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Zero Waste Scotland Reuse & Repair Update

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Zero Waste Scotland: Rewiring the economy



We're Scotland's circular economy public body, working with government, business, and communities to rewire the economy from our current "take, make, waste" model to one where we make the most of the materials we have.

A zero waste, circular economy is the right choice - for people, planet and prosperity.

Who we are



We are now an Executive Non-Departmental Public Body, strengthening our role in driving circular solutions across public and private sectors with focused, evidence-based expertise.



We operate within a policy landscape that's committed to a circular economy and will see circular principles becoming more embedded across the Government agenda.



We help accelerate a net zero, circular economy that is inclusive and sustainable; reducing global consumption impacts while maximising benefits for people and the planet.



We will collaborate with the Scottish Government, local authorities, enterprise agencies, and public bodies to integrate circular solutions into a consistent, impactful climate response for Scotland.

2026/27 projects

- **Ecosystems Analysis of EEE**
- **Socio-economic Impacts & Financial Modelling**
- **Local authority reuse pilot**
- **Reuse Hubs**
- **Internal Cross-Department Reuse Support**



Electricals and Electronic Equipment (EEE)

Analysis of existing gaps, barriers and opportunities for EEE reuse, refurbishing, repair and rental.

- Carried out via:
 - Literature review of existing knowledge
 - Consumer engagement (1000 person survey aligned with national demographics and 30 person detailed online study)
 - Stakeholder engagement including interviews and group discussions
- Report due to be published in October.



EEE Report findings - challenges

- High repair costs versus cheap new goods deter reuse
- Limited repairability and spare parts restrict reuse potential
- Lack of quality assurance reduces trust in reused products
- Fragmented activity and weak infrastructure hinder reuse scaling
- Low visibility limits consumer and business demand for reused and refurbished goods
- Poor data and regulatory barriers (e.g. POPs) complicate reuse assessment
- Reuse potential varies widely by product type



EEE Report findings - opportunities

- Some demand for refurbished EEE exists and has the potential to grow
- Current uptake is strongest among younger, tech savvy consumers
- 'Right to repair' (2021 Regulations) is seen as a potential enabler
- Repairability index could improve transparency
- Consumer confidence can be strengthened through awareness of warranties and guarantees.
- Public procurement could be an opportunity to increase demand e.g. furniture, white goods for accommodation, refurbished IT etc



EEE Next steps

- Building on the work from last year, will use systems mapping to visualise the whole system, including actors, flows, volumes (where possible) and potential intervention points, to develop a set of evidence-based interventions that can support the increasing and mainstreaming of EEE reuse in Scotland.
- Please get in touch if you have any interest in taking part in the stakeholder engagement activity and giving your insight into what the best interventions could be to support increased EEE reuse in Scotland



Local Authority Reuse Guidance

Good practice guidance for waste managers looking to strategically increase diversion of items for reuse.

- Information sourced through:
 - Desktop research of existing local authority reuse
 - Focus groups with 17 local authorities
 - Additional research by Nicki Souter Associates
- Due to be published in Autumn.



Reuse Guidance – what's inside

- Information on relevant policy and strategy alignment
- Guidance for developing goals and working purposefully, rather than being reactive with reuse
- Templates for mapping existing reuse and planning future actions
- Approaches to governance and how best to approach cross-departmental reuse
- Considerations for data, monitoring, and communications
- Case studies and ideas



Reuse Pilot

- A 2.5-year pilot project working with one local authority to develop and test a strategic, cross-departmental approach to reuse, moving it beyond a waste management activity and embedding it as a CEP across areas such as procurement, asset management, and service delivery.
- The **aim** is to demonstrate the economic, environmental, and social benefits of a reuse-first approach, creating a scalable and replicable model that can help councils meet circular economy ambitions and potential reuse targets.



What's involved?

- Partnering with one local authority to strategically embed reuse across internal departments and service delivery.
- “Reuse-first” approach: anything that can be facilitated through reuse should be.
- Pilot will initially focus on EEE. This may be expanded as the project progresses.
- The pilot will mainstream reuse behaviours and generate learning that can support the wider adoption of CEPs across the public sector.



Get in touch

- If there's anything that you'd like more information on, please get in touch!
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