



A STRATEGY FOR IMPROVING WASTE DATA IN SCOTLAND

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#SCOTWASTEDATA



AIM

A strategy for improving waste data in Scotland aims to deliver Scotland's current and future waste data needs as we move towards a more resource focused future.

It seeks to:

- Support Scotland's move towards a more circular economy, as set out in *Making Things Last*
- Transform the way we collect and report waste data to help track the movement of waste through our economy (waste flows)
- Guide the delivery of more electronic systems for waste data collection, management and reporting.

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Waste data strategy

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Delivering Scotland's current and future waste data needs.

Topic sections

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Waste data is essential for knowing what waste is produced in Scotland, and how and where it is managed. As Scotland moves towards a more circular economy – where products and materials are kept in high value use for as long as possible – this latest waste data strategy outlines five priority actions being taken to improve our understanding of how products and materials flow through our economy.

View the waste data strategy



A strategy for improving waste data in Scotland

Published 2017



Data

[Data analysis](#)[Mobile apps](#)[Useful data sources](#)

Pages we suggest

[Map](#)[Data analysis application - Household waste](#)[Data analysis application - Recyclate quality](#)[Data analysis application - Waste from all sources](#)[Data analysis application - Waste sites and capacity](#)[Waste and resources](#)

Useful external links

[Circular economy - The Scottish Government](#)[Pollution and waste - The Scottish Government](#)[LIFE SMART Waste project - SEPA](#)[Waste data reports - SEPA](#)[Waste data web page - SEPA](#)[Research and evidence - Zero Waste Scotland](#)

CASE STUDIES

Showing how waste data has been used to inform the management of waste and materials and increase our understanding of the economic, environmental and social impacts of waste.

If you would like to submit a case study, please contact wastedatastrategy@sepa.org.uk

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October 2017: A strategy for improving waste data in Scotland - case study

Materials Recovery Code – Recyclate Quality

Summary

Quality recyclate (recyclable material) is a critical factor in achieving Scotland's long-term recycling targets and ensuring that high value secondary materials are produced. In March 2015 the Materials Recovery Code was introduced, requiring Materials Recovery Facilities (MRFs) to record the amount and quality of their recyclate input and output, and report this data to the Scottish Environment

Protection Agency (SEPA). From October 2015, SEPA worked with MRF operators to support their reporting obligation and to undertake independent site audits. In July 2017, the first 15 months of MRF data, with an accompanying report, were published on Scotland's environment web (SEWeb). Publishing this data has lent transparency to the waste-industry market place and provides information about how Scotland's recyclables are managed. The publication of this data also supports Scotland's transition to a more circular economy, as set out in the Scottish Government's Making Things Last (2016) document.

"While Scotland is recycling more and landfilling less than at any point in our recent history we must dramatically cut waste production across the economy, recover more and dispose of only the very minimum"

Terry A'Hearn, Chief Executive, SEPA



Recyclate sorting at a Materials Recovery Facility. Image copyright SEPA.

SIGNPOST TO DATA

The WDS page points to the interactive data analysis 'Discover' tools for **waste from all sources, household waste, and recyclate quality**. There is also waste management site level information in the **waste sites** tool.



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WHAT YOU TOLD US WAS IMPORTANT...



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Outcomes from 2016 waste data strategy workshop

...HOW WE TURNED THOSE POINTS INTO ACTIONS

1: To keep the waste data needs of Scotland **under review**, considering gaps, overlaps, inconsistencies and future requirements to ensure we continue to capture relevant data

2: To identify opportunities to **improve systems and processes**, and work with stakeholders to make this happen, developing guidance and training to support users

3: To collect and manage waste data using **best practice principles** to build trust and ensure clarity across the data chain

5: To **share and publish** waste data in an efficient and timely manner and in ways that make it easier to communicate the impact and value of waste

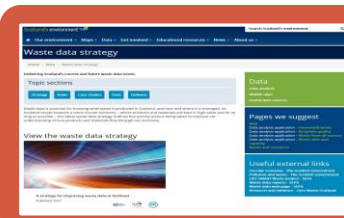
4: To review and progress the tools and levers required to support and monitor Scotland's transition to a more **circular economy**

MONITORING AND ENGAGEMENT

- There is a **WDS board** to monitor the strategy and report on progress (comprised of representatives from the Scottish Government, the Scottish Environment Protection Agency and Zero Waste Scotland)
- There is a dedicated page on **SEWeb** to access the strategy, share waste data related web links, updates and case studies
- We are considering **data practitioner workshops** (like this one) to engage with data providers and users
- We recognise that **partnership working** is key to delivering success.

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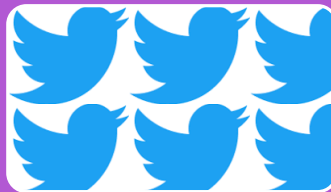
CONTACT US AND TWEET!



<https://www.environment.gov.scot/data/waste-data-strategy/>



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