Scottish Environment Protection Agency
Buidheann Dìon Àrainneachd na h-Alba

For the future of our environment

Digital Waste Tracking

Local authorities

23 November 2026

Why Digital Waste Tracking?

Part of Scotland's commitment to deliver a circular economy.

Data to help us understand and value the materials we use enabling us to turn waste into a resource.

Create a fairer system for those managing waste legally.

Digital waste tracking (Scotland)



Digitisation

A UK-wide project which aims to digitise and streamline the way we track the movement of waste, from its origin, to where it ends up



Reporting Methods

The aim is to join up and eventually replace, multiple existing outdated paper-based systems.



Unique Records

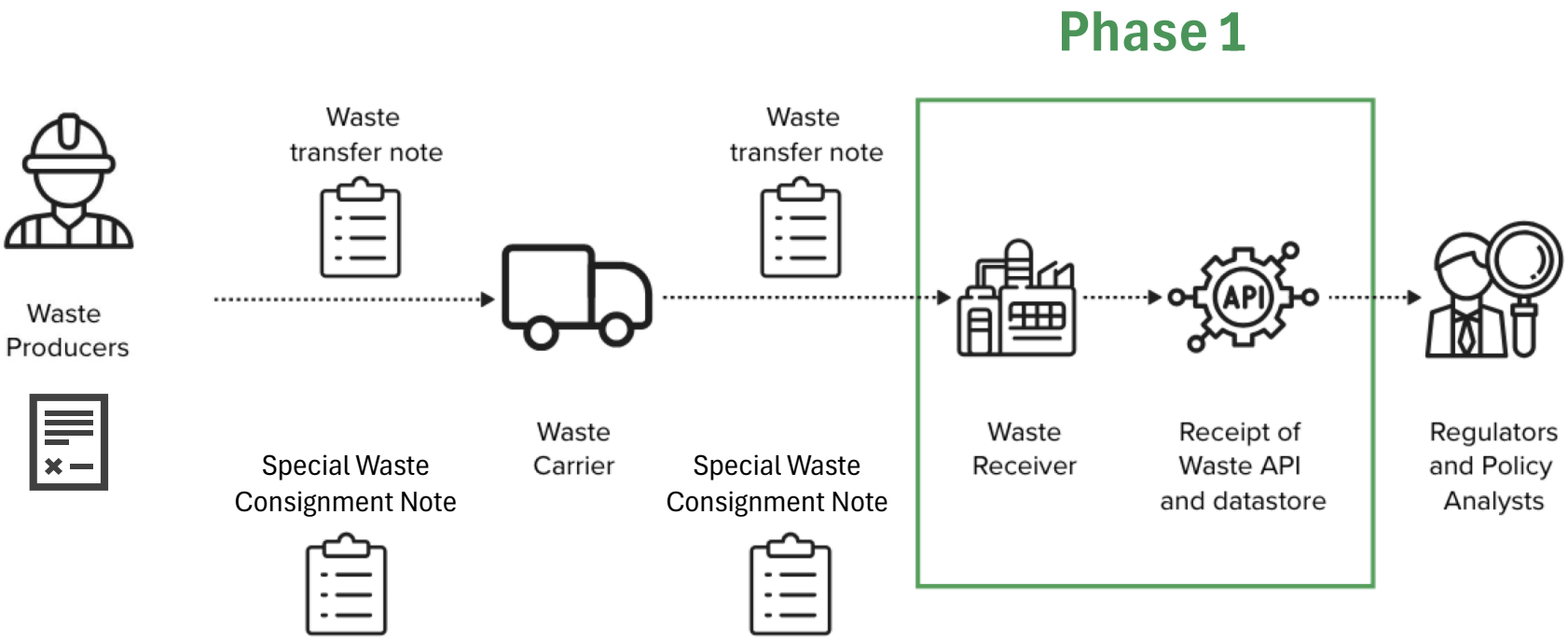
Each record will have a unique number assigned to it. This will be used to view and submit details on the waste movement. Waste producers should be able to use the unique ID to see where their waste has gone



Phased Delivery

To build a stable, effective, and user-friendly service it will need to build it incrementally.

Phased Delivery



Local Authority Exemption for Phase 1

Local Authority sites providing facilities used for the deposit of waste prior to onwards transfer of waste for treatment, recycling or disposal are exempt from obligations under Phase 1.

Relevant facilities include Household Waste Recycling Centres (HWRC) and Transfer stations where waste is bulked up and stored prior to transfer for disposal or treatment.

✓ Includes receipt of both commercial and household waste.

✗ Does not include disposal sites (e.g. Landfills) or waste treatment sites (e.g. Material Facilities)

Phase 1 Requirements

- From 01 January 2027, all permitted sites in Scotland which receive controlled waste will be required to submit specified information onto the new Digital Waste Tracking system for each load of controlled waste received.
- A unique ID will be generated and returned for each individual waste movement set of data input – this will act as **your evidence that a digital waste record has been entered and received.**
- The information entered must be true and errors, when identified, corrected.
- Information must be submitted within 2 working days starting the day after receipt of the waste.
- You must notify SEPA if your system access is lost and you are unable to submit data.

What data must be entered during Phase 1

Description
- EWC Code (multiple allowed)
- Weight metric - grams, Kgs, Tonnes Actual weight
- Weight amount
- Waste Description
- Physical Form – Gas, Liquid, Solid, Powder, Sludge, mixed
- Type of container
- Number of containers

Movement detail
- Date/time Received
- Whether waste contains POPs
- Whether waste has hazardous properties

Receiver
- Site Name
- Authorisation Number
- Receipt Postcode
- Receipt Address

Waste Carrier Details
- Organisation Name
- Mode(s) of transport
- Carrier registration number
- Reason for no carrier registration number
- Vehicle Registration number, if by road

Special Waste (if relevant)
- Consignment note number as provided by SEPA
- Hazard property codes
- Components and concentrations

Disposal/Recovery Code
- Code

Broker Details (if relevant)
- Name and contact details
- Registration number

What isn't changing?

Special Waste Consignment Note/Transfer notes - The new regulations do not change existing special waste consignment note or waste transfer note requirements.

Outgoing waste – Onward movements of waste from waste receiving sites do not need to be recorded on the DWT system. Existing transfer note/consignment note processes will apply until the full waste tracking system is developed.

Site waste returns / Waste Data flow – There is no change in these processes for now.

Registration

To start using the Digital Waste Tracking Service, you will need to create a DEFRA account.

Information on how to register to use the service is available at:

https://www.gov.uk/guidance/report-receipt-of-waste#how-to-access-the-service

After you've created your Defra account, you will use your organisation's Government Gateway or GOV.UK One Login account each time you log into the service.

How to submit data during Phase 1

Option 1 Submission via API for those with existing waste management software they can carry on using it. An API ('bridging software') will need to be integrated to it to send the relevant data onto the digital waste tracking system. This limits the changes needed to business processes. **It is your responsibility to ensure the software provider can meet your digital waste tracking obligations.**

Option 2 Report receipt of waste spreadsheet for those without waste management software or for those who won't be able to obtain/integrate their software by January 2027. Usage of the spreadsheet will be kept under review and may be phased out in the future.

Service Charge Fee - £26 upfront annual charge (to be paid by 31 January 2027) that grants 12 months of rolling access. **Non-payment of the service charge by 31 January 2027 will remove your ability to upload data**

Public Beta Testing

From 28 April 2026, the Report Receipt of Waste Service became available for voluntary use in a digital build phase known as public beta.

The public beta testing provided an opportunity to become familiar with the service, work through any practical or technical questions, and make sure your organisation is ready for the mandatory use date of 1 January 2027.

If you participated in the voluntary public beta testing, the **data submitted before the 1 January 2027 will not be checked for Digital Waste Tracking compliance or enforcement purposes**.

SEPA's regulatory approach to Digital Waste Tracking

We are aware of the scale and complexity around the introduction of this new UK wide waste tracking system and will take this into account in terms of our approach to regulation.

We are committed to providing advice and guidance as the preferred route of achieving compliance for businesses who are striving to meet their legal obligations.

This aligns with SEPA's enforcement policy Enforcement | SEPA | Scottish Environment Protection Agency

Our general regulatory approach can be summarised as:

- **Explain** – what your Digital Waste Tracking obligations are.
- **Check** – you have achieved compliance with your Digital Waste Tracking obligations.
- **Understand and Advise** - if you believe you are not able to comply with your DWT obligations we will provide you with advice on how to comply.
- **Enforce** – take proportionate and targeted action in the event of deliberate and/or persistent non-compliance.

Please tell us early if you have any concerns about not being able to comply with your Digital Waste Tracking legal obligations

We will be publishing our regulatory approach to Digital Waste Tracking on our webpage soon.

Useful Links

SEPA's Digital Waste Tracking webpage for guidance on how to comply with the new regulations

https://www.sepa.org.uk/regulation/waste/digital-waste-tracking/

Contact SEPA at digitalwastetracking@sepa.org.uk

DEFRA have information on how to register and use the digital service https://www.gov.uk/guidance/report-receipt-of-waste#how-to-access-the-service

Contact DEFRA at **Digital Waste Tracking Helpdesk - 03000 203 781**

Thank you

Email - digitalwastetracking@sepa.org.uk

Website - https://www.sepa.org.uk/regulation/waste/digital-waste-tracking/

sepa.org.uk