



**Dropping it off**

# Recycling Centres



**Freephone Helpline**  
0808 100 2040

[zerowastescotland.org.uk](http://zerowastescotland.org.uk)

## Overview

Councils provide places for their residents to drop-off non-recyclable waste (general waste) free of charge. These facilities are sometimes called “the tip” or “civic amenity sites”. Nowadays, they also accept a wide range of different materials for recycling and are now known as recycling centres, household waste recycling centres or HWRCs. Depending on their size and the range of materials accepted, they achieve recycling rates of around 70%. They provide a range of containers, each collecting specific items. Some of the most common are: paper, glass bottles, cans, plastic bottles, cardboard, scrap metal, rubble, engine oil and garden waste. Many also accept: electrical equipment, textiles, white goods (fridges and freezers), batteries, car tyres, wood, paint, household chemicals and items for re-use (e.g. furniture).

## What goes in?

**Materials for recycling** from householders – specific materials vary from site to site.

**Materials for re-use** from householders – where containers for re-usable items are provided.

**Non-recyclable waste (general waste)** – from householders.

Some recycling centres also take in material from businesses through a permit system.

For details of what materials are accepted at recycling centres in your area, please contact your local Council or visit:

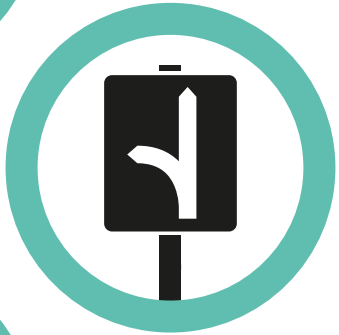
**[www.recycleforscotland.com](http://www.recycleforscotland.com)**

# What happens?



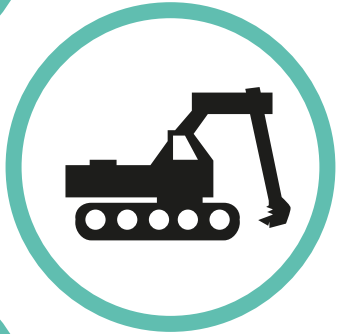
Householders arrive on-site with their materials.

Signs and staff help to direct them to the right containers.



Householders put their materials into the correct containers.

Some types of materials can be compacted on-site.



Containers are emptied or replaced and the materials are taken for processing or treatment.

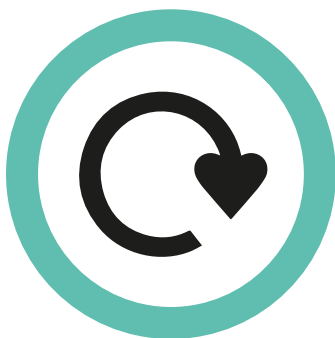
## What comes out?



**Materials for re-use (where collected):** Usually collected by a charitable organisation to provide to those in need or to sell in order to raise funds.

### **Materials for recycling:**

A range of different, segregated materials (depending on what is collected at the specific site). These are sent for reprocessing where they will be turned into new products. Garden waste will be sent for composting and turned into a soil conditioner.



**Materials for treatment/disposal:** Non-recyclable waste (general waste) will either be sent to energy from waste (thermal treatment) or landfill. Hazardous materials (where collected) will be handled appropriately and sent to appropriate treatment or disposal facilities.

# Glossary

## **Garden waste**

Organic or naturally occurring, waste vegetation materials from gardens such as leaves, grass clippings, twigs, etc.

## **Hazardous material**

Some materials are designated as hazardous or special waste because of their properties (e.g. poisonous, harmful to the environment, etc.). Not all facilities can accept hazardous materials/special waste. For more information, please see SEPA's website.

## **Non-recyclable waste (general waste)**

Often known as black bag waste or mixed waste, it is a mixture of discarded materials (rubbish) collected within the same bag or container and which is not recycled.

## **Processing**

These facilities deal with input materials in some way, for example by separating mixed recyclables, or separating an item into its metal and plastic components.

## **Reprocessing**

The process of turning material which has been collected for recycling into new products.

## **Treatment**

A type of process which reduces the quantity of input material either by using heat (thermal treatment) or a biological process. They also produce heat, electricity, fertilisers or other outputs.

# Further information

## Zero Waste Scotland (ZWS)

For more information on Zero Waste Scotland, its work and research, please visit: [www.zerowastescotland.org.uk](http://www.zerowastescotland.org.uk)

For more information on waste facilities and how they are developed, please visit: [www.zerowastescotland.org.uk/infrastructure](http://www.zerowastescotland.org.uk/infrastructure)

## Scottish Environment Protection Agency (SEPA)

For information on waste regulation, licencing, data and more detailed technical information on facility types and the standards they are required to achieve, please visit:

[www.sepa.org.uk](http://www.sepa.org.uk)

## Recycle for Scotland

For more information on how to reduce, re-use and recycle, please visit: [www.recycleforscotland.com](http://www.recycleforscotland.com)

## National Re-use Phonenumber

If you have bulky household items that are in good condition and could be re-used, call 0800 0665 820 for a free pick up.

## Videos

To watch videos explaining what different facilities do, please visit: [www.recycleforscotland.com/facts-figures/facts-figures](http://www.recycleforscotland.com/facts-figures/facts-figures)

## Chartered Institution of Wastes Management (CIWM)

For more detailed and technical information on different facilities and on waste management issues in general, please visit:

[www.ciwm.co.uk](http://www.ciwm.co.uk)

## Environmental Services Association

For more information on waste management and the different types of facilities, please visit: [www.esauk.org/](http://www.esauk.org/)



For more information about Zero Waste Scotland's terms and conditions, please visit [www.zerowastescotland.org.uk/content/terms-conditions](http://www.zerowastescotland.org.uk/content/terms-conditions)

If you have any questions please contact [data@zerowastescotland.org.uk](mailto:data@zerowastescotland.org.uk)