy change.
- 3.2 In 2022 the Scottish Government consulted on the Circular Economy Bill and the Route Map to 2025 and Beyond which heavily featured waste and recycling proposals and adds to an already congested policy landscape. At the time of preparing this report the outputs and action plan from these consultations have still to be published.
- 3.3 The Deposit Return Scheme (DRS) for single-use drinks containers is scheduled to go live on 16 August 2023. The introduction of the scheme has been subject to recent discussion, however, at the time of preparing this report, is still due to go live this year.
- 3.4 Like many business sectors, the resource and recycling industry has had a challenging year. Challenges have been presented via a volatile commodity market and have been encountered with waste re-processor contracts, as they seek to increase costs due to the financial climate.

4. Update for 2022 and Significant Milestones

- 4.1 An update on the individual actions within the action plan is provided within appendix 1.
- 4.2 Several key initiatives were undertaken last year and a summary of these are highlighted within the following sections.

- 4.3 In conjunction with Zero Waste Scotland and external consultants an Options Appraisal (OA) on GCC's kerbside collection services was completed. This aimed to understand the impact of the DRS on Glasgow's waste collection services and assess options to improve performance in the context of the Household Recycling Charter and the supporting Code of Practice and other policy drivers. The consultants also undertook a review of contamination within the recycling bins, recommending the adoption of a formal policy to address this issue.
- 4.2 A Waste Compositional Analysis (WCA) was undertaken on a select number of kerbside and flatted properties and analysis was undertaken on both the general waste and dry mixed recycling bins. Supported by Zero Waste Scotland, the analysis informed a wider study into the composition of waste across Scotland and was the first undertaken in Glasgow since 2014/15. The study highlighted the large proportion of target recyclable material in the general waste bin that could be placed within the existing recycling services.
- 4.3. Linked to the Options Appraisal detailed above, the Council engaged specialist consultants, SLR Consulting Ltd, to develop outline design options for a new Materials Recovery Facility (MRF) intended to replace the ageing facility at Blochairn. This new MRF will align with the recycling collection model supported by the Charter for Household Recycling and associated Code of Practice.
- 4.4. The aforementioned project work helped to inform the Council's first submission to the Scottish Government Recycling Improvement Fund (RIF), which sought to introduce a twin stream recycling service for kerbside properties, which would collect additional material streams, including plastic pots, tubs, trays, film, and beverage cartons. The second element of the bid sought a financial contribution to the development of a new MRF at Queenslie which would be required to process the changing composition of materials collected. The application was submitted in August for the September RIF Board meeting, which was subsequently delayed until October and a decision on all local authority applications at this meeting was further delayed until December.
- 4.5. The Council was awarded £4.2m to implement a twin stream recycling service to kerbside properties and £17m towards the new MRF. A report was submitted to the [City Administration Committee](#) in January 2023 providing an update on the award.
- 4.6. Several key initiatives have been successfully delivered across all waste transfer facilities. These are broadly summarised as follows:
- 4.6.1. A new online booking system has been rolled out to commercial traders, Registered Social Landlords / Housing Associations and charities. This new system facilitates a reduction in vehicle queuing and idling, improved site safety, and a better overall customer service.
- 4.6.2. CCTV and Automated Number Plate Recognition technology has now been implemented. This system has already proven critical in preventing

abuse by commercial traders and mitigates the risk of bribery and corruption.

4.6.3. A full review of site operating procedures and risk assessments is underway, aimed primarily at improving site safety whilst also providing an opportunity to engage with staff on the importance of how frontline functions are critical in achieving better recycling and landfill diversion performance.

- 4.7. The Glasgow Recycling and Renewable Energy Centre (GRREC) continues to provide a valuable role as part of the RRS, extracting recyclable material and recovering energy from waste which would previously have been landfilled. As the historical construction, commissioning, and early service challenges of the GRREC have now been successfully resolved, the council are focussed on working with the contractor, Viridor, to ensure the GRREC provides the maximum sustainability benefit. Key initiatives which are being developed at present include increased plastics recycling and the potential to support a district heat network.
- 4.8. At the start of 2022 a generic communication campaign was undertaken to promote the blue bin recycling service. 'Stop Talking Rubbish' ran from January to March and incorporated adverts on STV, local radio stations, and utilised the Council's digital media channels and aired on other digital sites. This campaign also provided opportunity for the eco-committee at Notre Dame Secondary to produce a short film with Go Radio, which was provided to Education Services, to assist promoting the recycling service across the school estate.

5. Strategic Project Priorities 2023

- 5.1. During 2023 the following project priorities will be undertaken.
- 5.2. Introduction of Twin stream Recycling Service and Communication Campaign
- 5.3. Following the OA on the kerbside properties and subsequent application to the Recycling Improvement Fund, the current dry mixed recycling collection service (blue bin) will change to a twin stream service, incorporating:
- Fibre bin (paper and card)
 - Container bin (plastic bottles/pots/tubs/trays/film, beverage cartons, food and drink cans)

Introducing twin stream recycling will contribute to the Council aligning with the Code of Practice (CoP) which supports the Charter for Household Recycling, which the [ESCR committee](#) signed up to in February 2019. The service introduction will be accompanied by a comprehensive communication campaign to residents within kerbside properties, including the provision of an instructional booklet and collection calendar on the new service.

- 5.4. Introduction of Contamination and Bin Policy

- 5.5. At the same time as the change in collection service, a new contamination and bin policy will be introduced. This was presented to the [ESCR committee in November 2022](#) and is intended to improve the quality of materials captured and sent for recycling to re-processing partners.
- 5.6. New Material Recovery Facility and Depot Re-development
- 5.7. The council submitted a Proposal of Application Notice at the end of calendar year 2022. This signified the commencement of the public consultation.
- 5.8. The council held three public exhibitions on the 25th, 26th and 27th January 2023. These events took place near the council's Easter Queenslie site and were advertised in advance through local press, to allow interested residents an opportunity to comment on the proposed development.
- 5.9. Subject to funding and all relevant internal approvals, the council intends to submit a planning application for the development later in 2023.
- 5.10. Completion of Options Appraisal for flats and Submission to RIF
- 5.11. Work will continue on the OA for flatted properties, and it is anticipated this will be concluded towards the end of the financial year 2022/23. Subsequently, a second bid to the Recycling Improvement Fund to align collection services with the CoP will be undertaken.
- 5.12. Bin Hub Trial
- 5.13. Prior to any city-wide change to collection services for flats, a trial will primarily be undertaken in two areas, comprising c.2,000 flats which will provide the CoP compliant service, with bespoke bin hubs located to the front of properties. This will also see re-engagement of the food waste collection service and the provision of a communication campaign to impacted households.
- 5.14. Local Stakeholder Engagement
- 5.15. In November 2022 a Resource and Recycling Summit was held on-line with key stakeholders including, housing associations, residents, Community Councils, and Council staff. As options for flatted properties are appraised, more local engagement will be undertaken in 2023.
- 5.16. Staff Training
- 5.17. Work is underway to deliver a new training program that links to the SWITCH competency framework and will provide an opportunity to educate staff on the importance of recycling performance, in the context of the circular economy, and will be integral to any new collection service and processing infrastructure.

6. Policy and Resource Implications

Resource Implications:

<i>Financial:</i>	There are no direct financial impacts in providing this update, although implementing actions within the strategy will require funding from internal and external sources, including submissions to the Recycling Improvement Fund
<i>Legal:</i>	No legal implications on the update of the strategy, but compliance with existing and new legislation will be required throughout the duration of this strategy.
<i>Personnel:</i>	Opportunities may arise for temporary recruitment of staff on implementation of different aspects of the strategy and the development of existing staff through structured training.
<i>Procurement:</i>	The procurement of new contracts for the management of waste and purchase of infrastructure will be required throughout the duration of the strategy and subject to separate reports to Committee.

Council Strategic Plan: Support for Grand Challenge 3, Mission 2, Commitment 8.

Support for Grand Challenge 4, Mission 1, Commitments 3, 6, 10, 11, 12, 18

Equality and Socio-Economic Impacts:

<i>Does the proposal support the Council's Equality Outcomes 2021-25? Please specify.</i>	Yes. The implementation of the RRS applies to all Glasgow residents and service users will be afforded all relevant information.
<i>What are the potential equality impacts as a result of this report?</i>	Separate EQIAs will be required as different aspects of the strategy are implemented.

<i>Please highlight if the policy/proposal will help address socio-economic disadvantage.</i>	No negative impacts anticipated.
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Climate Impacts:

<i>Does the proposal support any Climate Plan actions? Please specify:</i>	The strategy seeks to increase the quantity and quality of materials collected for recycling and reduce the impact of climate change.
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<i>What are the potential climate impacts as a result of this proposal?</i>	The strategy is seeking to reduce the impacts waste has on the environment.
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<i>Will the proposal contribute to Glasgow's net zero carbon target?</i>	Yes. Reducing waste, maximising the longevity of resources, and increasing recycling will contribute towards Glasgow meeting a net zero carbon target.
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Privacy and Data Protection Impacts:

Are there any potential data protection impacts as a result of this report Y/N	No.
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7 Recommendations

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- (b) the strategic priorities for 2023, which are key to delivering the ambitions of the Resource and Recycling Strategy 2020-30.