

## **ZERO WASTE**

NPF4 supports the circular economy and seeks to manage waste and resources in a way that contributes to Scotland's net zero and sustainability ambitions and green recovery. The planning system should support development which reflects the waste hierarchy and prioritises the reduction and reuse of materials, and facilitating the delivery of new infrastructure required to achieve this.

An independent review of the role that incineration plays in Scotland's waste hierarchy has been commissioned by the Scottish Government. Any emerging outcomes will be taken into account in the finalised version of NPF4.

### **Local Development Plans should:**

- identify appropriate locations for new infrastructure which supports the circular economy and moves waste as high up the waste hierarchy as possible.

### **Development proposals:**

- should aim to reduce, reuse or recycle materials in line with the waste hierarchy;
- national or major developments should take into account the circular economy principles and align with the waste hierarchy. Where appropriate, they should
  - reuse existing buildings and infrastructure;
  - minimise demolition and salvage materials for re-use;
  - use design and construction measures to minimise waste, reduce pressure on virgin resources and enable building materials, components and products to be disassembled and reused at the end of their useful life;
  - support maintenance, longevity, adaptability and flexibility;
  - identify how much waste the proposal is expected to generate and how and where the waste will be managed in accordance with the waste hierarchy, including demonstrating the management of as much waste as possible on site;
  - make provision for adequate and accessible storage space and collection systems when the development is operational to support the waste hierarchy, including reuse and recycling;
  - set out how performance will be monitored and reported.
- that are likely to generate waste (when operational) including residential, commercial and industrial properties, should include provision to maximise waste reduction and waste separation at sources, and minimise cross-contamination of materials.
- for new waste infrastructure and facilities (except landfill and energy from waste) within an established suitable area, should be supported where:

- there are no unacceptable impacts (including cumulative) on residential amenity of nearby dwellings, local communities and historic environment assets,
  - environmental impacts are acceptable, including cumulative impacts
  - any greenhouse gas emissions from operation activities are minimised and offset
  - an adequate buffer zone between sites and settlements is provided
  - a restoration and aftercare scheme is provided and agreed
- for new waste infrastructure and facilities (except landfill and energy from waste) outwith an established suitable area, should only be supported if they are small scale facilities, needing a location accessible to the public;
  - for new or extended landfill sites should only be supported where there is a demonstrable need for additional landfill capacity, and waste heat and/or electricity generation is included;
  - for the capture, distribution or use of gases captured from landfill sites or waste water treatment plants should be supported;
  - for the recovery of energy from waste should only be supported where the proposal:
    - is in a location identified or supported in the LDP;
    - is consistent with climate change mitigation targets and in line with circular economy principles;
    - can demonstrate that a functional heat network can be created and provided within the site;
    - is supported by a heat and power plan, demonstrating how energy recovered will be used;
    - complies with SEPA guidelines;
    - is accompanied by an approved decarbonisation strategy aligned with Scottish Government decarbonisation goals and be refused where the strategy is insufficient; and
    - delivers demonstrable community benefits if the waste being treated is collected from an area wider than the local authority.
  - should not be supported if they would, either directly or indirectly, limit the operation of existing or proposed waste management facility.

## **Responses to the Position Statement**

There was support for the emphasis on a circular economy, which was highlighted in relation to the forthcoming ban on biodegradable landfill. Some respondents called for greater detail on the role of waste management, particularly in respect of infrastructure required to support the waste hierarchy and minimising the export of waste, sustainable use of the existing built environment and clear policy on the role of various waste disposal methods. It was suggested that there will remain a need

for landfill for non-recyclable and non-combustible waste and that proposals which meet wider sustainability and climate change objectives should be supported.

### **Policy changes**

The proposals in Draft NPF4 build on the recognition in NPF3 that waste is a resource and an opportunity rather than a burden. The draft policies expand on NPF3 and SPP's policies which sought to promote efficient use of secondary materials, the reuse, refurbishment, remanufacturing and reprocessing of secondary resources and the delivery of appropriate infrastructure at appropriate locations. They also clarify guidance to developers on encouraging opportunities for reuse and refurbishment of materials and buildings, and use of circular economy principles during design and construction.