

Delivering Scotland's circular economy – A Route Map to 2025 and beyond

Equality Impact Assessment - Results

May 2022



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EQUALITY IMPACT ASSESSMENT - RESULTS

<p>Title of Policy</p>	<p>Delivering Scotland's circular economy – A Route Map to 2025 and beyond</p>
<p>Summary of aims and desired outcomes of Policy</p>	<p>The Scottish Programme for Government 2020-21 and the Climate Change Plan update 2020 committed to: develop a Route Map to reduce waste and meet waste related targets for 2025; and work with partners to develop a post-2025 Route Map to identify how the waste and resources sector will contribute towards Scotland’s journey towards net zero in the period to 2030 and beyond.</p> <p>The Route Map will be a strategic plan to consolidate action, refocus efforts and ensure greater policy coordination that will help contribute towards existing targets and ambitions.</p> <p>It will propose packages of measures which address the challenges which reinforce the linear economy where we take, make then dispose of goods and materials, in order to deliver the change required both to achieve the targets and prepare for the net zero goals.</p> <p>The specific policy detail for each intervention will not be fully defined at this stage. It is intended that the Route Map will enable the Scottish Government to articulate a strategic</p>

	approach which will contribute towards existing targets and ambitions.
Directorate: Division: team	Environment and Forestry, Circular Economy Division, Zero Waste Unit

Executive summary

This EQIA has been carried out to identify potential impacts resulting from the publication of the Route Map. It has not at this time identified any positive or negative issues for protected characteristics groups from the publication of the Route Map itself, but has provided an early indication of evidence that will need to be considered in more detail prior to the implementation of individual interventions.

However, given the importance of assessing the impact on each of the protected characteristics, the Scottish Government has considered the proposals against the needs of the general equality duty as set out in section 149 of the Equality Act 2010 and has considered whether the measures could constitute direct and/or indirect discrimination.

Specifically, the EQIA considers impacts on equalities groups based on the three tests it is required to address:

- Does this policy eliminate discrimination for each of the 9 protected characteristics (PCs). If not is the discrimination justifiable? Can it be mitigated?
- Does this policy advance equality of opportunity for PC groups?
- Does this policy foster good community relations between people of PC groups.

Background

The waste related targets are:

- 33% reduction of food waste, against a 2013 baseline, by 2025
- 15% reduction of all waste, against a 2011 baseline, by 2025
- Minimum of 60% recycling of all household waste by 2020
- Minimum of 70% recycling of all waste by 2025
- Maximum 5% of all waste to landfill; and ban landfilling of biodegradable municipal waste by 2025.

These targets together with our ambitious net zero target form the key drivers for the Route Map.

To move to a fully circular economy, we need to make the circular option the easy option. The Route map will propose packages of measures which address the challenges we face and deliver the change required both to achieve the targets and prepare for the net zero goals.

The measures that are proposed in the Route Map consultation have been divided into six packages, which span action across the whole circular economy, plus an additional package of cross cutting measures.

The proposals draw upon a wide range of evidence (see Technical Annex of the consultation), and build on a shared understanding of the challenges, opportunities and potential measures with a range of cross-sector stakeholders.

It is recognised that achieving our waste and recycling targets and wider emissions reduction is a shared endeavour. Collaboration and partnership have been critical to our progress so far, and we can only be successful if everyone plays their part – government, households and businesses.

The specific policy detail for each intervention will not be fully defined at this stage.

The packages of interventions contained within the Route Map are:

- Promote responsible production, consumption and reuse
(Challenging and disrupting current approach to production and consumption by improving design, mainstreaming reuse and repair and incentivising sustainable choices)
- Reduce food waste
(Reducing food waste from all sources)
- Improve recycling from households
(Improving and optimising the performance of household recycling collection services to make the right choices easier for households)
- Improve recycling from commercial businesses
(Businesses having the information and support they need to reduce waste and maximise recycling)
- Embed circular construction practices

(Embedding circular construction practices to reduce resource needs, reduce waste and carbon and encourage refurbishment and reuse)

- Minimise the impact of disposal

(Achieving the best environmental outcomes for materials that can't be captured for reuse or recycling, and ensure environmental and economic value of wasted resources and energy is harnessed efficiently)

The additional package of cross-cutting measures will ensure the right structures and support are in place to enable action across the circular economy, including strategic measures and governance, research, data and evidence, sustainable procurement, and skills and training.

The Scope of the EQIA

A framing exercise was carried out to determine whether an EQIA was required, and to identify relevant areas for investigation.

The publication of the Route Map itself will not have a direct impact on those with protected characteristics, however it is considered worthwhile to complete an initial EQIA for the Route Map to ensure that potential issues relating to implementation of interventions are identified early, to allow further investigation prior to development and implementation of individual interventions.

Following the public consultation for the Route Map, and any additional engagement or evidence gathering, this EQIA will be updated.

Further detailed EQIAs will be carried out, as appropriate, when specific interventions are being considered. This will allow for more detailed consideration of any issues specific to that intervention, and for recommendations to be made about any amendments or mitigating measures needed.

Key Findings

No positive or negative impacts have been identified by the publication of a Route Map.

However, it is possible, that depending on the design, some of the interventions may have both positive and negative impacts on the following protected characteristics: disability, age and sex. These include, but are not limited to:

- Development of relevant measures for reducing food waste, which should consider those who disproportionately experience food insecurity and are dependent upon food assistance. The evidence suggests that women are more likely to be in this position than men.

- Development of measures to promote responsible production, consumption and reuse, and to improve recycling from households. Evidence suggests that on average, disabled people face extra costs of £583/month. On average, £100 for a non-disabled person is equivalent to £68 for a disabled person. This may mean that any increase in cost of living is more challenging to manage and should be carefully considered when relevant measures are developed.

- Development of measures to improve recycling from households, such as proposed co-design of recycling services and the review of service charging (for example, for garden waste collections). Evidence suggests that household expenditure varies with the age of the head of household, peaking when the head of household is in their 30s and 40s. This could mean that these households produce more waste and are impacted more by service delivery or charging changes. They may also benefit from a greater range of recycling services available.

These issues should be considered fully during the design of the relevant interventions.

Recommendations and Conclusion

On present evidence, we do not believe that this policy is directly or indirectly discriminatory. This EQIA will be updated following the public consultation, to reflect any new evidence, and will be supplemented by additional EQIAs carried out during the development of individual interventions where appropriate.



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Published by The Scottish Government, May 2022

Produced for The Scottish Government by APS Group Scotland, 21 Tennant Street, Edinburgh EH6 5NA
PPDAS1088922 (05/22)

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