

# **Scotland's Circular Economy and Waste Route Map to 2030**

## **Equality Impact Assessment – Results**

January 2025

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## Title of Policy

Scotland's Circular Economy and Waste Route Map to 2030

## Summary of aims and desired outcomes of Policy

1. The Scottish Government is committed to moving towards a circular economy and playing its part to tackle the climate emergency. A circular economy, based on sustainable consumption and production, is essential to power Scotland's transition to a fair, green and sustainable economy, and critical to meeting our obligations to tackle the twin climate and nature emergencies. Material consumption and waste are primary drivers of nearly every environmental problem Scotland currently faces, from water scarcity to habitat and species loss.
2. Founded on evidence and collaboration, the Circular Economy and Waste Route Map (CEWRM) is part of the Scottish Government's wider response to these challenges. It is designed to drive progress on three key fronts:
  - a) Setting the strategic direction and laying foundations for how we will deliver our system-wide, comprehensive vision for Scotland's circular economy from now to 2030.
  - b) Setting out priority actions from now to 2030 to accelerate more sustainable use of our resources across the waste hierarchy.
  - c) Reducing emissions associated with resources and waste.
3. In 2022, the Scottish Government set out a range of proposals across the resources and waste system through its first (CEWRM) consultation<sup>1</sup>. The consultation sought views on the feasibility and ambition of these proposals to drive progress against 2025 waste and recycling targets, look beyond to 2030,

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<sup>1</sup> [Delivering Scotland's circular economy - route map to 2025 and beyond: consultation](#), Scottish Government, 2022.

and to achieve the long-term goal of net zero by 2045. In April 2023, the analysis<sup>2</sup> of responses to this consultation was published.

4. The second public consultation<sup>3</sup>, which ran from 18 January to 15 March 2024, requested feedback on a revised draft CEWRM. This sought to prioritise and focus on the key actions that will unlock progress across the waste hierarchy to 2030 - along with questions on the accompanying suite of impact assessments. The consultation set out further information on specific proposals, noting that each intervention will be fully defined as the measures are developed.
5. In August 2024, the analysis<sup>4</sup> of responses to the second consultation was published. This impact assessment builds on the findings from this analysis and reflects the final CEWRM<sup>5</sup> published in December 2024.
6. The consultation contained 24 questions about the proposals, comprising eight closed and 16 open questions. In total, there were 156 responses to the consultation from individuals (43) and organisations (113).
7. Across the consultation most respondents agreed or strongly agreed with each strategic aim, and respondents provided constructive feedback on the proposals and associated impact assessments. There were consistently high levels of support across the CEWRM's four strategic aims:
  - 77% agreed with the **Reduce and reuse** priority actions. 71% agreed with its further actions
  - 76% agreed with both the priority and further actions within **Modernise recycling**
  - 78% agreed with both the priority and further actions within **Decarbonise disposal**
  - 76% agreed with the **Strengthen the circular economy** priority actions. 81% agreed with its further actions

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<sup>2</sup> [Delivering Scotland's Circular Economy - route map to 2025 and beyond: consultation analysis](#), Scottish Government, 2023.

<sup>3</sup> [Circular economy and waste route map to 2030: consultation](#), Scottish Government, 2024.

<sup>4</sup> [Scotland's Circular Economy and Waste Route Map to 2030: Analysis of consultation responses](#), Scottish Government, 2024.

<sup>5</sup> [Scotland's circular economy and waste route map to 2030 - gov.scot](#). Scottish Government, 2024.

## Strategic aims and associated interventions within the CEWRM

8. The CEWRM includes a range of measures that can positively contribute to the delivery of our circular economy and resource objectives and make progress towards net zero goals. Actions have been grouped into four strategic aims, which span action across the waste hierarchy. These are:
  - A. Reduce and reuse
  - B. Modernise recycling
  - C. Decarbonise disposal
  - D. Strengthen the circular economy
9. To ensure the right structures and support are in place to enable action across the circular economy these strategic aims incorporate a number of specific interventions. Full details of these can be found in Appendix 1.
10. Two interim equality impact assessments (EQIA)<sup>6 7</sup> were published as part of the Scottish Government's two consultations on the CEWRM. This final EQIA document expands on those interim EQIAs with findings from the second public consultation.
11. A decision was also taken by Scottish Government to undertake a further deeper analysis to highlight where future outputs resulting from the publication of the final CEWRM may result in impacts to protected characteristic groups. It is recognised however that further assessment will be required as each individual action is fully developed to determine if individual impact assessments will be needed. This is the beginning of this process, rather than the end, and as we move into the implementation phase of the Route Map, the Scottish Government reiterates its commitment to work in partnership with stakeholders to assess the full impacts of specific measures as they are further defined. We recognise that, where appropriate, individual measures set out in the Route Map may be subject to

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<sup>6</sup> [Delivering Scotland's circular economy – A Route Map to 2025 and beyond - EQIA](#), Scottish Government, 2022.

<sup>7</sup> [Circular economy and waste route map to 2030: consultation EQIA](#), Scottish Government, 2024.

further public consultation, for example where secondary legislation is needed.

12. There were 30 responses in the second consultation to the specific EQIA question – ‘Please provide any further information or evidence that should be considered in the accompanying Equalities Impact Assessment’.
13. The most common feedback, and similar to responses from the first consultation, was the need for ongoing consideration of impacts on protected groups as and when interventions are developed.
14. In particular, people with disabilities, older individuals and those who face language barriers were mentioned throughout the feedback. These groups align with those previously identified through the initial framing workshop and the first consultation.
15. Additionally, it was highlighted by some respondents that interventions which include potential enforcement activity should be designed to be able to take into account individual needs for those with protected characteristics.

## **Executive summary**

16. This Equality Impact Assessment (EQIA) has been carried out to identify potential impacts resulting from the publication of the CEWRM. It has not at this time identified any positive or negative issues for protected characteristics groups resulting from the publication of the CEWRM itself, but has provided an early indication of evidence and potential impacts that will need to be considered in more detail prior to the implementation of individual interventions.
17. Given the importance of assessing the impact on each of the protected characteristics, the Scottish Government has considered the measures 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.

18. This has been undertaken by considering measures and actions under each of the CEWRM's four strategic aims, and assessing whether there is any potential for impacts on each of the protected characteristic groups.

19. It should be noted that until the specific action/measure is fully developed, any potential impacts identified are not conclusive. It is recognised that further assessment may be required as each individual action is fully developed to determine if individual impact assessments will be needed.

20. 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?

21. It remains the determination that the publication of the CEWRM itself will not have a direct impact on those with protected characteristics.

## **Background**

22. The Scottish Government is committed to moving towards a circular economy and playing its part to tackle the climate emergency.

23. A circular economy, based on sustainable consumption and production, is essential to power Scotland's transition to a fair, green and sustainable economy, and critical to meeting our obligations to tackle the twin climate and nature emergencies.

24. Material consumption and waste are primary drivers of nearly every environmental problem Scotland currently faces, from water scarcity to habitat and species loss.
25. Around four-fifths<sup>8</sup> of Scotland's carbon footprint comes from the products and services we manufacture, use and throw away and 90% of global biodiversity loss and water stress<sup>9</sup> is caused by extraction and processing of these products.
26. The Scottish Government is committed to delivering a different approach to our economy, one where we move from a "take, make and dispose" model to one where we value materials and keep them in use.
27. We recognise this will be a challenging task and to achieve this Scotland needs to fundamentally change how it produces, consumes and manages our resources. The update to the Climate Change Plan<sup>10</sup> set out our circular economy vision that by 2045 Scotland's cultural, social and business norms will be driven by a focus on:
- **Responsible Production**, where a circular economy is embraced by the businesses and organisations that supply products, ensuring the maximum life and value from the natural resources used to make them.
  - **Responsible Consumption**, where people and businesses demand products and services in ways which respect the limits of our natural resources. Unnecessary waste, in particular food waste, will be unacceptable in Scotland.
  - **Maximising Value from Waste and Energy**, where the environmental and economic value of wasted resources and energy is harnessed efficiently.
28. To drive progress towards these circular economy goals, Scotland has had a set of waste and recycling targets in place for over the past decade, spanning the waste hierarchy. The Scottish Government has also set climate change ambitions

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<sup>8</sup> [Everything we buy has a carbon cost](#), Zero Waste Scotland, September 2021.

<sup>9</sup> [The Use of Natural Resources in the Economy: A Global Manual on Economy Wide Material Flow Accounting](#), United Nations Environment Programme, 2023.

<sup>10</sup> [Securing a green recovery on a path to net zero: climate change plan 2018–2032 – update](#), Scottish Government, 2020.

to become a net zero greenhouse gas emitting nation by 2045. <sup>11</sup>

29. Although the waste management sector now only directly accounts for around 4% of total Scottish greenhouse gas emissions, sustainable resource use is key to tackling climate change and will be vital for our efforts to reduce Scotland's global carbon footprint, and for other sectors<sup>12</sup> to deliver their own net zero goals.

30. As the 2022 and 2024 consultations set out, Scotland has made good long-term progress towards reaching these ambitions.

31. The total amount of waste going to landfill in Scotland has halved over the past decade (2.3 million tonnes or around 23% of all waste managed was sent to landfill in 2022), and over 62% of all waste was recycled in 2022<sup>13</sup>. In the same year, we met our 2025 target to reduce all waste by 15% (for the second consecutive year), and emissions from the waste management sector in 2022 were 75% lower than they were in 1990.

32. However, the sustainable choices are still not the easy or routine choices for households, businesses or those in the resources and waste sector. Fundamental and rapid system change is required to drive progress and ensure a more rapid transition to net zero and a fully circular economy in Scotland.

33. Much has changed since most of our current targets were set in 2010. The climate emergency has intensified our focus on emissions reduction, and how we view and treat our resources. We can see day-to-day the impacts that climate change and the nature crises are having on our communities, our society, our economic wellbeing, and our environment – both here in Scotland and globally.

34. Founded on evidence and collaboration, the CEWRM is part of the Scottish Government's wider response to these challenges, sitting alongside a range of other strategies and plans. It is designed to drive progress on three key fronts:

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<sup>11</sup> [Climate Change, Reducing greenhouse gas emissions](#), Scottish Government, 2020.

<sup>12</sup> [Scottish Greenhouse Gas Statistics 2021](#), Scottish Government, 2023.

<sup>13</sup> [Scottish Waste from all sources data](#), SEPA, 2022.



- Setting the strategic direction and laying foundations for how we will deliver our system-wide, comprehensive vision for Scotland’s circular economy from now to 2030 – based on Responsible Production, Responsible Consumption, and Maximising Value from Waste and Energy.
- Setting out priority actions from now to 2030 to accelerate more sustainable use of our resources across the waste hierarchy. We acknowledge the progress we have made against our existing 2025 waste reduction and recycling targets, the areas we have fallen short, and the lessons we can learn as we set out the framework for what comes next.
- Reducing emissions associated with resources and waste. The Route Map sets out the opportunities we will take to decarbonise the waste sector ahead of the draft Climate Change Plan, to be published in 2025, and our approach to tackling the whole-life climate impact of Scotland's resource management and waste.

35. It outlines what the Scottish Government intends to do, by when, and how they will work with others, to drive sustainable use and management of our resources up to 2030. It is aimed at everyone who has a role to play: the people and communities of Scotland, businesses, the third sector and the public sector, including local government. The direction and actions set out in this CEWRM are complemented by the [Circular Economy \(Scotland\) Act 2024](#) and its provisions.

36. A wide range of evidence was gathered and scrutinised to identify and develop the CEWRM interventions. It is recognised that achieving our resources, waste and recycling ambitions, as well as 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.

37. Planning for 2030 and beyond, it is recognised that not all policy measures are fully ready to be implemented in Scotland and are at different stages of development. This is reflected in the final CEWRM.

38. While the second consultation set out further detail on the measures, further specific policy detail for each intervention will be fully defined as the measures are developed. It is intended that the CEWRM will enable the Scottish Government to continue to articulate a strategic approach which will contribute towards sustainable resource use and circular economy ambitions.
39. The second consultation feedback showed widespread support for the majority of the proposals laid out in the second CEWRM consultation. However, it is acknowledged that due to the high-level nature of the document, there is limited detail available at this time for each individual action. This included a limited ability to fully identify and assess potential impacts for the protected characteristic groups that may result from the introduction of each intervention.
40. Feedback to the specific EQIA question – ‘Please provide any further information or evidence that should be considered in the accompanying Equalities Impact Assessment’ – received 30 responses.
41. The most common feedback, and similar to responses from the first consultation, was the need for ongoing consideration of impacts on protected groups as and when interventions are developed. In particular, people with disabilities, older individuals and those who face language barriers were mentioned through the feedback. These groups align with those previously identified through the initial framing workshop and the first consultation.
42. Additionally, it was highlighted by some respondents that interventions which include potential enforcement activity should be designed to be able to take into account individual needs for those with protected characteristics. Scottish Government also recognise possible cross-interactions with Fairer Scotland findings in connection to enforcement activity interventions.

## **The Scope of the EQIA**

43. A framing exercise was carried out prior to the first consultation (2022) process to determine whether an EQIA was required, and to identify relevant areas for

investigation.

44. Zero Waste Scotland made an initial assessment of potential impacts on those with protected characteristics, and this was used as the basis of a workshop session with Scottish Government colleagues. The Scottish Government's EQIA Mainstreaming Team were also consulted.
45. The exercise identified a limited number of potential impacts and so a proportional desk-based approach was taken to source existing data and evidence. The initial framing exercise findings were revisited and updated to take into account responses received during the first consultation, and again during the second consultation. A further analysis has also been undertaken after the second consultation to highlight where future outputs resulting from the publication of the final CEWRM may result in impacts to protected characteristic groups.
46. It is important to note that the protected characteristics considered within this final EQIA are not independent of each other. Some people may have to deal with complex and interconnected issues.
47. Summary of activities:
- Framing exercise: Zero Waste Scotland and Scottish Government discussion, as noted above.
  - Discussions with relevant directorates across Scottish Government and external organisations where appropriate.
  - Evidence-gathering: quantitative and qualitative data and evidence were sourced, including evidence from other relevant policy impact assessments.
48. It remains the determination that the publication of the CEWRM itself will not have a direct impact on those with protected characteristics. However, it has been identified through the EQIA and consultation processes that, depending on the design of a number of the interventions, individual interventions may impact

on protected characteristic groups.

49. Specifically, it has been assessed that a number of the interventions may have both positive and negative impacts on the following protected characteristics: disability, age, race, sex and pregnancy and maternity.

50. Other factors investigated in relation to the additional protected characteristics do not appear, at this stage, to raise significant equality-related issues. This may be due to a lack of available published information and the individual circumstances of those impacted. Direct engagement with equality groups and individuals may identify further impacts as and when individual actions are taken forwards.

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

## **Key Findings**

52. No positive or negative impacts have been identified that will result from the publication of the CEWRM itself.

53. However, it is possible that, depending on their design, some of the interventions may have both positive and negative impacts on the following protected characteristics: disability, age, race, sex and pregnancy and maternity.

54. These include, but are not limited to, the following examples set out below, laid out under each of the four strategic aims. In addition to the impacts considered, it is important to note that the protected characteristics considered within this EQIA are not independent of each other. Some people may have to deal with complex and interconnected issues.

## A. Reduce and reuse

55. Evidence suggests that on average, disabled people face extra costs of £583/month.<sup>14</sup> This may mean that any increase in the cost of living is more challenging to manage and should be carefully considered when relevant measures are developed that could impact on the costs and availability of goods.

56. For example, the measure to ‘Develop measures to address the disposal of unsold consumer goods’ could reduce access to lower cost goods as a result of any future measures which constitute part of the product stewardship plans, including restrictions, charges or producer responsibility. However, the measure could also result in the opportunity for consumers to purchase high quality goods at potentially lower prices when sold through secondary markets.

57. Two of the measures mentioned under this strategic aim have already been consulted on, and therefore have their own individual impact assessments. These are:

- Develop further measures to tackle consumption of problematic single use items and promote uptake of reusable alternatives (including consideration of environmental charging), prioritising action on single-use drinks cups.
- The second CEWRM included the action to consult on actions regarding the environmental impacts of single-use vapes. This has been updated in the final CEWRM to reflect the action taken to ban the sale and supply of single-use vapes from 2025.

58. An interim EQIA<sup>15</sup> has been published alongside the Charging for Single-Use Disposable Beverage Cups Consultation. The interim EQIA identifies likely impacts for some Disabled individuals, and further identifies potential impacts under the Age and Race characteristic groups in terms of accessible and appropriate communications.

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<sup>14</sup> [Disability Price Tag policy report](#), Scope, 2019.

<sup>15</sup> [Single-Use Disposable Beverage Cups Charge: Equality Impact Assessment – Interim Report](#), Scottish Government, August 2024.

59. The four UK governments are introducing legislation to ban/prohibit the sale and supply of single-use vapes. While this has not been a direct result of the CEWRM, it does fulfil one of the additional measures from the second consultation. The vapes EQIA<sup>16</sup> identified a number of the same protected characteristic groups as the interim EQIAs for the CEWRM, namely Age (both older and younger individuals) and Disabled individuals. Full details can be seen [here](#). It also identified potential positive impacts for Age with regards to reduced littering. This may be more significant for younger people (16-24) whose perceptions of their area are more likely to be negatively impacted by littering.<sup>17</sup> This finding aligns with a similar finding in the single-use cups EQIA.

60. Measures under this aim related to 'Develop measures to improve the reuse experience for consumers' and 'Deliver behaviour change-based approaches focused on sustainable consumption, aligned to Let's Do Net Zero communications' provide positive impacts with regards to improved communications with clear and inclusive research outputs as the measures are developed and introduced.

61. Further positive impacts may result from the action 'Review the rural exemption for food waste recycling, as part of the co-design process'. This has the potential to widen where household food collections are offered, making it easier for households to recycle more, and reduce reliance on residual waste bins.

62. It is recognised that further EQIAs may be required alongside the development of specific measures, as deemed appropriate. For example, work around product stewardship measures, or the development of specific interventions that may form part of the intervention plan to guide long-term work on household food waste reduction behaviour change.

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<sup>16</sup> [Prohibition of the sale and supply of single-use vapes: Equality Impact Assessment – Results document](#), Scottish Government, 2024.

<sup>17</sup> [2023 Scottish Litter Survey](#) Keep Scotland Beautiful, 2023.

## B. Modernise recycling

63. Development of measures, such as the 'Co-design process for household recycling and reuse services' and the 'Review of waste and recycling service charging' may impact individuals under all of the identified characteristic groups. For example, evidence<sup>18</sup> 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. Conversely, they may also benefit from a greater range or accessibility of recycling and reuse services available.<sup>19</sup>
64. Consideration will need to be given to, in particular, disabled and older individuals when developing measures which impact on household waste and recycling services. Service design for kerbside collections will need to be developed with accessibility, ease of use, clear user instructions, provision of alternative options and additional support in mind.
65. Specific measures which will require such considerations are: 'Facilitate a co-design process for high quality, high performing household recycling and reuse services'; 'Introduce a statutory Code of Practice for household waste services'; 'Introduce statutory recycling and reuse local performance targets for household waste services'; 'Strengthen the Householder's duty of care obligation in relation to waste' and 'Give local authorities more tools to support household recycling and reduce contamination'.
66. Consideration of the need to provide accessible and inclusive <sup>19</sup> communications on any changes to recycling collections, new householder duties or any enforcement action will also be needed. For example, where English is not a first language (Race), for older individuals (Age) who may require large print, or for Disabled individuals who may require Braille or other suitable communication

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<sup>18</sup> [Household expenditure by age of household reference person](#), Office for National Statistics, 2019.

<sup>19</sup> [Supporting documents - Climate change - public engagement: survey results 2022 - gov.scot](#), Scottish Government, 2022.

options.

67. Conversely, positive impacts across all of the protected characteristic groups may be realised by the production of new, clearly designed, consistent and inclusive communications. This will include information on local and national recycling provision and any duties householders will be expected to fulfil through the Householder duty of care. In particular this is applicable to the following measures: 'Strengthen Householder's duty of care obligation in relation to waste'; 'Give local authorities more tools to support household recycling and reduce contamination' and 'Review of waste and recycling service charging'.
68. Positive impacts are also likely through improved design of recycling services as part of the action 'Facilitate a co-design process for high quality, high performing household recycling and reuse services'.
69. Where interventions seek to improve waste and recycling services to households, they will likely offer benefits across society including all protected characteristic groups. This includes better access to recycling provision for all households, and where necessary, the ability for councils to implement, for example, assisted lifts and excess capacity on a case-by-case basis.
70. The co-design process for high quality, high performing household recycling and reuse services will build in requirements for wide stakeholder engagement. This will ensure that the needs of residents who require additional support to fully utilise council waste services are considered, and enable solutions to be appropriately designed and delivered across Scotland as necessary. The co-design will take into account the different geographical and community needs that local authorities and residents across Scotland encounter, addressing concerns raised in consultation responses about presenting an unsuitable 'one-size-fits-all' approach.



71. Where any improvements to services or increased enforcement result in reduced littering, it is likely there will be benefits, in particular for younger people (Age).<sup>20</sup>

### **C. Decarbonise disposal**

72. The measure to 'Facilitate the co-production of guidelines for effective community engagement' should be considered with accessible and inclusive communication in mind to ensure high levels of participation and understanding of any community engagement outputs. This will help to ensure positive experience and outcomes for everyone.

73. Further impact assessments may be required for the other measures in this strategic aim, as deemed appropriate; for example for specific measures developed as part of the Residual Waste Plan and the Sector-Led Plan to minimise the carbon impacts of the Energy from Waste Sector.

### **D. Strengthen the circular economy**

74. There is potential for the measures that sit under this aim to impact across the protected characteristics group. It is likely that the circular economy strategy will include measures that will touch across the protected characteristics. As with many of the other individual measures the strategy will be subject to a full impact assessment process.

75. The introduction of new circular economy targets, including potential reuse targets, has the potential to provide benefits across society. Such benefits may include the ability for individuals to have access to repair provision for items rather than purchasing new, and increased availability of pre-used items available at lower costs compared to purchasing new.

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<sup>20</sup> [2023 Scottish Litter Survey](#), Keep Scotland Beautiful, 2023.

76. The measure to support greater uptake of green skills, training and development opportunities has the potential for positive impacts.<sup>21</sup> While this will be across all society, it may in particular provide additional opportunities for individuals with physical or mental health conditions, particularly where aligned with the Just Transition Fair Work Action Plan.<sup>22</sup> It may also offer opportunities for young adults, and equally for older individuals who remain in the workforce. This includes retraining skills as part of a Just Transition<sup>23</sup> as workers move from sectors that are attempting to decarbonise.

77. The measure to maintain a programme of research on waste prevention, behaviour change, fiscal incentives and material-specific priorities provides an opportunity to gather further information on accessibility and inclusion challenges and opportunities for implementation.

## **Recommendations and Conclusion**

78. On present evidence, we do not believe that the CEWRM itself is directly or indirectly discriminatory. However, a significant number of the individual measures may have a range of both negative and positive impacts across protected characteristic groups, as summarised above.

79. It is recommended that, as individual interventions and their actions are being developed, they are subject to the impact assessment process ranging from screening to full assessments as required.

80. It is recommended that stakeholder engagement with relevant representative groups and those with lived experience is undertaken as measures are developed, as per single-use vapes and cups interventions outlined earlier.

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<sup>21</sup> [The Future of Work: Baseline Employment Analysis and Skills Pathways for the Circular Economy](#), Zero Waste Scotland and Circle Economy, 2020.

<sup>22</sup> [Fair Work action plan: becoming a leading Fair Work nation by 2025](#), Scottish Government, 2022.

<sup>23</sup> [Just Transition – A Fairer, Greener Scotland: Scottish Government Response](#), Scottish Government, 2021.

81. It is recommended that findings and evidence gathered from this and other related EQIAs are maintained and updated as necessary to support future related CEWRM action impact assessments.
82. It is recommended that where appropriate, CEWRM related research continues to take cognisance of gathering evidence of potential impacts to protected characteristic groups.
83. The Scottish Government will consider an appropriate and proportionate monitoring approach to the Circular Economy and Waste Route Map outputs. This will include the overarching Circular Economy Monitoring & Indicator Framework the Scottish Government is currently developing, alongside monitoring approaches developed for each individual intervention where appropriate.
84. Progress of the CEWRM itself will be tracked by the relevant Scottish Government Programme Board to ensure measures are being implemented in line with the timeframes provided in the CEWRM.

## Appendix 1

The following section describes the four Route Map strategic aims, along with identified priority actions (in **bold**) and further actions (bullet points).

### Reduce and reuse

Reducing and reusing waste are at the top of the waste hierarchy and central to changing our relationship with materials and products. Building an economic system that moves away from being based on items that are designed to be disposable will bring significant environmental benefits.

The interventions within this strategic aim are grouped under three objectives:

- Responsible consumption, production and reuse
- Reduce food waste
- Embed circular construction practices

Responsible consumption, production and reuse

#### **Publish a Product Stewardship Plan to set out how we will tackle the environmental impact of priority products by 2025/26**

- Develop further measures to tackle consumption of problematic single-use items and promote uptake of reusable alternatives (including consideration of environmental charging), prioritising action on single-use drinks cups
- Develop measures to address the disposal of unsold consumer goods
- Develop measures to improve the reuse experience for consumers
- Deliver behaviour change-based approaches focussed on sustainable consumption, aligned to Let's Do Net Zero communications
- Identify ways to expand business models that prolong product lifespan
- Investigate further steps to promote business-business reuse platforms

Reduce food waste

#### **Develop an intervention plan to guide long-term work on household food waste reduction behaviour change by 2026/27**

#### **Develop with stakeholders effective options to implement mandatory reporting for food waste and surplus by businesses from 2025/26**

- Strengthen data and evidence
- Review the rural exemption for food waste recycling, as part of recycling co-design process
- Deliver enhanced support for businesses

Embed circular construction practices

## **Support the development of a model for regional Scottish hubs and networks for the reuse of construction materials and assets from 2025-2027**

- Develop new and promote existing best practice standards in circular practices within the construction sector, and assess the options for both voluntary and mandatory compliance
- Investigate and promote options to incentivise and build capacity for the refurbishment of buildings
- Investigate and promote ways to reduce soil and stones disturbance, movement and volumes going to landfill
- Review opportunities to accelerate adoption of climate change and circular economy focussed purchasing in construction
- Consider how devolved taxes can incentivise the use of recycled aggregates and support circular economy practices

### **Modernise recycling**

Recycling helps to conserve our natural resources, keep valuable materials flowing through our economy and reduce the amount of waste sent to landfill. We want Scotland to become a world leader in recycling, where recycling and reuse services are easy to use and accessible to all, and support and encourage positive choices. We want a high-performing recycling system that includes: modernised recycling services for households and businesses across Scotland; optimises the performance of collection services; and can recycle most waste types to maximise diversion of waste from disposal. Increasing the amount of materials recycled and increasing the proportion of these recycled in Scotland will deliver carbon reductions, reduce the environmental impacts associated with extracting new raw materials, and create a range of important economic opportunities to reprocess and reuse materials here in Scotland.

The interventions within this strategic aim are grouped under two objectives:

- Household recycling
- Commercial recycling

#### Household recycling

### **Facilitate a co-design process for high quality, high performing household recycling and reuse services, 2024-2026**

- Introduce a statutory Code of Practice for household waste services
- Introduce statutory recycling and reuse local performance targets for household waste services (from 2030)
- Undertake a consultation to explore kerbside collection of textiles
- Strengthen the Householder's duty of care obligation in relation to household waste
- Give local authorities more tools to support household recycling and reduce contamination
- Undertake a review of waste and recycling service charging
- Review the monitoring and reporting framework for local authority waste services

- Develop options and consult on the introduction of end destination public reporting of household recycling collected

### Commercial recycling

#### **Review of compliance with commercial recycling requirements, 2026**

#### **Co-design measures to improve commercial waste service provisions, commencing by 2030**

- Conduct a national compositional study of waste from commercial premises

### **Decarbonise disposal**

The production and management of waste results in environmental impacts and represents missed economic opportunities for these materials. That is why our focus in this Route Map is to prevent materials from becoming waste in the first place. As we accelerate our move to a circular economy, we will produce less waste. We want to ensure that materials that cannot be avoided, reused, or recycled are managed in a way that minimises environmental and climate impacts, encourages management of materials further up the waste hierarchy, and minimises broader societal impacts.

#### **Develop a Residual Waste Plan to 2045, 2027**

#### **Facilitate the development of a Sector-Led Plan to minimise the carbon impacts of the Energy from Waste Sector, 2027**

- Support the inclusion of energy from waste in the UK Emissions Trading Scheme (ETS), and investigate other fiscal measures to incentivise low carbon disposal
- Review and target materials currently landfilled to identify and drive alternative management routes
- Facilitate the co-production of guidelines for effective community engagement
- Increase the capture of landfill gas

### **Strengthen the circular economy**

Delivering a circular economy requires sustained transformational system change, and a range of actions that are both complementary and coordinated to drive sustainable management of our resources. If we are to maximise the opportunities that a circular economy brings to Scotland, we must maintain a strategic approach to its delivery, ensuring the right structures and support are in place to enable action.

#### **Develop a circular economy strategy every five years, first one in 2026**

#### **Set new circular economy targets by 2027**

- Review and refresh Scotland's Waste Data Strategy's action plan
- Maintain a programme of research on waste prevention, behaviour change, fiscal incentives and material-specific priorities

- Develop public procurement opportunities to reduce the environmental impact of public spending, including scoping new legislative circular economy requirements for contracting authorities under section 82 and 82A of the Climate Change (Scotland) Act 2009
- Support greater uptake of green skills, training, and development opportunities



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