

# **PROGRAMME PLAN 2016 – 2017**

**March 2016**

## Foreword

This is Zero Waste Scotland's programme plan for 2016-17. It describes the activities which we will deliver over the year in support of the Scottish Government's priorities on waste and resources. The activities are informed by our organisation's long-term Corporate Plan and by the priorities of Scottish Ministers.

Within the period 2015-16, Zero Waste Scotland has supported significant progress in a number of key areas, including:

- The development, with Scottish Government and CoSLA, of the Household Recycling Charter, which provides a framework for more consistent and higher quality recycling collections
- The launch and first year of operation of the Scottish Institute for Remanufacture, based at the University of Strathclyde, one of only four such centres of excellence globally
- Raising awareness of the circular economy and engaging a wide cross-section of society around the Scottish Government's *Making Things Last* consultation and subsequent circular economy strategy
- Helping organisations to implement resource efficiency measures with lifetime cost savings of £180 million, over the first two years of the Resource Efficient Scotland programme
- Taking forward priority actions from the Towards a Litter Free Scotland strategy including supporting the implementation and monitoring of the carrier bag charge in Scotland.

This year, we will commence delivery of a three year £70 million programme which has been agreed with the Scottish Government, drawing down up to £31 million of European Structural Funds before December 2018. This new programme will accelerate Scotland's transition to a resource efficient, circular economy, using investment from the European Regional Development Fund to provide targeted support to small and medium sized enterprises (SMEs) to help them reduce costs and carbon emissions. It includes enhanced support for implementing resource efficiency measures, a business support service and investment fund to develop the circular economy, and dedicated support to the third sector.

The activities supported by this investment will become a growing part of our overall work, as reflected in our key priorities for this year, which include:

- Creating a new service, fully integrated with mainstream business support, to provide specialist and technical support to circular economy businesses
- Launching a major investment fund to stimulate innovation, build capacity and develop infrastructure in order to accelerate circular economy opportunities
- Providing expert support to local authorities that sign up to the Household Recycling Charter in order to improve the quality and consistency of recycling services
- Providing technical support for the major Scottish Government-led Low Carbon Infrastructure Transition Programme (LCITP), and supporting and accelerating the development of major low carbon heat projects
- Ramping up efforts to cut levels of wasted food from homes and businesses to deliver on the Scottish Government's target to reduce food waste by 33% by 2025
- A reinvigorated programme tackling construction waste in the Year of Innovation, Architecture and Design

- Enhancing the successful Resource Efficient Scotland advice service to ensure higher levels of implemented cost savings to SMEs through additional implementation support and maximising use of available loan finance

## **Who we are**

Zero Waste Scotland is Scotland's resource efficiency and circular economy expert. We exist to create a society where resources are valued and nothing is wasted.

A not-for-profit company, funded by the Scottish Government, our work supports the delivery of its policy priorities on waste and resource use, energy efficiency and a low carbon economy.

We cannot, nor will we deliver those priorities on our own. Our role is to work with others to influence change; drawing on our considerable expertise and specialist insights to inform how we motivate and support people and organisations to take practical steps which conserve valuable resources.

Our long-term strategic intent is set out in our Corporate Plan, which informs and shapes our annual Programme Plans, aligned to the priorities of Scottish Ministers. We are also working collaboratively with partners under the Scottish Government's Rural Affairs, Food and Environment portfolio, to develop and agree joint outcomes, which will in turn influence how our respective plans are aligned with those of Ministers.

Information on how we are governed, including details of our Board members and senior management team is available on our [website](#).

## **Our work in context**

At the highest level, our work recognises the importance of activities that contribute to the Scottish Government's purpose: 'To focus Government and public services on creating a more successful country, with opportunities for all of Scotland to flourish, through increasing sustainable economic growth.'

In particular our work supports the following Scottish Government strategic objectives:

- A Greener Scotland: "Improving Scotland's natural and built environment and the sustainable use and enjoyment of it"
- A Wealthier and Fairer Scotland: "Enabling businesses and people to increase their wealth and more people to share fairly in that wealth."

To support its purpose, the Scottish Government has identified seven Purpose Targets and 16 National Outcomes. We recognise that our programme contributes to a number of these Purpose Targets and helps Scotland to achieve the following six National Outcomes:

- We reduce the local and global environmental impact of our consumption and production
- We live in well-designed, sustainable places where we are all able to access the amenities and services we need
- We realise our full economic potential with more and better employment opportunities for our people
- Our public services are high quality, continually improving, efficient and responsive to local people's needs
- We live in a Scotland that is the most attractive place for doing business in Europe
- We are better educated, more skilled and more successful, renowned for our research and innovation.

Specifically, our programme is informed by the following Scottish Government policies and strategies:

- Climate Change (Scotland) Act (2009)
- Scotland's Zero Waste Plan (2010)
- Waste (Scotland) Regulations (2012)
- Low Carbon Scotland (2013)
- Safeguarding Scotland's Resources (2013)
- Towards a Litter-Free Scotland (2014)
- Towards Decarbonising Heat (2014)
- Government Economic Strategy (2015)
- Heat Policy Statement (2015)
- Making Things Last: Scotland's Circular Economy Strategy (2016)
- ERDF Operational Programme 2014 – 2020.

We also recognise that our work contributes to the following Scottish Government targets and impacts:

- Recycling 70% of all waste by 2025
- Reducing waste by 7% by 2017 and 15% by 2025
- Reducing food waste by 33% by 2025

- Meeting 11% of heat demand from renewable sources by 2020
- Reducing total final energy consumption over the period to 2020 by 12%
- Reducing Scotland's greenhouse gas emissions by 42% by 2020 and 80% by 2050
- Supporting more people to adopt and follow more of the ten key low carbon behaviours more often.

We recognise the direction of the European Commission in its package for the Circular Economy 'Closing the loop' and the Green Action Plan for Business.

## **What we expect to achieve 2015 - 2018**

We report on the impact of our work on a three-yearly basis, because the nature of some of our programmes is such that impacts are only evident over that timeframe. In 2015, we set projections of our impact against five key indicators to 2018. These are expressed as cumulative annualised impacts.

Our current expectation, following an annual reassessment based on current projections and changes to our delivery priorities, is that our cumulative annual impact in 2018 will be:

- 400,000 tonnes per year of carbon savings
- 175,000 tonnes per year of waste reduction, or of resources managed in more sustainable ways
- 100,000 tonnes per year of primary resource use avoided
- 450 GWh per year of energy reduction
- Over £100 million per year of cost savings to Scottish businesses, households, and third and public sector organisations

We will update our expectations as our delivery, and the evidence base for newer interventions, evolves.

These impacts are not the only things we do and our programmes will:

- Create jobs
- Improve skills and knowledge
- Manage resources in ways which reduce environmental harm
- Stimulate additional investment from the public and private sectors
- Reduce water consumption
- Change energy consumption patterns towards low carbon heat
- Reduce the societal impact of litter and flytipping
- Support behaviour change in organisations, communities and individuals
- Enable communities to take action to improve their environments and wellbeing
- Encourage innovation and competitiveness

We will measure our contribution in all of these areas. We will identify, through our reporting mechanisms, where our work has direct or indirect impacts in relation to delivering activities identified in Scottish Government policies and strategies and where they contribute to meeting wider Scottish Government targets.

## **Our plan for 2016/17**

To support delivery of our outcomes we describe our work through four themes, with accompanying theme-specific programmes. These are:

### **Theme 1: Improving recycling performance**

- Household recycling
- Markets and quality
- Recycle for Scotland

### **Theme 2: Accelerating a circular economy**

- Business development support
- Strategic interventions
- Investment
- Sustainable products

### **Theme 3: Encouraging resource efficiency**

- Advice and support
- Food and drink waste
- Construction waste
- Low carbon heat

### **Theme 4: Reducing litter and flytipping**

- Litter and flytipping

## **Improving recycling performance**

### **Objective**

*To help create the conditions that increase recycling from Scottish households, commerce and industry, as well as improving the effectiveness of recycling systems.*

### **Thematic impacts**

By March 2018 we will have:

- Established the evidence to support Scotland achieving a household recycling rate of at least 60% for 2020.
- Supported the roll-out of food waste collections to at least two million households, or around 80% of the Scottish population.
- Helped a majority of Scottish local authorities to develop transition plans for more consistent waste and recycling collections articulated through the Household Recycling Charter.
- Helped the Scottish Materials Brokerage Service to deliver strategic procurements for waste materials collected by the majority of Scottish local authorities and other public bodies, enabling them to secure better returns, reducing risks and creating conditions for investment in reprocessing infrastructure.
- Enabled Scotland's key Material Recovery Facilities (MRFs) to substantially improve output quality of key materials.
- Secured signatories for the Resource Sector Commitment from businesses with a combined market share for commercial and industrial waste in excess of 60%.
- Help to achieve a significant increase in recycling performance from the commercial and industrial sector.
- Supported a consistent approach to communicating recycling messages to the Scottish public using the Recycle for Scotland brand.
- Engaged communities and volunteers across Scotland to amplify recycling messages, including amongst harder-to-engage groups.

### **Introduction**

We will deliver a number of programmes to increase the recycling of household, commercial and industrial waste and to ensure this is done as effectively as possible, maximising both the benefit to society and value to the economy.

In doing so we will support the achievement of national recycling targets, as well as the aspirations for a more consistent and better functioning recycling system envisaged by the Making Things Last circular economy strategy (2016). This is underpinned by the joint Scottish Government and CoSLA Household Recycling Charter and related actions to support high quality, high value recycling.

Our work under this theme will be supported by engagement with a number of key strategic partners including the Convention of Scottish Local Authorities (CoSLA), Society of Local Authority Chief Executives (SOLACE), Packaging Recycling Group Scotland (PRGS), Community Resources Network Scotland (CRNS), Scottish Environmental Services Association (SESA), Chartered Institution of Wastes Management (CIWM) Scotland as well as influential companies and bodies working to improve recycling at a regional and local level.

## **Our programmes:**

### **Household recycling**

The household recycling rate in Scotland stands at c.43%, with a target to increase that to 60% by 2020. Local authorities are the principal avenue by which we have means to influence improvements to household recycling in Scotland.

We will engage with and provide support to Scottish local authorities to enable the success of the Household Recycling Charter and to drive ongoing improvements to household recycling rates. Zero Waste Scotland will align its support to local authorities in line with the Charter.

Specifically we will deliver activities in the following areas:

#### Household Recycling Charter

- We will work with Scottish Government and CoSLA to encourage local authorities to sign up to the Charter.
- We will support signatories to identify the best options for them to transition to a service which is consistent with the Charter and its associated Code of Practice.
- We will provide signatories with financial, technical and project management support in order to implement agreed transition arrangements and we will monitor and report on their progress.
- We will facilitate and support partner relationships to align services behind the Recycling Charter, including opportunities for the third sector, the recycling industry and product manufacturers to support the Charter's aims.

#### Non-Charter support

- We will support local authorities to fulfil their requirement to provide food waste collections.
- We will support local authorities to improve recycling and re-use services which are beyond the scope of the Recycling Charter, including work to improve Household Waste Recycling Centres (HWRCs), bulky waste collections, and collections of non-core materials such as electricals, textiles and nappies.
- We will share knowledge of emerging evidence, policy and practice with local authorities by convening events and through one-to-one relationship management.
- We will facilitate workforce development of local authority staff at management and operational levels to ensure progressive and effective delivery of recycling services, aligning with the Recycling Charter.
- We will assist Scottish Government with assessing other potential policy options to improve recycling, including its exploration of the implications of deposit and return systems.
- We will facilitate the use of waste composition analysis by local authorities to build important trend data on changes to waste and recycling.

### **Markets and quality**

Building on the Waste (Scotland) Regulations, measures have been put in place to ensure operators of Materials Recovery Facilities (MRFs) support high quality recycling. Zero Waste

Scotland has previously supported MRFs to ensure their readiness for requirements under the MRF Code of Practice, including compliant testing regimes. We also deliver Scotland's Resource Sector Commitment to drive up professionalism, quality and customer service in the resource management sector.

We will continue to support both the recycling industry and public sector to achieve high quality recycling and secure the best possible outcomes for materials which have been separated for recycling.

Specifically we will deliver activities in the following areas:

#### Driving up standards in resource management

- We will provide advice to MRF operators to enable more effective separation of recycled materials or to enable more value to be added to materials once they have been separated, aligning infrastructure with the development of services under the Household Recycling Charter.
- We will help MRF operators and local authorities to work together to reduce contamination of collected recycling and produce higher quality recyclate to support circular economy ambitions.
- We will continue to deliver Scotland's Resource Sector Commitment and we will review its effectiveness in driving up standards for commercial waste collection.
- We will continue to support work to drive up standards around health and safety and technical competence in the industry, enabling industry to take on the ongoing management of the successfully established Scottish Waste Industry Training Competency and Health (SWITCH) forum.
- We will share knowledge of emerging evidence, policy and practice with the resource management sector by convening events and through one-to-one relationship management of main operators.

#### Scottish Materials Brokerage Service

- In partnership with Scottish Procurement, we will provide technical advice, data and market intelligence to ensure the success of the Scottish Materials Brokerage Service. This will help to develop and deliver collaborative procurements for secondary materials on behalf of public sector organisations, ensuring best value and creating the conditions for high quality recycling and domestic reprocessing capacity. We will ensure the opportunities for domestic handling and reprocessing of materials are maximised through our wider circular economy support to this sector.

### **Recycle for Scotland**

Motivating people and improving public information on recycling will help to drive continued increases in recycling rates. We will support the aspirations of the Household Recycling Charter by encouraging a consistent approach to recycling communications, utilising the Recycle for Scotland brand, delivered by local authorities and other partners.

Specifically we will deliver activities in the following areas:

#### Householder communications

- We will continue to develop the Recycle for Scotland brand, developing consistently-branded tools and templates to meet the requirements of the Household Recycling Charter, and providing nationally-coordinated information to the public on recycling options available to them.
- We will share emerging evidence and good practice on recycling communications with local authorities and provide them with required guidance and training.

#### Partnerships support

- We will work with the packaging sector to coordinate delivery of partnership communications campaigns to support the aspirations of the Household Recycling Charter.
- We will utilise the Zero Waste Volunteers and Zero Waste Towns initiatives to communicate with the public around recycling in engaging ways which motivates positive behaviour change.
- We will facilitate other partnerships to promote recycling, including with retailers, the recycling industry and the education sector.
- We will support national Greener Scotland campaigns.

## **Accelerating a circular economy**

### **Objective**

*To speed-up the transition to a more circular economy by supporting businesses, stimulating innovation, and overcoming barriers to adoption of enabling practices.*

### **Thematic impacts**

By March 2018 we will have:

- Created opportunities for greater collaboration between SMEs by through the Scottish Circular Economy Business Network.
- Enabled new technologies, products and services that support a circular economy to be developed or implemented by providing tailored support to Scottish SMEs.
- Delivered 750,000 tCO<sub>2</sub>eq cumulative lifetime savings from investments made with Scottish SMEs.
- Increased the productive re-use of items which would otherwise have been consigned to landfill or other disposal route, by supporting re-use infrastructure, capacity and capability.
- Established the Revolve quality standard as the most widely known and understood consumer 'kite mark' for re-use.
- Increased the level of remanufacturing activity in Scotland by working with others to develop enabling measures which support the work of the Scottish Institute of Remanufacture.

### **Introduction**

Zero Waste Scotland has helped to promote and develop the circular economy concept in Scotland and we have worked with partners to support the development of the Scottish Government's circular economy strategy *Making Things Last*. We will align our activities in this area to support the delivery of the strategy, working in close collaboration with the enterprise agencies, Scottish Enterprise and Highlands and Islands Enterprise and others by encouraging innovation and seeking to overcome barriers to more widespread adoption of circular economy practices. Our work will stimulate interest from businesses in the circular economy and then deliver custom support to address supply or demand side issues limiting the potential growth of circular economy opportunities.

We will work in close collaboration with the enterprise agencies, academia and the wider innovation community to ensure the support provided is complementary with other business support offerings, helps to develop a pipeline of supported enterprises and harnesses other sources of expertise or support.

In 2016-17 much of our work under this theme will be supported by ERDF investment as we seek to accelerate the circular economy by encouraging innovation and boosting the capacity of Scottish SMEs.

At the core of this theme are two key operational delivery mechanisms: 1) a business development offering that will provide specific, tailored support to SMEs seeking to develop or adopt circular economy technologies, products/services or practices; and 2) a major investment fund which will catalyse innovation and infrastructure to enable tangible change on the ground.

To focus activities, six priority sectors have been identified for support initially. The operational elements of this theme (engagement, business support, strategic interventions, and finance) will all be targeted at these six sectors. They are:

- Manufacturing
- Energy infrastructure
- Food and drink / bio economy
- Built environment
- Re-use and repair
- Reprocessing

## **Our programmes:**

### **Business development support**

Working with enterprise partners, we will engage senior decision makers in businesses, with the aim of influencing them to adopt circular economy practices and business models. These activities will stimulate demand for direct business support offerings as well as creating broader momentum for change within the business community.

Specifically we will deliver activities in the following areas:

#### Circular Economy Service

- We will launch an integrated business development package for SMEs (including those in the third sector) that are seeking to develop or adopt circular economy technologies, products/services or practices. The support provided will vary based on the relevant stage of development (i.e. from concept to commercialisation) and will aim to address specific barriers, covering both supply- and demand-side needs. Support will be targeted at businesses in agreed priority sectors and will principally be technical in nature, to complement mainstream business development support available from other sources, including the enterprise agencies and Business Gateway. SMEs that are eligible for support will receive an agreed level of specialist development support to help progress their idea or business opportunity to the next stage.
- We will work with the enterprise agencies, innovation centres and other relevant business-facing organisations to coordinate our support activity, so there is no duplication and to support effective collaboration, identifying businesses who may benefit from our respective support offerings, and exploring synergies that can benefit companies. A way of working with Scottish Enterprise is already agreed and will utilise the Scottish Business Sustainability Partnership's referrals and knowledge-sharing portal to enable information exchange between organisations. We will also work closely with Scottish Enterprise to engage relevant Industry Leadership Groups.

#### Networking and sharing good practice

- Working with Scottish Enterprise, we will support the continued development of the Scottish Circular Economy Business Network. We will enable network members to engage with appropriate support, develop collaborations and deliver circular economy projects.

- We will promote good practice examples from Scotland in order to influence organisations and decision makers that can enable wider changes that can support Scotland's ambitions for a circular economy.

## **Strategic interventions**

To complement the support we will provide direct to individual SMEs, we will also take forward strategic interventions, aligned to each of the agreed priority sectors, as well as in cross-cutting areas that can enable the circular economy more broadly.

Specifically we will deliver activities in the following areas:

### Energy infrastructure

- Working with Decom North Sea, industry bodies and regulatory bodies, we will promote re-use and other circular economy opportunities in offshore decommissioning, including exploring standards and protocols to facilitate re-use of components.
- We will work with renewables industry partners to further explore opportunities to embed circular economy principles in renewable energy infrastructure, including offshore assets.

### Food and drink / bio-economy

- We will work undertake work with Scottish Enterprise to map biological resources in Scotland which will inform actions within its bio-refinery roadmap and help bio-economy businesses understand more about potentially available feedstocks.
- We will continue to encourage the implementation of appropriate quality standards and specifications for products arising from bio-waste treatment, and we will explore how further measures can be used to create a demand 'pull' for such products in key end markets.

### Built environment

- As this is an emerging area for our circular economy work, we will commission scoping research, working with key sector partners including Construction Scotland and the Construction Innovation Centre, to identify and evaluate the potential of specific circular economy opportunities in the construction and operation of buildings.

### Manufacturing

- We will lead the circular economy workstream within the Manufacturing Action Plan, in collaboration with the enterprise agencies and other stakeholders, delivering initiatives that will see the adoption of circular economy opportunities across the manufacturing sector.
- We will support the Scottish Institute for Remanufacture so it develops as a world leading centre of excellence for helping companies to increase or develop remanufacturing capabilities and can support a pipeline of projects in Scotland.
- We will seek to influence others so that potential standards and certifications for remanufactured goods help to drive increased demand.

### Re-use and repair

- We will continue to work with third sector partners to deliver the Revolve quality standard for re-use organisations with a focus on making it more mainstream and raising consumer awareness of re-use.
- We will work with the CRNS and re-use organisations to create an integrated approach to the supply of items for re-use, building on and maximising the effectiveness of the national re-use phoneline.
- We will facilitate strategic relationships (e.g. with manufacturers and retailers) that can help create supply opportunities for re-use organisations.
- We will align re-use capacity and service provision with potential opportunities arising from our work with local authorities (see Household Recycling) on HWRCs and bulky uplifts.
- We will continue to work with SEPA and Scottish Government on actions which give further clarity on the regulation of re-use and repair activities, and associated data requirements.
- We will develop activities to improve the adoption of repair skills within commercial and community settings, working with skills partners.
- We will support re-use and refurbishment in the public sector through appropriate demonstration projects.

#### Reprocessing

- We will progress opportunities to invest in expanding domestic reprocessing capacity for priority materials, aligned to opportunities which may emerge via the Scottish Materials Brokerage Service, and we will work in partnership with the enterprise agencies and Scottish Development International to target support effectively. We will assess where other opportunities to stimulate domestic reprocessing may emerge for materials that are beyond the scope of the Scottish Materials Brokerage Service, for example post-industrial waste or bulky post-consumer waste.

#### Cross-cutting issues

- We will work strategically with public organisations to identify the products and services where innovation and best practice in public procurement can have the greatest benefit in promoting circular economy approaches such as leasing, repair and remanufacture.
- We will work with Skills Development Scotland to explore the scope for a skills academy for the circular economy, in conjunction with other key partners.

### **Investment**

We will provide financial support to enable the development of circular economy opportunities with a focus on strategic infrastructure, product/service development, and collection logistics.

Specifically we will deliver activities in the following area:

#### Circular economy investment fund

- We will provide finance to enable the development of business innovation and key infrastructure opportunities, in order to deliver tangible progress on Scotland's circular

economy strategy. Through a major investment fund, we will support the introduction of new technologies and create significant growth in domestic re-use, repair, remanufacturing and reprocessing capacity. Our investment priorities will be aligned with agreed priority sectors and activities, namely:

- Manufacturing
- Energy infrastructure
- Food and drink / bio economy
- Built environment
- Re-use and repair
- Reprocessing

We anticipate that many of the investments we make will have arisen and been made investment-ready by support that we or one of the enterprise agencies, have provided through our business support offerings.

Potential investment priorities may include:

- Regional coordination hubs for excavated construction materials.
- Shared storage for re-usable equipment in energy infrastructure.
- Reprocessing opportunities linked to opportunities emerging from the Scottish Materials Brokerage Service.
- Area-based (e.g. city-region or island community) circular economy initiatives.
- Re-use and repair hubs.
- Improved biogas and digestate utilisation from anaerobic digestion.

## **Sustainable products**

Changing behaviours around how people purchase and use products can prevent waste by increasing re-use and repair, using longer-lasting products and through the use of peer-to-peer sharing services or other schemes which substitute owning a product for having access to it instead.

We will support actions which promote sustainable consumption of products which are high-impact and in common use, specifically clothing, furniture and household goods. We will encourage changes in point-of-purchase decision making, how people use and prolong the life of products, and how they dispose of them. We will work with partners including retailers, local authorities and third sector organisations to engage the public around these key behaviours for a circular economy.

Specifically we will deliver activities in the following areas:

### Furniture and household goods

- We will encourage donation of items for re-use through targeted promotion of the national re-use phonenumber, by developing communications toolkits for partners (e.g. local authorities, furniture retailers) and by providing information on re-use services online and via other consumer advice channels.
- We will develop communications toolkits for re-use organisations to encourage people to buy second hand items as a cost effective and increasingly mainstream alternative

to buying new; and we will promote the Revolve quality standard to boost consumer confidence in buying re-used items.

- We will conduct an annual public survey to monitor people's awareness and use of re-use and repair services and to monitor changes in reported attitudes and behaviours. This enables us to understand behaviours in an area where much activity sits outside the scope of waste data reporting.
- We will explore options for re-use and repair finder services for the public, building on existing information tools for recycling.

### Clothing

- We will encourage consumers to adopt behaviours which reduce clothing waste, including increased re-use and repair of clothes and focusing on extending the life of clothes.
- We will support clothing repair and re-use at a community level through the Zero Waste Volunteers and Zero Waste Towns initiatives, by recruiting and supporting volunteers who can share skills and motivate action from others.

### Education and awareness

- We will continue to develop new ways to engage people in the benefits of a circular economy, and in particular continue our work with Young Scot to empower young people to help drive this agenda
- We will work with Education Scotland to support teaching champions for the circular economy, working collaboratively to develop a range of learning resources for use in the classroom and online.

## **Encouraging resource efficiency**

### **Objective**

*To support and influence people and organisations so they adopt behaviours which result in reduced waste, reduced energy demand and uptake of low carbon energy alternatives.*

### **Thematic impacts**

By March 2018 we will have:

- Improved the resource efficiency of Scottish SMEs through the Resource Efficient Scotland programme, by providing support to 50,000 organisations and achieving an implementation rate of 55% of all identified savings
- Improved the capacity of people working in SMEs to take make resource efficiency part of their continuous improvement, by training over 1,800 individuals and supporting over 1,000 Green Champions
- Enabled the development of district-heating projects that will contribute 30% of Scotland's 1.5TWh target, as a member of the Heat Network Partnership
- Achieved reductions in levels of food waste putting Scotland on track to meet a 33% reduction from a 2013 baseline
- Influenced the Scottish population so that 70% are reporting that they regularly practice key behaviours which can result in reduced food waste.
- Increased the capacity of people to take actions which reduce food waste through direct engagement by trained volunteers and community groups.

### **Introduction**

We will support the delivery of Scottish Government targets for waste prevention (including the specific food waste reduction target), energy efficiency and decarbonised heat generation.

We will do that by engaging, motivating, advising and supporting people and organisations to reduce their demand for resources and by enabling them to make changes to processes or behaviours to improve resource efficiency.

On energy efficiency, our work will be concentrated on non-domestic energy use and low carbon infrastructure, whereas on waste reduction it will span both household and non-household waste (including the public, private and third sectors) and it will be targeted at measures where the greatest waste and emissions reduction benefits can be achieved.

The business- and public sector-facing activities described under this theme will be delivered under the banner of our Resource Efficient Scotland programme, which includes provision of a one-stop-shop advice and support service for businesses covering energy, water and material resource efficiency. In 2016-17, our work in this area will be supported by ERDF investment as we increase opportunities to improve the resource efficiency of Scottish SMEs. In particular, these funds will enable enhanced support for implementing resource efficiency measures through targeted capacity support.

Much of our work in this area is undertaken in close partnership with other public sector partners including the enterprise agencies (Scottish Enterprise and Highlands and Islands Enterprise), local government, Scottish Futures Trust, Energy Savings Trust and SEPA, as well

as business networks or representative groups. We work collaboratively with a number of these organisations where they provide a level of resource efficiency support through the Scottish Business Sustainability Partnership, enabling effective cross-referrals and training of client-facing staff. We will update the existing referrals tool, develop new training and communications resources and create a new Leadership Group to drive implementation of the strategy.

Our work on low carbon heat is aligned to the Scottish Government's Low Carbon Infrastructure Transition Programme and the work of the Heat Network Partnership to support activity in this area.

## **Our programmes:**

### **Advice and support**

The vast majority of Scottish businesses are SMEs and it is known that SMEs experience a number of barriers preventing them from implementing waste reduction and resource efficiency measures, so there is a continuing need for information and support to unlock potential resource and cost savings.

Through an integrated and demand-responsive service, we will provide high quality advice and practical support to SMEs on issues around waste prevention, energy efficiency and water efficiency.

Specifically we will deliver activities in the following areas:

#### Advice and support service

- We will deliver high quality energy and resource efficiency advice and support through the Resource Efficient Scotland advice and support service. This will include providing responsive support through a dedicated website and helpline, and supporting SMEs directly through one-to-one support and through tools and training. The focus for the service will be to prioritise the implementation of identified savings potential. The service will be promoted proactively to SMEs, but existing information and tools which can support large businesses, public sector and community sector organisations will also be appropriately maintained and made available via the website.
- We will work with partners to review existing tools and guidance, consolidating and encouraging their increased use. We will further develop specific tools and guides to help support achievement of the Scottish Government's food waste reduction target and we will update a suite of construction waste tools and resources to drive waste prevention. Further tools may be developed where appropriate in response to the market and as agreed with Scottish Government.
- We will drive engagement with the service through thematic campaigns which will cover key topics including heating, lighting, food waste, waste prevention and water use.
- We will continue to advise businesses on their regulatory requirements under the Waste (Scotland) Regulations and the carrier bag charge regulations, and direct them to best practice approaches relevant to each.
- As directed by the Scottish Government, we will provide advice and support to organisations in energy intensive industries, to help these organisations respond to

their Energy Savings Obligation Scheme audits. We will work in partnership to support those organisations which are not already supported by Scottish Enterprise, HIE or SMAS.

- We will develop a specific programme of work to address the energy and resource efficiency of community-owned buildings, reducing costs to third sector organisations.

### Implementation support

- We will promote and provide advice on the use of interest free loans by SMEs to implement energy and resource efficiency measures, working in partnership with the Scottish Government and its loans administrator, currently Energy Savings Trust.
- We will offer additional capacity support to SMEs to help them implement waste prevention or materials resource efficiency measures, which would be less likely to benefit from loans due to longer paybacks or additional barriers to adoption.
- In conjunction with Scottish Government, we will review where other forms of direct support (e.g. provision of contracted one-to-many capacity support) may help to unlock the implementation of identified energy and resource efficiency savings.

### **Food and drink waste**

Food and drink waste is receiving unprecedented interest as an issue nationally and globally. Here in Scotland we waste an estimated 1.4 million tonnes of food annually, most of which could have been avoided, creating an unnecessary cost and carbon burden.

We will work with food and drink stakeholders to develop a suite of actions which will help meet the Scottish Government's proposed food waste reduction target, as well as aligning with broader objectives around defining and promoting Scotland as a Good Food Nation.

This will include activities in the following areas:

#### Household food waste

- We will continue to deliver the Love Food Hate Waste consumer campaign, working with major brands and retailers, as well as through locally-based initiatives like the Zero Waste Volunteers network and Zero Waste Towns, to encourage uptake of behaviours which lead to reduced food waste.
- We will work with partners, especially those with interests in sustainable healthy diets such as Food Standards Scotland, NHS Health Scotland and the Soil Association, to develop local initiatives that equip people with the skills and confidence they need to make empowered decisions about how they shop, prepare and use food in order to help reduce waste, as we know that these are key barriers that prevent people from reducing food waste.
- We will seek to conduct an annual public survey to monitor people's awareness of food waste and their adoption of behaviours which can actively help reduce food waste. This will provide annual trend data to complement empirical evidence of food waste arisings, which are not possible to record on as frequent a timescale. We will share insights with stakeholders and potential partners.

- We will support local authorities to monitor the composition of household waste in order to assess progress against the Scottish Government's food waste reduction target.

### Food and drink industry

- We will provide specific support to all kinds of SMEs on reducing food waste as part of the Resource Efficient Scotland service, helping organisations to take practical steps to measure and reduce their levels of wasted food, building on engagement around the 5kg threshold for separate collection of food waste which came into force in January 2016.
- In addition to this, we will provide additional support to drive the implementation of identified measures to reduce food waste, focusing on SMEs in the food and drink industry (encompassing food and drink manufacture, processing, preparation, retail and food service). We will provide capacity support (e.g. support to carry out food waste audits and/or to develop food waste reduction and management strategies) as well as infrastructure support to introduce or change systems or technologies (e.g. food waste weighing systems or on-site treatment systems. Where these implementation projects are taking forward innovative or best practice measures, we will develop them as demonstrator projects to showcase solutions to others.
- We will participate in the UK-wide Courtauld 2025 initiative, whereby retailers and other major buyers will drive reductions in food waste through influencing and supporting Scottish-based SMEs in their supply chains.
- We will develop a programme to support public sector organisations which have significant volumes of food waste, either by helping them implement measures which reduce food waste in their own operations, or enabling them to drive improvements in outsourced services through contract specification and management.
- We will improve insights into food waste through the supply chain, for example by quantifying waste which occurs prior to the 'farm gate'.

### **Construction waste**

The construction sector is the single biggest user of material resources in Scotland and produces over 6.2 million tonnes of waste annually. This amounts to 51% of all the waste generated in Scotland. This means that levels of construction activity have a disproportionate influence over overall waste arisings and therefore making progress in this area is critical to ensuring progress against the Scottish Government's waste prevention targets. The sector is also the biggest user of materials (c.50%) and is responsible for over 50% of embodied carbon emissions.

We will deliver actions to encourage good practice in reducing waste through the construction supply chain, working in partnership with Scottish Enterprise, Construction Scotland, the Construction Innovation Centre, Scottish Government, Scottish local authorities, and the Buildings Research Establishment.

Specifically we will deliver activities in the following areas:

### Designing out waste

- We will work with the construction sector, and with commissioners of construction projects, to ensure building designs consider waste reduction in both new build and refurbishment, while also enabling more reuse and recycling at end of life.
- To support this, we will revise and update a suite of web-based tools for construction businesses to help them forecast and monitor the impacts of waste reduction activities. This will include promotion of Site Waste Management Plans as a tool to help reduce waste. We will support the uptake and use of these tools through training events and e-learning modules.

### Waste management

- We will address barriers to the re-use of demolition and excavation materials specifically aggregates and timber, both by working with suppliers of recovered materials the and with commissioners or specifiers of projects, helping to create a level playing field for recovered materials against virgin materials.
- We will support the implementation of practical measures by SMEs that reduce waste in construction projects. Where these demonstrate innovation or help to define best practice measures, we will develop them as demonstrator projects, working with partners, to showcase solutions to others so they can be scaled up and repeated.

### **Low carbon heat**

We will support the Scottish Government’s ambition for largely decarbonised heat generation by 2050 by providing technical, practical, evidence and engagement support needed to develop a pipeline of heat projects to link into the Scottish Government’s Low Carbon Infrastructure Transition Programme (LCITP), which we will then support through their development as an active partner. We will help to build partnerships and provide evidence to inform strategic planning.

Specifically we will deliver activities in the following areas:

#### Project identification and development

- We will support organisations, principally local authorities and others in the public sector, to develop strategies for developing district heating networks and other low carbon heat technologies.
- We will facilitate the identification and development of large scale low carbon heat projects by ongoing use and iterative development of a ‘new opportunities’ tool linked to the national heat map for Scotland and by providing expert support to develop business cases and to manage project delivery.
- We will provide technical expertise to the pipeline of low carbon heat projects being progressed via the LCITP.
- We will support the Scottish Government in exploring the potential for innovative approaches to low carbon heat including responding to Scottish Government requests for project development to assess the potential for waste heat recovery and thermal energy storage.

#### Partnerships

- We will continue to support the Heat Network Partnership for Scotland and specifically will manage the network's web portal, enquiries form and data requirements for its projects database.

## **Reducing litter and flytipping**

### **Objective**

*To reduce incidences and quantity of litter and flytipping leading to an improvement in local environment quality*

### **Thematic impacts**

By March 2018 we will have:

- Improved data on instances of littering and flytipping to allow more accurate assessment of impacts and targeting of interventions.
- Reduced litter and material use through waste prevention measures targeting commonly littered items.
- Increased the number of partners and stakeholders taking action to support the national litter strategy, resulting in adoption of best practice.
- Realised environmental and economic benefits as a consequence of improved environmental quality.
- Ensured key partners and stakeholders are better supported and better informed through knowledge sharing.
- Increased awareness among the public and our key stakeholders of the negative impacts of litter and the benefits of litter prevention.
- Improved stakeholders' perception of the extent of the litter problem.
- Helped identify new opportunities, replicated best practice and improved efficiencies through improved stakeholder coordination
- Increased the number of signatories to the Carrier Bag Commitment

### **Introduction**

The Scottish Government's 'Towards a Litter Free Scotland' strategy, which was published in 2014, signals a shift in thinking away from cleaning up litter towards prevention as an end goal.

Within the context of Towards a Litter Free Scotland we will convene and motivate action from a wide range of stakeholders, including major land managers such as local authorities, Network Rail, the national park authorities, and Scottish Canals. The focus will be on litter prevention and aligning delivery with the revised Code of Practice on Litter and Refuse (CoPLAR).

We will also support the implementation of good practice projects in collaboration with community groups and NGOs, and the packaging industry, and we will continue to increase our knowledge through improved data and monitoring of litter and flytipping.

### **Our programmes:**

#### **Litter strategy support**

We will enable the delivery of high-impact actions in the 'Towards a Litter Free Scotland' strategy, and we will support actions led by others so they are aligned to the national strategy.

Specifically we will deliver activities in the following areas:

#### Code of practice

- We will provide related guidance and ongoing support to duty bodies and litter practitioners to ensure the successful implementation of the updated Code of Practice on Litter and Refuse
- We will take forward work to define best practice in the effectiveness of enforcement as a deterrent and we will work with partners to ensure that existing legislation to prevent littering is used more fully and more consistently.
- We will work with stakeholders to develop a comprehensive monitoring system for litter and flytipping in Scotland. As data improves we will review changes over time to inform better management and intervention planning.

#### Community-based interventions

- We will support Keep Scotland Beautiful to enable them to embed prevention activities into community-based litter clean-ups through the Clean Up Scotland campaign.
- We will build on existing good practice through dissemination and replication of successful activities.

#### Partnerships

- We will support partners, chiefly duty bodies and significant land managers, to develop their own strategies and policies for litter and flytipping prevention which are consistent with the National Litter Strategy.
- We will develop and encourage use of an online knowledge hub for the litter prevention practitioners to share knowledge and good practice.
- We will work with partners to develop activities which will lead to a significant change in the public's attitude and behaviour to litter and littering.

#### Carrier bags

- We will continue to promote the Carrier Bag Commitment to drive reductions in carrier bag use and to encourage proceeds from carrier bag sales to be directed to good causes.
- We will monitor the impact of the carrier bag charge on an annual basis, sharing insights with Government, stakeholders and providing supporting communications.