



National Planning Framework 4 Early Engagement – Policies

WASTE

Scottish Planning Policy (2014):

*The **planning system** should take account of the above policy principles:*

- *promote developments that minimise the unnecessary use of primary materials and promote efficient use of secondary materials;*
- *support the emergence of a diverse range of new technologies and investment opportunities to secure economic value from secondary resources, including reuse, refurbishment, remanufacturing and reprocessing;*
- *support achievement of Scotland's zero waste targets: recycling 70% of household waste and sending no more than 5% of Scotland's annual waste arisings to landfill by 2025; and*
- *help deliver infrastructure at appropriate locations, prioritising development in line with the waste hierarchy: waste prevention, reuse, recycling, energy recovery and waste disposal.*

Planning authorities & SEPA should work collaboratively to achieve zero waste objectives

Development Plans should:

- *reflect the aims of the Zero Waste Plan and promote the waste hierarchy;*
- *promote resource efficiency and the minimisation of waste during construction and operation of new developments;*
- *enable investment opportunities in a range of technologies and industries to maximise the value of secondary resources and waste to the economy;*
- *support the provision of a network of infrastructure that allows waste and secondary resources to be managed in one of the nearest appropriate installations;*
- *safeguard existing waste management installations and allocation of land on adjacent sites.*
- *set out spatial strategies which make provision for new infrastructure.*
- *should identify appropriate locations for new infrastructure.*
- *should identify where masterplans or development briefs will be required to guide the development of waste installations for major sites.*

Planning authorities should have regard to the annual update of required capacity for source segregated and unsorted waste. This should not be regarded as a cap and planning authorities should generally facilitate growth in sustainable resource management.

Sites identified specifically for energy from waste facilities should enable links to be made to potential users of renewable heat and energy.

Planning applications for new installation should take full account of the above policy principles.

SEPA's Thermal Treatment of Waste Guidelines 2013 and addendum sets out policy on thermal treatment plants.

All new development should include provision for waste separation and collection to meet the requirements of the Waste (Scotland) Regulations.

Planning authorities should consider the need for buffer zones between dwellings or other sensitive receptors and some waste management facilities.

Planning authorities should:

- *consider requiring the preparation of site waste management plans for construction sites*
- *secure decommissioning or restoration (including landfill) to agreed standards as a condition of planning permission for waste management facilities*
- *ensure that landfill consents are subject to an appropriate financial bond unless the operator can demonstrate that their programme of restoration, including the necessary financing, phasing and aftercare of sites, is sufficient.*

What has changed since 2014

- Consumption of products and materials now accounts for an estimated 74% of Scotland's carbon footprint.
- The Scottish Government's legislative programme for 2019-29 will include a Circular Economy Bill with provisions which will encourage the re-use of products and reduce waste. It will also enable further action to tackle reliance on single use products.
- Publication of Making Things Last: A Circular Economy Strategy for Scotland¹ in 2016. This includes an ambition to have an energy from waste infrastructure that effectively manages the "leakage" from a more circular approach to the economy in Scotland without creating demand for materials that could otherwise be kept in higher value use.
- Plan for ban on biodegradable municipal waste to landfill 2025.
- Zero Waste Scotland estimate that, by 2050, a more circular economy could reduce carbon emissions by 11 million tonnes per year.

Proposed key objective of NPF4: To support the management of waste in line with the waste hierarchy (waste prevention; reuse; recycling; energy recovery and waste disposal) and to guide development for new infrastructure to appropriate locations.

Issues to consider:

- How can the planning system help facilitate progress towards a circular economy in a way that delivers benefits for the environment, the economy and local communities?
- How can the planning system best support ambitions for energy from waste infrastructure?
- How can NPF4 best complement existing environmental legislation, strategies and guidance, including that from other national bodies?

¹ [Making Things Last: a circular economy strategy for Scotland](#)

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