

**ZERO
WASTE
SCOTLAND**

Getting it together

Transfer Stations



Freephone Helpline
0808 100 2040

zerowastescotland.org.uk

Overview

Transfer stations are used to temporarily store materials before they are taken to another facility for processing, treatment, reprocessing or disposal. Councils collect waste and recycling using dedicated vehicles which follow specified routes. Often, vehicles will fill-up part-way through a route and will need to empty the material collected in order to complete the route. Material can be taken directly to other facilities however, they are often located too far away to make the journey worth it. In these cases, transfer stations are used to stockpile materials until there is enough to make longer distance journeys worthwhile. Once full, the collection vehicles drive to the transfer station and empty the material they have collected into specific bays or sheds on site. There are different areas for different types of material to make sure that they are not mixed. Materials from the transfer station are transported to other types of facilities type for processing, treatment, reprocessing etc.

Any or all of the following materials can be temporarily stored at a transfer station:

- Non-recyclable waste (general waste).
- Recyclable materials.
- Garden waste.
- Food waste.
- Hazardous waste (a special licence is required).

Under the Waste (Scotland) Regulations 2012, materials which have been collected separately are not allowed be mixed together, so transfer stations need different bays or sheds to keep different materials apart.

What happens?



Vehicles arrive at the site and are weighed.

Materials are emptied into the correct area(s) of the site.



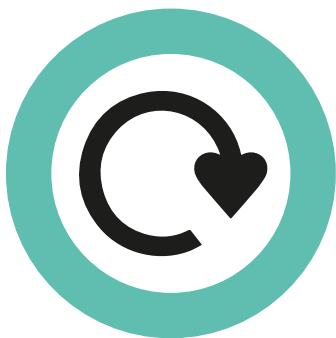
No processing or treatment takes place on-site unless it is a multi-activity facility.

Larger vehicles collect stockpiled materials and transport them to other facilities.



Other facilities, process treat or reprocess the incoming materials from transfer stations.

What comes out?



Materials for recycling:

A range of different, segregated materials (depending on what is accepted at the specific site). These are sent for reprocessing where they will be turned into new products.

Organic materials:

Garden waste and/or food waste (if accepted) will be stockpiled and sent to composting or anaerobic digestion facilities to be turned into compost or fertiliser and energy.



Materials for thermal treatment/disposal:

Non-recyclable waste (general waste) will either be sent to energy from waste (thermal treatment) or landfill.

Glossary

Garden waste

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

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

For more information on waste facilities and how they are developed, please visit: 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

Recycle for Scotland

For more information on how to reduce, re-use and recycle, please visit: www.recycleforscotland.com

Videos

To watch videos explaining what different facilities do, please visit: 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

Renewable Energy Association

For more information on thermal and biological treatment facilities which create energy from waste, please visit:

www.r-e-a.net/renewable-technologies

Environmental Services Association

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



For more information about Zero Waste Scotland's terms and conditions, please visit www.zerowastescotland.org.uk/content/terms-conditions

If you have any questions please contact data@zerowastescotland.org.uk