



# Topic: zero waste

Engagement version November 2024

## Requirements addressed in this section

Table 1 Information required by the Town and Country Planning (Scotland) Act 1997, as amended, regarding the issue addressed in this section.

Section	Requirement
Section 15(5)(b)	the principal purposes for which the land is used,
Section 15(5)(d)	the infrastructure of the district (including communications, transport and drainage systems, systems for the supply of water and energy, and health care and education facilities),
Section 15(5)(e)	how that infrastructure is used,

Table 2 Information required by the Town and Country Planning (Development Planning) (Scotland) Regulations 2023, regarding the issue addressed in this section.

Regulation	Requirement
Regulation 9(2)(e)(vii)	<p>The information and considerations are—...</p> <p>The following plans and strategies, insofar as relating to the local development plan area—...</p> <p>The national waste management plan,</p>

## Links to evidence

- National Park (Scotland) Act 2000  
<https://www.legislation.gov.uk/asp/2000/10/contents>
- National Planning Framework 4  
<https://www.gov.scot/publications/national-planning-framework-4/documents/>
- Scotland Zero Waste Plan 2010  
<https://www.gov.scot/publications/scotlands-zero-waste-plan/>
- Waste (Scotland) Regulations 2012  
<https://www.legislation.gov.uk/ssi/2012/148>



- Applying the waste hierarchy: guidance  
<https://www.gov.scot/publications/guidance-applying-waste-hierarchy/pages/3/>
- Stop, Sort, Burn, Bury? Independent Review of the Role of Incineration in the Waste Hierarchy in Scotland (report)  
<https://www.gov.scot/binaries/content/documents/govscot/publications/independent-report/2022/05/stop-sort-burn-bury-independent-review-role-incineration-waste-hierarchy-scotland/documents/stop-sort-burn-bury-independent-review-role-incineration-waste-hierarchy-scotland-report/stop-sort-burn-bury-independent-review-role-incineration-waste-hierarchy-scotland-report/govscot%3Adocument/stop-sort-burn-bury-independent-review-role-incineration-waste-hierarchy-scotland-report.pdf>
- Securing a green recovery on a path to net zero: climate change plan 2018 – 2032 – update  
<https://www.gov.scot/binaries/content/documents/govscot/publications/strategy-plan/2020/12/securing-green-recovery-path-net-zero-update-climate-change-plan-20182032/documents/update-climate-change-plan-2018-2032-securing-green-recovery-path-net-zero/update-climate-change-plan-2018-2032-securing-green-recovery-path-net-zero/govscot%3Adocument/update-climate-change-plan-2018-2032-securing-green-recovery-path-net-zero.pdf>
- Infrastructure Plan for Scotland 2021-22 to 2025-26  
<https://www.gov.scot/binaries/content/documents/govscot/publications/strategy-plan/2021/02/national-mission-local-impact-infrastructure-investment-plan-scotland-2021-22-2025-26/documents/national-mission-local-impact-infrastructure-investment-plan-scotland-2021-22-2025-26/national-mission-local-impact-infrastructure-investment-plan-scotland-2021-22-2025-26/govscot%3Adocument/national-mission-local-impact-infrastructure-investment-plan-scotland-2021-22-2025-26.pdf>
- Making Thanks Last: A circular Economy Strategy for Scotland  
<https://www.gov.scot/binaries/content/documents/govscot/publications/strategy-plan/2016/02/making-things-last-circular-economy-strategy-scotland/documents/00494471-pdf/00494471-pdf/govscot%3Adocument/00494471.pdf>





- Angus Council Sustainability Strategy  
[https://www.angus.gov.uk/the\\_environment/sustainable\\_angus/sustainability\\_strategy](https://www.angus.gov.uk/the_environment/sustainable_angus/sustainability_strategy)
- Angus Council Plan 2023-28 – Delivering services for people  
<https://www.angus.gov.uk/sites/default/files/2024-04/Council%20Plan%202023-2028%20%282024%20Update%29.pdf>
- Perth and Kinross Waste Management Plan 2010 – 2025  
[https://www.pkc.gov.uk/media/1278/Perth-and-Kinross-Waste-Management-Plan/pdf/Perth\\_and\\_Kinross\\_Waste\\_Management\\_Plan](https://www.pkc.gov.uk/media/1278/Perth-and-Kinross-Waste-Management-Plan/pdf/Perth_and_Kinross_Waste_Management_Plan)
- Perth and Kinross State of the Environment Report  
[https://www.pkc.gov.uk/media/13208/State-of-the-Environment-Report/pdf/PKStateoftheEnvironmentReport2007\\_1\\_.pdf?m=636118872325500000](https://www.pkc.gov.uk/media/13208/State-of-the-Environment-Report/pdf/PKStateoftheEnvironmentReport2007_1_.pdf?m=636118872325500000)
- Perth and Kinross Climate Change Strategy & Action Plan  
<https://www.pkclimateaction.co.uk/climate-change-strategy-and-action-plan>
- Ballater & Crathie Community Action Plan 2023  
[https://www.ballaterandcrathiecommunitycouncil.com/\\_files/ugd/ff0841\\_f2f9573586ef4cf3a753d7a57adcb57c.pdf](https://www.ballaterandcrathiecommunitycouncil.com/_files/ugd/ff0841_f2f9573586ef4cf3a753d7a57adcb57c.pdf)
- Blair Athol Community Action Plan: Looking to 2030  
<https://cairngorms.co.uk/wp-content/uploads/2023/08/Blair-Atholl-Struan-Community-Action-Plan-2023-final.pdf>
- Carrbridge Community Action Plan: Looking to 2030  
<https://cairngorms.co.uk/wp-content/uploads/2022/07/Carrbridge-Community-Action-Plan-2022.pdf>
- Dulnain Bridge Community Action Plan Review 2016  
<https://cairngorms.co.uk/wp-content/uploads/2020/12/2016-Dulnain-Bridge-ActionPlan.pdf>
- Dalwhinnie Community Action Plan: Looking to 2030  
<https://cairngorms.co.uk/wp-content/uploads/2024/03/DalwhinnieCAP2023Report.pdf>



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- Kincaig Community Action Plan  
<https://cairngorms.co.uk/wp-content/uploads/2015/07/2011-KincaigActionPlan.pdf>
  - Laggan Community Action Plan: Looking to 2023  
<https://cairngorms.co.uk/wp-content/uploads/2023/02/Laggan-Community-Action-Plan-2022.pdf>
  - Nethy Bridge Community Action Plan: Looking to 2030  
<https://cairngorms.co.uk/wp-content/uploads/2024/03/Nethy-Bridge-Community-Action-Plan-2023-1.pdf>
  - Newtonmore Community Action Plan: Looking to 2023  
<https://cairngorms.co.uk/wp-content/uploads/2022/07/Newtonmore-Community-Action-Plan-2022.pdf>
  - Strathdon Community Action Plan 2016  
<https://cairngorms.co.uk/wp-content/uploads/2015/04/160601StrathdonActionPlan.pdf>
  - Scottish Environment Protection Agency Household waste data  
<https://informatics.sepa.org.uk/HouseholdWaste/>
  - Scottish Environment Protection Agency Waste capacity data  
<https://informatics.sepa.org.uk/WasteSiteCapacity/>
  - Zero Waste Scotland: Recycling Improvement Fund - Small Grant Scheme  
<https://www.zerowastescotland.org.uk/resources/recycling-improvement-fund-small-grant-scheme>
  - Zero Waste Scotland – Recycling Improvement Fund  
<https://www.zerowastescotland.org.uk/resources/recycling-improvement-fund>



## Summary of evidence

### Policy context

#### **National Parks (Scotland) Act 2000**

The National Park has four distinct aims as set out in The National Parks (Scotland) Act 2000). The first and fourth aims; 'to conserve and enhance the natural and cultural heritage of the area' and 'to promote sustainable economic and social development of the area's communities'. The aims are all to be pursued collectively. However, if there is conflict between the first aim and any of the others, greater weight is given to the first aim (as set out in Section 9(6) of the 2000 Act).

#### **National Planning Framework 4**

The National Planning Framework 4 sets out the national spatial strategy for Scotland. Its focus on the three main policy themes of sustainable, liveable and productive places aligns with Scotland's aim of delivering on the United Nations Sustainable Goals. National Planning Framework 4, in relation to Infrastructure and Services aims to deliver an infrastructure first approach to land use planning.

Policy 12 aims to reduce and reuse waste materials where possible through a circular economy model. If appropriate the Local Development Plan should identify appropriate locations for additional waste management infrastructure for example recycling and reuse plants.

Policy 18 specifically addresses the infrastructure first approach intended to ensure infrastructure considerations are addressed at the earliest stage of the development plan process. The Local Development Plan needs to ensure existing infrastructure assets are being used sustainably and make provision for prioritising low-carbon solutions in development. Proposed infrastructure interventions need to ensure they meet the needs of the community they are intended to serve. According to the policy local development plans must:

- Reflect evidence-based decisions about the current infrastructure's capacity, condition, needs and deliverability within the Plan area.
- Consider the need for additional cross boundary infrastructure where a need is identified.
- Put forward a spatial strategy that reflects the infrastructure priorities, and where, how and by whom they will be delivered.



- Put forward a method of calculation for the type, level and location of the financial or in-kind contributions required, specifying which development (sites) these will be required for.

Plans should align with relevant national, regional, and local infrastructure plans and policies and take account of the Scottish Government infrastructure investment hierarchy and sustainable travel and investment hierarchies in developing the spatial strategy. Consistent early engagement and collaboration between relevant stakeholders will better inform decisions on land use and investment.

The North region's spatial priorities, which cover the National Park and are relevant to this policy area are:

- Protect environmental assets and stimulate investment in natural and engineered solutions to climate change and nature restoration, whilst decarbonising transport and building resilient connections.
- Support local economic development by making sustainable use of the areas' worldclass environmental assets to innovate and lead greener growth.

Also of relevance to the region and this policy area is National Development 4: Circular Economy Materials Management Facilities. This national development supports the development of facilities required to achieve a circular economy. This sector will provide a range of business, skills and employment opportunities as part of a just transition to a net zero economy.

## **Scotland's Zero Waste Plan 2010**

The Zero Waste Plan sets the strategic direction for waste policy for Scotland, informed by improved understanding of the environmental consequences of how we use and dispose of resources, and by the (then applicable) requirements of European legislation. The Zero Waste Plan is underpinned by a determination to achieve the best overall outcomes for Scotland's environment, by making best practical use of the approach in the waste management hierarchy: waste prevention, reuse, recycling and recovery.

Current targets for reducing waste and increasing recycling by 2025 include reducing total waste arising in Scotland by 15% against 2011 levels; reducing food waste by 33% against 2013 levels; recycling 70% of remaining waste and sending no more than 5% of remaining waste to landfill.



## Waste (Scotland) Regulations 2012

The legislation introduced changes to how materials are managed by the industry and businesses outlining the following actions:

- Requires businesses and the public sector to separate metal, plastic, glass, paper and card.
- Requires food businesses to separate food waste for collection.
- Local authorities are obligated to provide recycling services to homes.
- Bans metal, plastic, glass, paper, card and food from being landfilled or incinerated.
- Requires incinerators to separate metals and plastics before burning waste.
- Bans biodegradable municipal waste from being landfilled.

## Waste hierarchy

Section 34 of the Environmental Protection Act 1990 (as amended) makes it the duty of everyone (with the exception of occupiers of domestic properties as respects the household waste produced at those properties) who produces, keeps or manages controlled waste, or as a broker or dealer has control of such waste, to:

- Take all such measures available to that person as are reasonable in the circumstances to apply the waste hierarchy set out in Article 4(1) of the Waste Directive.
- Take all reasonable steps to ensure that the waste is managed in manner which promotes high quality recycling.

The waste hierarchy ranks waste management options according to the best environmental outcome taking into consideration the lifecycle of the material. The lifecycle of a material is an environmental assessment of all the stages of a product's life from-cradle-to-grave (for example from raw material extraction through materials processing, manufacture, distribution, use, repair and maintenance, and disposal or recycling).

In its simplest form, the waste hierarchy gives top priority to preventing waste. When waste is created, it gives priority to preparing it for reuse, then recycling, then other recovery, and last of all disposal (for example landfill).

With the exception of tires, the waste hierarchy ranking applies, almost universally, as described in Figure 1. Further information on applying the waste hierarchy can be found here:

- <https://www.gov.scot/publications/guidance-applying-waste-hierarchy/pages/3/>



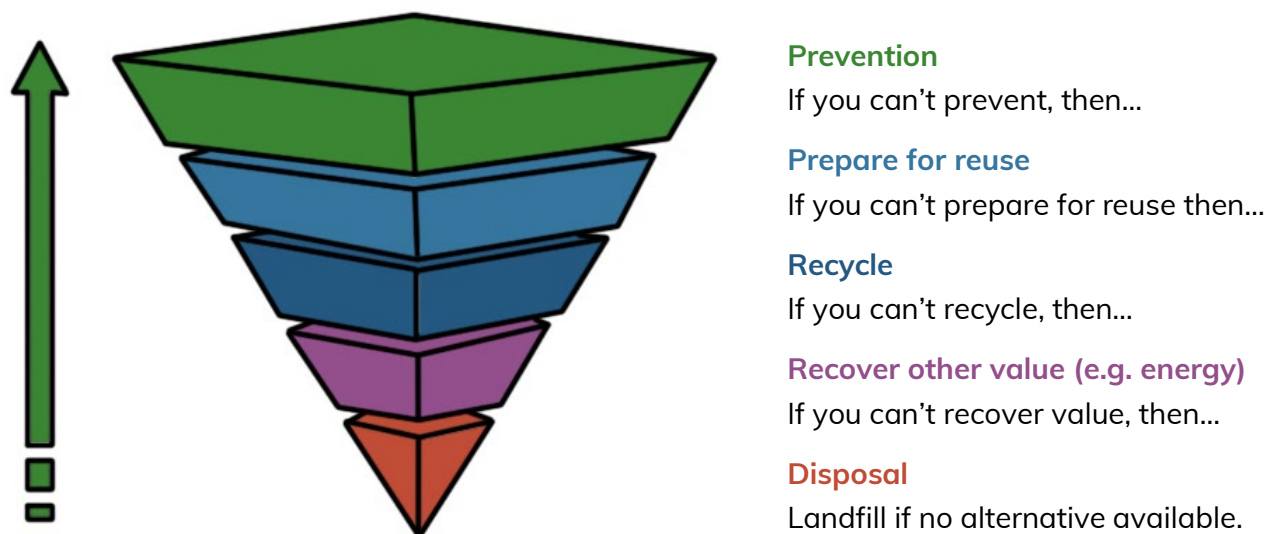


Figure 1 Waste Hierarchy. Image redone with National Park colours based on Scottish Government image, 2017.

## **Stop, Sort, Burn, Bury?: Independent review of the role of incineration in the waste hierarchy in Scotland (report)**

The report (and the supporting documents) constitutes the Independent Review of the Role of Incineration in the Waste Hierarchy in Scotland. The conclusions drawn and subsequent recommendation are directed toward Scottish Government and local government. As the National Park Authority does not administer waste collection or treatment, there are little direct application or relevance to the report within the context of the work undertaken by the Cairngorms National Park Authority.

The Cairngorms National Park Authority is, however, the statutory planning authority for the National Park area, and as such Recommendation 4 of the report can be seen as having potential application in the National Park.

Recommendation 4 states that 'Effective immediately, the Scottish Government should ensure that no further planning permission (i.e., beyond that already in place) is granted to incineration infrastructure within the scope of this Review unless balanced by an equal or greater closure of capacity. The only exceptions to this should be those outlined in Recommendation 10.'

Recommendation 10 states that 'Scottish Government should urgently work with local authorities in remote and rural areas of Scotland without a settled residual waste management solution to meet the Ban to explore options that might, if fully justified, lead to the creation of a small amount of additional capacity.'



The review also places an emphasis on improving community engagement with regard to improvements or reviews of existing waste management projects. The Review reports that the standard of community engagement by both public and private entities varied greatly, recommending the general level should be improved. In part, an attributing factor was the poor quantity and availability of relevant data available.

## **Securing a green recovery on a path to net zero: climate change plan 2018 – 2032 – update**

The document provides an update to the 2018 Climate Change Plan. Since that Plan Scottish Government have set new ambitious targets to end its contribution to climate change by 2045. Scottish Government have committed to reduce emissions by 75% by 2030 (compared with 1990) and to net zero by 2045. As Scotland emerged from COVID-19 the Government identified an opportunity to rebuild the economy in a way that delivers a greener, fairer and more equal society. This Plan sets out the Government's approach to delivering a green recovery and sets out a pathway to deliver its climate change targets. In line with the 2018 plan, the focus is on the period up to 2032.

It sets out a number of outcomes, that are supported by policies and proposals, relating to waste and the circular economy. These are as follows.

The outcome to reduce waste to landfill is supported by the following policies:

- End landfilling of biodegradable municipal waste by 2025, reduce the percentage of all waste sent to landfill to 5% by 2025 and recycle 70% of all waste by 2025 by:
  - Developing a new route map to reduce waste and meet our waste and recycling targets for 2025 in a way that maximises their carbon savings potential.
  - Developing a post-2025 route map for the waste and resources sector, identifying how the sector will contribute towards Scotland's journey towards net zero in the period to 2030 and beyond.
  - Establishing a £70m fund to improve local authority recycling collection infrastructure. In line with EU requirements, further promoting reuse and recycling ensure separate collection of textiles by 2025; and ensuring that bio-waste (e.g. garden waste), is either separated and recycled at source, or is collected separately and is not mixed with other types of waste by 2023.
  - In response to the Committee on Climate Change's latest recommendations, it is our intention to extend the forthcoming ban on biodegradable municipal waste to



landfill to include biodegradable non-municipal wastes, subject to appropriate consultation and work to provide assurance around some specific waste streams.

- Work with the Convention of Scottish Local Authorities (COSLA) in the coming year to evaluate the Household Recycling Charter and review its Code of Practice as a key step in developing a future model of recycling collection.
- Underpinning this we will take steps to improve waste data, continuing to work with UK Government, other devolved governments and agencies to develop electronic waste tracking, which will help deliver a step change in the quality and usefulness of waste data for decision making. This will include taking the necessary steps alongside Scottish Environment Protection Agency to drive implementation of the system in Scotland.
- Electronic waste tracking fund Improved waste data system will help drive further progress to deliver on existing waste and recycling targets.

The outcome to reduce emissions from closed landfill sites is supported by the following policy and proposal:

- Accelerate Landfill Gas Capture and Landfill Legacy Management: we will work with Scottish Environment Protection Agency and key industry partners to scale up the existing landfill gas capture programme to mitigate effects of landfill and environmental impact of closed landfill sites.
- Landfill gas capture on closed sites: in association with Scottish Environment Protection Agency and the waste industry, double the number of landfill gas capture sites that undertake investigative or development work (from 12 to 24 sites) by 2025, in order to harness energy generated from landfill gas capture and maximise other circular economy opportunities. Scottish Environment Protection Agency has already identified 12 sites for potential investigative work.

The outcome to reduce food waste is supported by the following policy:

- We will lead collaborative efforts to deliver Scotland's landmark Food Waste Reduction Action Plan. To reduce food waste by 33% from the 2013 baseline by 2025. Actions include:
  - Improving monitoring and infrastructure by considering a mandatory national food waste reduction target and mandatory reporting of Scotland's food surplus and waste by food businesses.
  - Consulting on the current rural exemption and food separation requirements for food waste collections, to help break down barriers to food waste reuse and recycling.



- Supporting leadership, innovation, effectiveness and efficiency in Scotland's public, private and hospitality sectors by expanding pilot programmes across the education sector and public sector buildings.
- Support the development and implementation of an NHS Scotland national action plan on food waste.
- Develop best practice guidance for public sector procurement teams to drive new ways of working and more transparent supply chains.
- A sustained approach to public engagement and communications to enable the public to make changes in their choices and behaviours around food and food waste, in partnership with Zero Waste Scotland.

The outcome to reduce waste and establish a more circular economy, where goods and materials are kept in use for longer, is supported by the following proposals:

- We will work with local authorities and the future Deposit Return Scheme administrator(s) to explore options that will unlock reprocessing investments, including pricing and incentive schemes, to create jobs and a ready supply of recycled material for new packaging.
- Measures to encourage more sustainable consumer purchasing, including plans to take further steps to consult on a charge on single use disposable beverage cups and to increase the carrier bag minimum charge from 5p to 10p in this parliamentary session.
- Banning priority single use items: We will consult on banning a number of problematic plastic items identified in the European Union's Single Use Plastics Directive (with a view to introducing legislation in 2021) and outline how we will give effect to the wider requirements of the Directive before the end of 2020.
- Implementation of our Deposit Return Scheme for single use drinks containers.
- We will also work collaboratively across the public sector developing tools and guidance and a practical approach to influence and empower buyer, supplier and key stakeholder communities to use public procurement to support a green recovery and our wider climate and circular economy ambitions through procurement, embedding climate considerations in organisational procurement strategies by 2021 and reporting progress in annual procurement reports.
- Reforming extended producer responsibility schemes: We will continue to work with the UK Government and other devolved administrations on reforms to the packaging extended producer responsibility regime, which we expect will deliver improved funding for local authorities in the future.
- We are boosting our commitment to building a circular economy, where goods and materials are kept in use for longer. We will deliver this by embedding circular recovery principles in the wider green recovery. Through Zero Waste Scotland and



Scottish Environment Protection Agency, we will intensify our work with industry and businesses to address emissions associated with production, consumption and waste of products / resources; and to promote resource efficiency.

- In the context of the latest Climate Change Committee recommendations and building on progress already made by the sector, we will consider measures to ensure new energy from waste plants are more efficient, and 'future-proofed' for Carbon Capture and Storage technology.
- As part of our work on developing a route map to 2025, we will undertake a specific and focused piece of work to examine the range of fiscal measures used by other countries to incentivise positive behaviours and to develop proposals to go further in this area.

### **Infrastructure Investment Plan 2021 – 2022 to 2025 – 2026**

The Infrastructure Investment Plan outlines the strategic approach to delivering Scotland's National Infrastructure Mission to increase economic growth by increasing annual investment in Scotland's infrastructure. In delivering this vision, the Infrastructure Investment Plan focuses on three core strategic themes for guiding investment decisions in Scotland namely:

- Enabling the transition to net zero emissions and environmental sustainability.
- Driving inclusive economic growth.
- Building resilient and sustainable places.

The first theme: Enabling the transition to net zero emissions and environmental sustainability under the Plan aims to deliver:

- Decarbonising heat and improved building efficiency.
- Decarbonising industry, including manufacturing.
- Support a growing circular economy.
- Improve resilience and adaptation.
- Increase investment in natural capital.

### **Making Things Last: A Circular Economy Strategy for Scotland 2016**

The Strategy sets out Scottish Government's priorities for moving towards a more circular economy - where products and materials are kept in high value use for as long as possible. It builds on Scotland's progress in the zero waste and resource efficiency agendas, its aims to benefit:

- The environment – cutting waste and carbon emissions and reducing reliance on scarce resources.



- The economy – improving productivity, opening up new markets and improving resilience.
- Communities – more, lower cost options to access the goods we need with opportunities for social enterprise.

The strategy prioritising four key areas for Scotland, namely:

- Food and drink and the broader bio-economy
- Remanufacture
- Construction and the built environment
- Energy infrastructure.

In the National Park, due to the absence of wind farms or oil and gas infrastructure, the last priority has no current relevance or application this is what it is primarily concerned with.

A significant portion of the economy is centred around tourist infrastructure, which is heavily weighted toward accommodation and food and drink services. The strategy sets a target to cut food waste by 2025. Matters relating to tourism are covered in the Tourism evidence paper<sup>1</sup>.

There is also a focus on recycling, with targets to improve recycling rates. Scotland's long-term targets to recycle 70% of all waste and send no more than 5% of waste to landfill can in part be achieved by increasing the quantity and quality of materials recycled supporting a circular economy.

The Strategy sets out the intention to review the rural exemption for food waste in the Waste (Scotland) Regulations 2012.

The Strategy reaffirms the circular economy opportunities from the beer and whisky sectors, which was highlighted by Zero Waste Scotland. With a number of distilleries and micro-brewery operators in the National Park there is potential opportunities for further recycling / reuse of materials within these sectors.

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<sup>1</sup> See <https://cairngorms.co.uk/wp-content/uploads/2024/10/Topic-paper-Tourism-Engagement-version.pdf>



## **Scotland's Circular Economy and Waste Route Map to 2030 consultation 2024**

The Scotland's Circular Economy and Waste Route Map is part of the Scottish Government's wider response to the wider climate challenges, sitting alongside a range of other strategies and plans. It provides an update on Scotland's Climate Change Vision for 2045 building on the previous 2018 Climate Change Plan.

Delivery of the Circular Economy and Waste Route Map is a key commitment set out in the Scottish Programme for Government 2023 – 2024, and the Bute House Agreement. It is designed to drive progress on three key fronts:

1. Setting the strategic direction and laying foundations for how Scotland will deliver its 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.
2. Setting out priority actions from now to 2030 to accelerate more sustainable use of our resources across the waste hierarchy. The report acknowledges the progress made against the existing 2025 waste reduction and recycling targets, the areas it has fallen short, and the lessons that can learn as the framework is set out for what comes next.
3. Reducing emissions associated with resources and waste. In 2024, the Scottish Government will set out how it will continue to drive down emissions in a draft Climate Change Plan. The Route Map sets out the opportunities Scottish Government will take to decarbonise the waste sector.

As Scotland has progressed toward a more circular economy, the following ambitions were set out over the last decade:

- 15% reduction of all waste by 2025, against 2011 levels (on track)
- 33% reduction of food waste by 2025, based on 2013 baseline (off track)
- Minimum of 60% recycling of household waste by 2020 (missed)
- Minimum of 70% recycling of all waste by 2025 (at risk)
- Maximum 5% of all waste to landfill by 2025 (off track)
- A ban on all biodegradable municipal waste going to landfill by 2025 (on track).

Priority actions are set out in the document to support Scottish Government's vision and delivery of remaining targets.





## **Circular Economy Bill 2024**

The legislation provides Ministers and local authorities the powers required to increase reuse and recycling rates, as well as modernise and improve waste and recycling services.

The Circular Economy Bill will give Ministers the powers to:

- Set local recycling targets, building on the experience of Wales, which has the best recycling rate in the UK.
- Set statutory targets for delivery of a circular economy to measure progress in transforming the economy.
- Restrict the disposal of unsold consumer goods, to prevent good products ending up in landfill.
- Place charges on single-use items like disposable cups to encourage the move to reusable alternatives.
- Give local authorities additional enforcement powers, allowing them to crack down on fly tipping and littering from cars.

The measures will be underpinned by support and investment, building on the investments already made through the £70 million Recycling Improvement Fund. Details of funded projects in the Local Authorities overlapping the areas of the National Park are outlined later in the report.

## **The Charter for Household Recycling 2016**

In 2016 the Scottish Government and COSLA<sup>2</sup> agreed a Household Recycling Charter that aims to bring more consistency to recycling services. The Household Recycling Charter was the key recommendation from the Zero Waste Taskforce, a joint initiative between Scottish Ministers and COSLA. Perth and Kinross signed up to the voluntary charter.

The charter outlines the following:

- A promise to enhance household waste and recycling services to increase resource recovery and improve their quality.
- The ability to customise services to meet the unique needs of all citizens, regardless of their household type or location.

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<sup>2</sup> COSLA is the national membership organisation for Scottish Local Government. Comprising all of Scotland's 32 councils, COSLA sets the strategic direction for Local Government to best deliver for Scotland's communities.





- An opportunity to encourage citizens to participate in recycling and reuse services, ensuring that resources are fully utilised.
- Commitment to operating services in a way that guarantees staff safety, competence, and fair treatment, with the necessary skills to deliver effective and efficient resource management on behalf of communities.
- To accomplish this, the Code of Practice encapsulates best practices to deliver cost-effective and high-performing recycling services.

## **Historic Environment Scotland Climate Action Plan 2020 – 2025**

In this action plan Historic Environment Scotland have set out how they plan to transform the way they operate in response to the growing climate emergency. The actions focus on:

- How they will tackle the causes of the climate crisis and respond to the impacts.
- Changes in the way they protect and operate some of Scotland's most recognisable places and landmarks and the landscapes and infrastructure around them.
- Sharing knowledge, building resilience, and investing in sustainability to support others to address the climate emergency.

The action plan contains a number of actions specific to waste management under the theme of circular economy. These include:

- Develop a Circular Economy Plan for Historic Environment Scotland to identify new circular business models and opportunities for the organisation.
- Implement a new corporate waste management, reduction, reuse and recycling plan detailing corporate standards, targets and staff guidance for our waste activities, including improving infrastructure.
- Revise and update contracts for waste collections to ensure compliance, improve standards and improve monitoring and reporting on waste.
- Incentivise organisation-wide waste reduction by establishing the true costs of waste disposal and assigning responsibility to business areas through transparent accounting.
- Continue to drive actions from the Historic Environment Scotland Litter Prevention Action Plan.
- Identify areas where Historic Environment Scotland can undertake focused waste transformation projects involving packaging, plastics, printing and biodegradable waste, including championing digital and reusable alternatives and composting alongside reducing the amount of non-recyclable materials and products we purchase and produce.
- Champion adaptive reuse, repair and maintenance of historic and traditional buildings.



- Work with partners to research the carbon benefits of reusing buildings and structures over new construction, and contribute to waste solutions for construction.
- Work with partners
- and the wider sector to invest in circular projects, products and services – including working towards a sharing economy, supporting new routes to reuse, and investing in the repurposing and recycling sectors.
- Take action on food waste and reducing food miles.

## **Cairngorms National Park Partnership Plan 2022**

While the National Park Partnership Plan must be considered as a whole, the following objective is of particular relevance to this topic:

Policy C2 reflects the need for the Local Development Plan to support development of a low carbon, circular economy, with a particular focus on:

- Supporting businesses and communities to use less energy, reduce emissions, improve the energy efficiency of existing buildings, generate low impact renewable energy, reduce, reuse and recycle resources, and plan for a changing climate.
- Promoting high standards of sustainable design and efficient use of energy and materials in construction.

Keep Scotland Beautiful (KSB) is a partner listed in the Partnership Plan. It is a charity devoted to Scotland's environment, with a vision for a clean, green, sustainable Scotland. The charity has three goals: to combat climate change, tackle litter and waste, and protect and enhance the places people live, work and visit.

## **Local Development Plan 2021 Action Programme 2022**

The Action Programme, updated annually, gives updates on the progress of services infrastructure projects within or affecting the Cairngorms National Park.

The allocated site ED3 in Aviemore is the location of the Private recycling plant run by David Richie & Sons at Granish Quarry. The Action Programme reported that the majority of site in operation with some capacity for additional economic development. Due to the presence of small watercourses, a flood risk assessment, or other supporting information, will be required to identify the functional floodplain and developable area. A Drainage Impact Assessment is required and should address existing surface water flooding issues. The Action Plan reported an additional 5.3Ha of land available for economic development. A planning application was approved in March 2023 for the erection of 20 commercial letting units and access roads.



The Action Programme will be updated and adopted as a Delivery Programme in March 2025.

## **Highland Council Our Future Highland: Corporate Plan 2022 – 2027**

Highland Council's 'Our Future Highland' is Highland's Councils ambitious Plan for the future to maximise opportunities and the resources it has to improve the quality of life for people in the Highlands. One of the key strategic priorities set out in the Plan is centred around 'A Sustainable Highland Environment and Global Centre for Renewable Energy'. Under the place heading in this section the council sets out its commitment to reduce residual waste and increase re-use, repair, recycling and upcycling. The Plan sets out the action to:

- Continue ongoing partnership with 'ILM Highland' for re-use and repair services while exploring options for expansion.

The Plan sets out the target to increase the percentage of household waste being recycled to match the stated Scottish value of 42.7%. Waste and recycling in the Highland Council is overseen by the Communities and Place committee.

## **Highland Council Net Zero Strategy**

This Strategy sets out the Council's approach to addressing the climate emergency and contributing towards Scotland's national legally binding target to become Net Zero by 2045. Highland Council will adopt the Scottish Government's Net Zero by 2045 target, aiming to achieve this sooner. The route map to Net Zero included in this Strategy also sets key interim targets to reduce emissions by at least 75% by 2030 and by at least 90% by 2040. The Strategy sets out the Councils commitment to reducing waste and increasing recycling in its corporate operations.

## **Aberdeenshire Waste Strategy 2019 – 2023**

The Waste Strategy 2019 to 2023 for Aberdeenshire was a five-year strategy that aimed to maximise reuse and recycling. In addition to providing more information to residents about what and how to recycle, the strategy also involves changes to the kerbside collection service and the recycling centre. It also set out the commitment to support the move to a circular economy, by reducing household waste and increasing the recycling rate in Aberdeenshire to 55% by 2023. The strategy also set out targets to increase the number of materials that could be recycled through home recycling centres.



Aberdeenshire Council have reported (in a recent Local Development Plan 3 evidence paper) that a new Waste Strategy for Aberdeenshire council is currently being developed and is not yet available publicly. The document will provide insight to the current status of waste assets in Aberdeenshire. It will provide detail on how effectively they are operating and what capacity they have. It will also finally lay out issues that will need to be addressed to accommodate Aberdeenshire's future waste disposal needs and what steps will need to be taken so that the Council are in step with new regulations on waste disposal.

### **Angus Council Plan 2023 – 2028 – Delivering services for people**

The Angus Council Plan sets out the council's vision, priorities and overarching strategic policy framework for the period up to February 2028. Set out in the Council's priorities under the 'Caring for our Place' theme is the commitment to:

- Deliver efficient waste services and encourage more recycling and cleaner streets.

The Council sets out the indicators of progress in terms of increasing recycling and reducing waste to be measured by the annual percentage of total household waste arising that is recycled. The baseline is the 2020 / 2021 figure of 54.70% with the target for 2025 / 2026 set at 56% and 2027 / 2028 set at 58%.

Service Plan information in the Plan is set out on a 'One Council' basis with actions under each of the related Council Plan priorities. Most actions are high-level and strategic in nature and their delivery will be dependent upon supporting actions that are part of services' operational plans. There is the following action relating to recycling:

- Deliver efficient waste services and encourage more recycling and cleaner streets which includes introducing a revised kerbside recycling project to increase recycling and reduce disposal rates.

A key partnership highlighted in the Council Plan is the Community Planning Partnership for Angus, and it builds on the strength of partnership working to have a bigger impact on the delivery of its agreed priorities.

### **Perth and Kinross Council Waste Management Plan 2010 – 2025**

The Waste Management Plan was developed in order to work towards delivering Scotland's Zero Waste Plan targets at a local level. The aim of the Council's Waste Management Plan is to map out a way forward for the Council in terms of:

- Achieving the national recycling and composting rates at local level.
- Achieving landfill allowance scheme targets (if these are re-instated).



- Developing initiatives to control waste arisings and waste growth.
- Looking into potential partnership agreements.
- Determining the way forward for the procurement of residual waste treatment.
- Determining the future financial implications for waste management in Perth and Kinross.
- Promoting the circular economy.

## **Perth and Kinross Climate Change Strategy and Action Plan 2021**

The Climate Change Strategy and Action Plan sets out the Council's journey, outlining the initial route map to take Perth and Kinross to a net zero carbon and climate resilient area. In relation to waste and the circular economy the Plan aims to ensure alignment with the Scottish Government Climate Change Route map, promote a rapid transition to a circular economy and maximise the value from waste by reducing waste to landfill.

The Plan provides the Councils overall vision to ensure it achieves a low carbon and climate resilient Perth and Kinross. The direct Scope 1 and 2 emissions associated with the treatment and processing for Council collected waste is only estimated as 18.5kt CO<sub>2</sub>e for 2020. Where waste has a much larger footprint is through its Scope 3 emissions, which are estimated at 134 kt CO<sub>2</sub>e. These are the emissions associated with the production of goods (e.g. the emissions associated with growing food that is going to waste) and the associated emissions that could be avoided if the product was recycled appropriately (e.g. recycled versus virgin glass).

The plan highlights waste can be managed sustainably through reducing, reusing, repairing and recycling. Perth & Kinross Council aim to improve resource efficiency by helping to work towards a circular economy (where we reuse materials, rather than taking the traditional approach of making items, using them and throwing them away).

The Plan sets out the following targets in relation to waste and the circular economy:

- Recycling 65% of municipal waste in line with EU targets by 2032.
- Reduce waste carbon emissions by 0.8 Mega tonnes by 2032.
- All plastic packaging to be economically recycled or reusable by 2030.
- Reduce food waste by 33% by 2025.
- 15% reduction in all waste by 2025.
- In 2025 ban on all waste going to landfill.



## **Community action plans**

The following action plans identified issues and / or priorities relating to waste infrastructure and management.

### **Ballater and Crathie Community Action Plan 2023**

One of the goals set out in the Community Action Plan is provide adequate litter and dog poo bins in our outdoor space. Under focus area five: Community Support the operational goal to deliver the food pantry and cookery classes has a sub aim of supporting and encouraging a reduction in food waste. There are no other implications arising from the Action Plan in relation to zero waste in the National Park.

### **Blair Athol Community Action Plan: Looking to 2030**

The Community Action Plan sets out the priority for more dog waste bins and signage in the village. There are no other implications arising from the Action Plan in relation to zero waste in the National Park.

### **Carrbridge Community Action Plan: Looking to 2030**

The Carrbridge Community Plan makes several references to waste and recycling. Under the priority to build up community resilience, the Plan sets out the action to introduce food waste cycling in the settlement.

Under the priority to increase opportunities to attract tourism and business to the area, there is an action set out to deliver a designated and supported site for campervans, which must include waste and recycling facilities. To deliver this the Plan states the starting point for implementation should start with the waste disposal design / aspect. Facilities will need to include bins, recycling, grey water and brown water waste treatment.

There is also a suggestion to introduce recycling bins to the car park and more dog waste bins at the entrances to the forest walks.

### **Dalnain Bridge Community Action Plan Review 2016**

One of the high priorities set out in the Action Plan is to deliver more dog waste bins. There are no other implications arising from the Action Plan in relation to zero waste in the National Park.



## **Dalwhinnie Community Action Plan: Looking to 2030**

Under the priority to reduce energy consumption as a village or and for households there is an action set out to deliver a local green waste recycling plot for locals' garden waste. In another priority the Action Plan also set out the action to deliver more litter bins and dog waste bins and to request they are emptied more regularly.

## **Kincraig Community Action Plan**

A low priority set out in the Action Plan for Kincraig includes the action to deliver more litter bins in the village. There are no other implications arising from the Action Plan in relation to zero waste in the National Park.

An updated Kincraig Community Action Plan is due to be published in November 2024.

## **Laggan Community Action Plan: Looking to 2023**

Under the priority to improve the villages visual appearance, there is an action to get more roadside rubbish bins and ensure bins in the village are emptied more regularly. This is further discussed in the key infrastructure / issues section highlighting the need for better waste disposal options for visitors to prevent rubbish being dumped on roadside, public toilets getting blocked and residents' private bins being filled with camping equipment, food waste etc. It was reported that the issue won't go away and is getting worse, creating bad feeling between residents and tourists who have nowhere to dispose of their waste.

There is an action set out under the environmental theme for:

- Better facilities for visitors in caravans / campers / tents etc. including toilet waste facilities, general waste / recycling.

Matters relating to caravans / campers / tents are covered in the Tourism evidence paper<sup>3</sup>.

## **Nethy Bridge Community Action Plan: Looking to 2030**

A suggestion from the secondary school aged pupils living in the area included more rubbish bins. As with many of the other settlements / actions plans, concerns about dog litter promoted actions to deliver more dog litter bins.

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<sup>3</sup> See <https://cairngorms.co.uk/wp-content/uploads/2024/10/Topic-paper-Tourism-Engagement-version.pdf>



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## **Newtonmore Community Action Plan: Looking to 2023**

Under the priority to build up the community's resilience, there is an action to explore the possibility of a food waste share scheme. There is also an action for more recycling bins in Main Street, and food recycling at home. It is understood the community are or have been lobbying the council for these changes.

Under the priority to increase opportunities to attract tourism and business to the local area there are the following actions:

- Have a designated and supported site for campervans (waste, recycling and electric charging).
- Larger campsite for campers and tourers to include Electric hook up and other facilities for example of bin, water, grey and brown water waste.

There was also a suggestion to increase number of dog poo bins, for example at Am Fasgadh.

## **Strathdon Community Action Plan 2016**

Under the theme covering the environment there was suggestion for more strategically placed micro waste and recycling facilities and signage.

An update to Strathdon Community Action Plan is being undertaken in November 2024.





## Baseline of waste matters

This paper summarises a number of matters relating to waste infrastructure, including:

- The types of waste management facilities serving the National Park.
- The capacity of waste management facilities serving the National Park.
- Household waste and recycling rates.
- Public investment in recycling infrastructure.

There are links between this policy area and climate change, economic development<sup>4</sup>, energy<sup>5</sup>, heating and cooling<sup>6</sup>, and land-use soil and resources<sup>7</sup>.

## Local authority recycling and waste infrastructure

The area covered by the Cairngorms National Park overlaps five Local Authority Council areas, which all have their own approaches to Waste and Recycling management. This section gives an overview of the operations in each area in and affecting the National Park. Scottish Environment Protection Agency provide data on waste sites, in relation to capacity, which has been included in this section. The data is the most up to date publicly available data, correct for 2022. There are no operating landfill sites in the National Park. Figure 2 shows the waste management assets in and serving the National Park. The data is collated from the Scottish Environment Protection Agency (2022) data and data shown on the local authority webpages locating their own assets. There are no operating landfill sites in the National Park.

The matter of energy from waste is covered in the energy evidence paper<sup>5</sup>.

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<sup>4</sup> Topic papers on climate change and economic development will be engaged on in 2025.

<sup>5</sup> <https://cairngormsldp.commonplace.is/en-GB/proposals/energy-survey/step1>

<sup>6</sup> See <https://cairngormsldp.commonplace.is/en-GB/proposals/heating-and-cooling-survey/step1>

<sup>7</sup> See <https://cairngorms.co.uk/wp-content/uploads/2024/11/Land-use-soil-and-resources-Engagement-version.pdf>

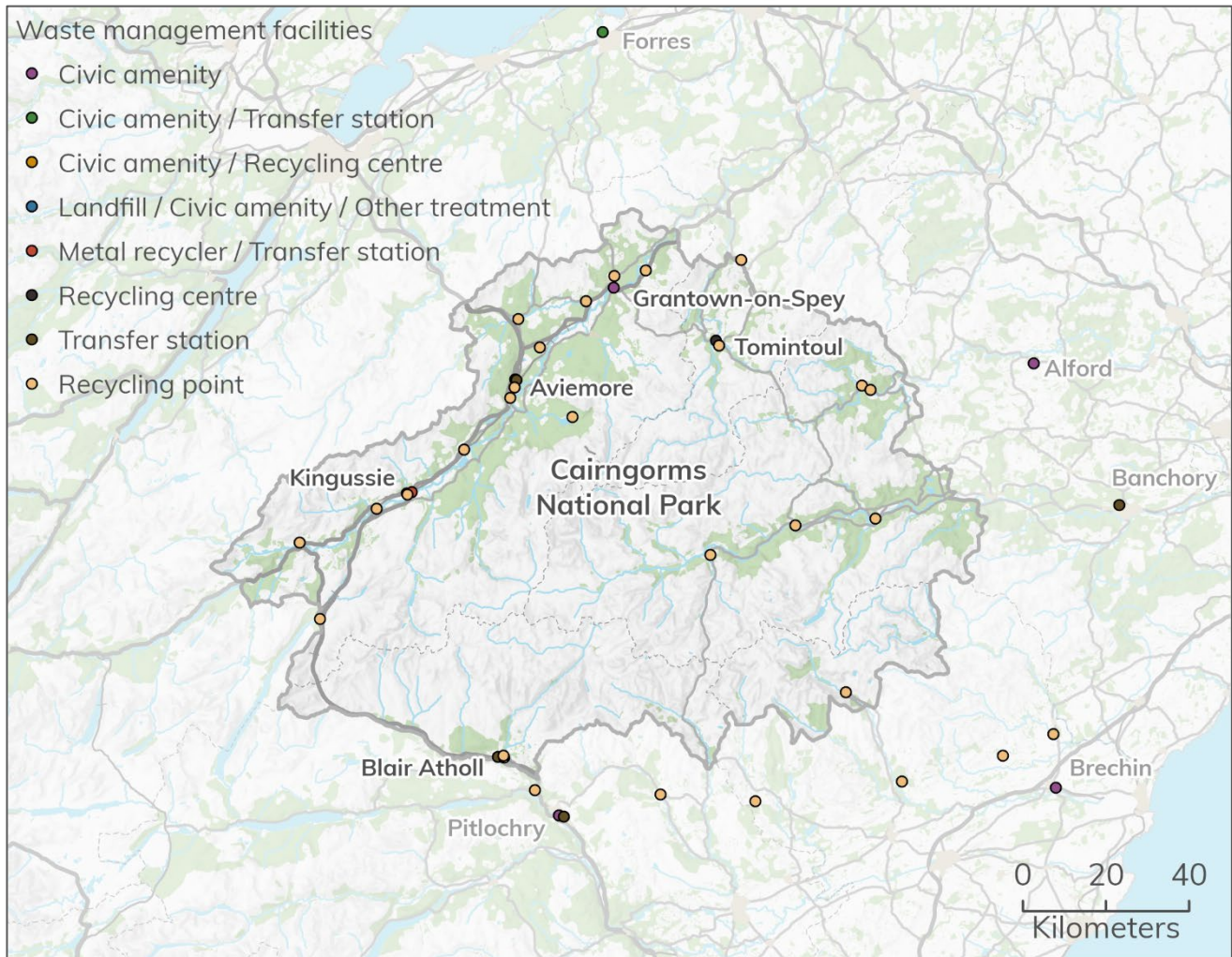


Figure 2 Map showing the waste management facilities within and serving the residents of the Cairngorms National Park. Reproduced by permission of Ordnance Survey on behalf of His Majesty's Stationery Office. © Crown copyright and database right 2024. All rights reserved. Ordnance Survey Licence number AC0000821810, Cairngorms National Park Authority. Contains data © Scottish Environment Protection Agency, 2024.

## Highland Council

In August 2024 the Highland Council's Climate Change Committee approved a report outlining the Council's commitment to aligning its operations with the Circular Economy (Scotland) Bill. The report highlights the positive impact of the circular economy on reducing waste, promoting resource efficiency, and contributing to the Council's ambitious net zero emissions targets. The next steps highlighted in the report, include:

- Developing a Circular Economy Strategy: The Council will develop a tailored strategy to guide its transition to a circular economy.
- Investing in Recycling Infrastructure: The Council will invest in improved recycling facilities and infrastructure to enhance waste management capabilities.



- Promoting Sustainable Procurement: The Council will prioritise the procurement of sustainable and circular products and services.
- Engaging with Communities: The Council will actively engage with communities and businesses to raise awareness of circular economy principles and encourage participation.

For domestic waste and recycling Highland Council provides the following collections:

- Blue – paper and cardboard
- Green – cans and plastic bottles
- Brown bins - organic waste
- Grey – All other waste that cannot be recycled.

There are currently no domestic residential glass recycling collection options available in the Badenoch and Strathspey, Highland Council area of the National Park. Residents are encouraged to recycle glass at the recycling points.

### **Recycling Points**

The following locations offer recycling points for Highland residents in the National Park:

- Aviemore Dalfaber Industrial Estate, PH22 1ST - glass, textiles and shoes
- Aviemore Tesco Car Park, Grampian Road, PH22 1RH - glass, textiles and shoes.
- Boat of Garten Lorry Park PH24 3BF - glass, textiles and shoes.
- Carrbridge Car Park PH23 3AS - glass, textiles and shoes.
- Cromdale, Post Office PH26 3LW - glass, textiles and shoes.
- Dalwhinnie Garage Car Park PH19 1AF - glass, textiles and shoes.
- Dulnain Bridge Picnic Area PH26 3LU - glass, textiles and shoes.
- Glenmore, Campsite, PH22 1QU – glass.
- Grantown, Burnfield Car Park, PH26 3HH - glass, textiles and shoes.
- Kincaig, Village Hall, PH21 1NA - glass, textiles and shoes.
- Kingussie, Market Stance, PH21 1EP - glass, textiles and shoes.
- Laggan, Lay-by, Doctor's Surgery, PH20 1AH - glass, textiles and shoes.
- Newtonmore, Industrial Estate, PH20 1AL - glass, textiles and shoes.

### **Recycling Centres**

There are three recycling centres in the Highland area of the Cairngorms National Park, in Grantown on Spey, Kingussie and Aviemore.

The Grantown on Spey recycling centre / civic amenity is located at the Achnagonalin Industrial Estate, PH26 3TA, is open on Saturdays only from 9am to 3pm Materials accepted at this site include:



- Bulky household items (for example mattresses, rolls of carpet and garden tools)
- Cardboard
- Garden waste
- Gas cylinders
- General household waste
- Glass
- Household batteries
- Light bulbs and fluorescent tubes
- Mixed dry recyclables
- Scrap metal
- Soil and rubble
- Textiles
- Wood.

The Grantown on Spey site is classified as a civic amenity / recycling centre by SEPA. It operates under a licence from Highland Council with a permit for an annual capacity of 999 tonnes. According to Scottish Environment Protection Agency, in 2022, 391 tonnes of waste was processed at the site (with equal inputs and outputs recorded).

The Kingussie recycling centre / civic amenity is located at Market Lane, PH21 1EP. It is open on Saturday only from 9am to 3pm. Materials accepted at this site include:

- Bulky items
- Cardboard
- Garden waste
- General household waste
- Scrap metal
- Wood.

According to Scottish Environment Protection Agency, the recycling centre / civic amenity site at Market Lane in Kingussie is classed as a 'Multiple activity'<sup>8</sup> site. The annual waste capacity on the permit (tonnes) for this site is 999t. In 2022, the site processed 182 tonnes of waste (representing equal inputs and outputs).

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<sup>8</sup> This category is used for a site that is licensed or permitted to carry out two or more waste management activities under one licence or permit. In this case, the reported tonnages represent the total wastes inputted to the site, treated onsite and sent offsite, not tonnages per activity. It is not possible to allocate specific capacities or waste tonnages to the separate activities carried out at multiple activity sites. Similarly, the reported capacities are for the site as a whole, not per activity.



There is another waste site recorded by Scottish Environment Protection Agency in Kingussie at 'The Yard' Manse Road, Kingussie. It is operated by Thomas Nolan and is classified as a waste transfer station and metal recycling station. The annual waste capacity permit is for 500 tonnes. In 2022, the site processed 241 tonnes of waste (representing equal inputs and outputs).

The Aviemore recycling centre is located at Granish Landfill Site, PH22 1QD. It is open Monday to Friday from 9am to 4pm and on Saturdays from 10am to 4pm. Materials accepted at this site include:

- Bulky household items (for example sofas, mattresses, rolls of carpet and garden tools)
- Car batteries
- Cardboard
- Garden waste
- Gas cylinders
- General household waste
- Glass
- Household batteries
- Light bulbs and fluorescent tubes
- Mixed dry recyclables
- Plasterboard
- Scrap metal
- Small and large electrical appliances
- Soil and rubble
- Textiles
- Wood.

The recycling centre / civic amenity site at Aviemore is operated by Highland Council with an annual waste capacity permit for 2,500 tonnes. According to Scottish Environment Protection Agency, in 2022, the site processed 1,292 tonnes of waste (representing equal inputs and outputs).

There is also a waste transfer site at Aviemore at Granish Farm, operated by David Ritchie and Sons Ltd. This site has an annual waste capacity permit for 25,000 tonnes. According to Scottish Environment Protection Agency, in 2022 the waste inputs were recorded at 13,351 tonnes and outputs at 9,363 tonnes.

The on-site recycling centre / civic amenity at Granish Farm (operated by David Ritchie and Sons Ltd) is where all collected and delivered-in waste is processed through its





custom-built recycling plant which supports their Zero waste to landfill objective. The wheelie-bin service, which currently covers the Cairngorm National Park area, is used for the collection of all waste streams, covering commercial general wastes, dry mixed recycling, glass, green and food wastes.

They also offer 240 and 1,100 litre wheelie bins which can be taken on various hire schedules, from daily, weekly or on an as required basis, others may be available upon request. All collected waste is returned to the Granish Recycling Centre, in Aviemore and put through the appropriate recycling procedures. Everything is returned to the in-house recycling facility for sorting and recycling.

### **Community interest**

Sustainable Strathspey's objective is to provide a space where people can share and discuss ideas, and act together. The aims of the group are to:

- Reduce Badenoch and Strathspey's carbon footprint Reduce waste in Badenoch and Strathspey.
- Provide a source of accurate information and practical advice on issues to do with global climate change and associated issues.
- Provide a focal point for information exchange and networking on sustainable issues. Promote and facilitate health and well-being within the Badenoch and Strathspey community as an integral part of sustainable living.
- Promote community resilience and the emergence of a more green/circular economy Support and facilitate political involvement and activism within the community.

Sustainable Strathspey are part of the Scottish Communities Climate Action Network – a network of community groups and organisations those aim is to inspire and promote, connect and support community-led action in Scotland to address the Climate Emergency.

Another local community group with an interest in waste reduction and recycling is the Badenoch Climate Action group, part of the Highlands and Islands Climate Hub.

The Highlands and Islands Climate Hub is funded by the Scottish Government and has the purpose of supporting community-led climate action across the region. the Hub is one of the first in a network of community climate action hubs being formed across Scotland to support communities to make a just transition towards net zero and support a climate ready Scotland. The Hub operates across the Highlands and Islands region with a team ready to assist communities in their climate action journey, from developing new projects with a specific climate action focus or working with community groups to



embed more climate friendly behaviours into their existing work. From community engagement, climate action plans, net zero policies to design, development and delivery of a project the organisation can lend additional capacity, support and advice.

### **Pet cemeteries**

In the Highland area there is one pet cemetery listed at Benview, Inverness (under an undisclosed operator) with an annual waste capacity permit for 5 tonnes, no data on usage in 2022 is provided by Scottish Environment Protection Agency SEPA.

### **Moray Council**

Since mid-2023, the Council's non-recyclable waste has been processed at the NESS Energy from Waste (EfW) facility alongside waste from Aberdeen City Council and Aberdeenshire Council.

The NESS energy from waste facility, located in East Tullos, processes non-recyclable waste from Moray, Aberdeen City and Aberdeenshire councils, produces electricity for the national grid, and will provide heat for a local district heating network. Waste taken to the facility is burned cleanly and completely, meeting strict European Union emission standards. The facility aligns with Scotland's vision of becoming a zero-waste society. As a shared project, the facility costs less and provides the best value for all three councils. Waste from Moray is delivered via the Aberdeen Western Peripheral Route and gets to the site through East Tullos Industrial Estate via Wellington Road.

In terms of identification and investment in additional waste management facilities Aberdeenshire Council have indicated are no plans to invest in new waste management infrastructure in the short to medium term. The Council continue to operate the landfill site at present. Low levels of waste are currently being accepted by the Council from private sector waste producers. A decision has been made to begin the final capping and reinstatement procedures in 2024 / 2025 as per conditions set by the Scottish Environment Protection Agency as the regulator.

The Council currently has the highest recycling rate in Scotland, however all the easier and cost-effective measures to support recycling have been implemented already. Significant investment is needed to further increase recycling rates, and it is reportedly proving difficult to develop viable business cases to attract Scottish Government funding. Moray Council have committed to continuing to monitor waste trends and ensure any emerging requirements for new waste management facilities or expansion of existing are identified.



Moray Council have produced a recycling guide that is aimed to help residents move to zero waste (updated in March 2020). The guide is available here:

- <http://www.moray.gov.uk/downloads/file120638.pdf>

In the Moray area of the National Park, there are two recycling points. One at Glenlivet Community Hall and the other at the High Street car park in Tomintoul. Waste recycling points are open 24 hours / day. At both points it is possible to recycle cans, glass and paper.

There is a recycling centre in Tomintoul (Conglass Lane Recycling Centre) which caters for the recycling of cans, glass plastic bottles / containers, paper and cardboard and textiles. The centre is unmanned and open Monday to Saturday from 9am till 4pm and on Sunday from 10am till 3pm.

More information on recycling locations in the Moray Council area can be found here:

- [http://www.moray.gov.uk/moray\\_standard/page\\_41056.html](http://www.moray.gov.uk/moray_standard/page_41056.html)

For domestic waste and recycling. Moray provides the following collections:

- Blue bin – paper and cardboard
- Orange box – glass
- Purple – cans and plastic bottles
- Brown bins - organic waste and kitchen waste
- Green bins – All other waste that cannot be recycled.

There is one operating civic amenity / waste transfer sites close to the National Park, which is in Forres. The site in Forres is located at Waterford Road and has an annual waste capacity permit for 15,288 tonnes. According to Scottish Environment Protection Agency, in 2022 the site's waste inputs was recorded at 8,772 tonnes and outputs at 8,367 tonnes. There is another waste transfer site in Elgin which is currently not operating.

The closest civic amenity / recycling centre for the residents in the Moray area of the National Park would be the one at Grantown on Spey (Highland).

### **Pet cemeteries**

In Moray, outwith the National Park there is a pet cemetery (under undisclosed private contract) at Portlong Road, Cullen, Buckie. It has an annual waste capacity permit for 30





tonnes, no data on usage in 2022 is recorded by Scottish Environment Protection Agency.

## **Aberdeenshire Council**

Aberdeenshire aims to work toward a circular economy by utilising the existing waste assets in the Council area, namely the waste depots, waste transfer stations and home recycling centres. Aberdeenshire Council have indicated<sup>9</sup> that further actions will need to be taken to ensure waste assets are able to cope with current and future waste loads and future regulations including additional waste streams<sup>10</sup>.

There are no recycling centres in the National Park within the Aberdeenshire Council area. Outwith the Cairngorms National Park, the closest recycling centres are located in Alford and Banchory which may be used by residents from the National Park.

### **Alford Recycling Centre**

The Alford recycling centre / civic amenity site is located on Mart Road, AB33 8BZ. From the January 2024 visits were restricted by booking only for commercial type vehicles and trailers, other vehicles don't need to book. Pedestrian access without booking is available daily, 12pm to 12.30pm. Vehicles are banned during those times to allow pedestrians, bicycles, and bikes with trailers safe access.

The opening times are as follows:

- Monday 9am to 4.30pm
- Friday 9am to 4pm
- Saturday and Sunday 9am to 4.30pm

Items accepted at the Alford centre:

- Batteries (household and car)
- Bikes
- Blue and orange bin recycling
- Bulky items
- Cardboard
- Cooking oil
- Electrical appliances (anything with a plug or batteries)
- Engine oil

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<sup>9</sup> In their Local Development Plan 3 evidence report engagement topic paper on Zero Waste. See <https://engage.aberdeenshire.gov.uk/ldp-evidence-report-zero-waste>

<sup>10</sup> Waste streams are the flow of a particular waste from pick up to the point where it is either recycled or disposed of.



- Fluorescent tubes (including energy-saving light bulbs)
- Garden waste
- Gas cylinders
- Glass bottles and jars
- Polystyrene expanded (EPS) (please break up any large lengths of polystyrene before taking this to the household recycling centre)
- Rubble and ceramics
- Scrap metal
- Soil and turf
- Textiles
- Wood (including treated)
- Non-recyclable waste.

This household recycling centre also accepts pre-loved bicycles to be recycled and refurbished through a local charity.

The site is operated by Aberdeenshire Council with an annual waste capacity permit for 3,500 tonnes. According to Scottish Environment Protection Agency, in 2022, 978 tonnes of waste was processed at the site (equal inputs and outputs were recorded).

### **Banchory recycling centre**

The Banchory recycling centre is located at Crow's Nest, Upper Lochton Road, AB31 4EQ. From the January 2024 visits were also restricted by booking only for commercial type vehicles and trailers, other vehicles don't need to book. There is no pedestrian access, as pedestrians can't be safely separated from the vehicles. Vehicles are banned during those times to allow pedestrians, bicycles, and bikes with trailers safe access. The opening times are as follows:

- Monday 9am to 4.30pm
- Friday 9am to 4pm
- Saturday and Sunday 9am to 4.30pm.

Items accepted at the Banchory centre:

- Batteries (household and car)
- Bikes
- Blue and orange bin recycling
- Bulky items
- Cooking oil
- Electrical appliances (anything with a plug or batteries)



- Engine oil
- Fluorescent tubes (including energy-saving light bulbs)
- Garden waste
- Gas cylinders
- Glass bottles and jars
- Plasterboard
- Polystyrene (please break up any large lengths of polystyrene before taking this to the household recycling centre)
- Rubble and ceramics
- Scrap metal
- Soil and turf
- Textiles
- Wood (including treated)
- Non-recyclable waste.

This household recycling centre also accepts certain pre-loved items so that they can be rehomed by a local charity. These include:

- Bicycles
- Electrical items with all parts and plug
- Footwear
- Furniture with a fire-retardant label
- Garden furniture and equipment
- General household items (bric-a-brac)
- Sports equipment
- Toys.

This site is also a waste transfer site operated by Aberdeenshire Council with an annual waste capacity permit for 51,523 tonnes. According to Scottish Environment Protection Agency, in 2022, 25,870 tonnes of waste was processed at the site (equal waste inputs and outputs recorded).

### **Glass and textiles recycling points**

There are a number of recycling points across Aberdeenshire where residents can recycle glass and textiles. In the National Park there are recycling points at the following locations:

- Ballater at the Church Square car park – glass and textiles
- Braemar at the Balnellan Road car park - glass and textiles



- Bellabeg at the Car park at public conveniences – glass and textiles
- Bellabeg at the Lonach Hall - glass only
- Crathie at the coach car park – glass and textiles.

Aberdeenshire Council collect mixed recycling from kerbsides, glass and textiles from recycling points and various materials at our recycling centres. The Council has contracts with several reprocessing companies who collect these recyclables and transform them into new products and materials. Aberdeenshire provide information on what happens to the recycling collected in its Council area broken down by type. This information can be viewed here:

- <https://www.aberdeenshire.gov.uk/waste/household-rubbish/what-happens-to-recycling>

The Council report that currently, half of the waste transfer stations in Aberdeenshire were built in the 1970s and 1980s and were designed to handle only one stream of refuse. These sites are currently each handling four waste streams, with an increase to five waste streams soon to be required. With the expectation that more waste streams be required in future regulations, sites would need to be expanded to accommodate them. When additional streams are added it would be necessary to remove or divert one of the current streams at these sites (for example Persistent Organic Pollutants will need to be separated from waste) but several Home Recycling Centre's in Aberdeenshire will be unable to accommodate this without removing an existing recycling stream. Currently some of the sites cannot accommodate Persistent Organic Pollutants at all. At Waste Transfer Sites Persistent Organic Pollutants waste cannot be accepted at two out of Aberdeenshire's six sites.

Current Home Recycling Centres are not fit for purpose as they are primarily designed to remove waste with limited recycling. As noted above, current sites are too small accommodate additional expansion that will likely be required by future legislation. These sites are currently under pressure, and this pressure will only grow as future requirements increase capacity needs.

According to Scottish Environment Protection Agency, the only pet cemeteries recorded in Aberdeenshire is in Newmachar, which is not easily accessible to the residents of the National Park and unlikely to be used by them.



## **Non-recyclable waste**

Non-recyclable waste from Aberdeenshire is also processed at the NESS energy from waste facility, in East Tullos. The waste generates electricity for the national grid and whilst also providing heat for a local district heating network.

As previously mentioned, the waste taken to the facility is burned cleanly and completely, meeting strict European Union emission standards aligning with Scotland's zero-waste society vision. As it's a shared project, the facility costs less and provides the best value for all three councils (Aberdeenshire, Aberdeen and Moray). Waste from Aberdeenshire (as is the case with Moray) is delivered from a waste transfer station via the Aberdeen Western Peripheral Route and gets to the site through the East Tullos Industrial Estate via Wellington Road.

## **Angus Council**

Angus Council's Sustainability Strategy it sets out the Council's intention to:

- Encourage waste minimisation and reuse and recycling of materials both within the council and amongst the community.
- Use the most benign method of disposal for council waste.

The area of the National Park that falls in the Angus Local Authority boundary is sparsely populated without any large settlements. The nearest glass recycling point is at Glenisla Hall / Kirkton of Glenisla, The Park, Glenisla, PH11 8PH. There is a further glass recycling point at Brechin. It is also likely that the residents in the Angus area of the National Park will utilise the recycling options in nearby Crathie, Braemar and Ballater.

The closest recycling centres / civic amenity site in the Angus to the National Park (in operation, as listed by Angus council<sup>11</sup>) as at Brechin, (Scottish Environment Protection Agency does record sites at Kirriemuir and Edzell – however these are not mentioned on Angus Council's webpage).

The Brechin recycling centre / civic amenity site is open at the following times:

- Monday - closed
- Tuesday - 10am to 4pm (closed 12:30pm to 1pm)
- Wednesday (April to September) - 1pm to 7pm (closed 4:30pm to 5pm)
- Wednesday (October to March) - 10am to 4pm (closed 12:30pm to 1pm)
- Thursday - 10am to 4pm (closed 12:30pm to 1pm)
- Friday - closed
- Saturday: - 10am to 4pm (closed 12:30pm to 1pm)

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<sup>11</sup> See [https://www.angus.gov.uk/bins\\_litter\\_and\\_recycling/recycling\\_sites/recycling\\_centres](https://www.angus.gov.uk/bins_litter_and_recycling/recycling_sites/recycling_centres)



- Sunday: 10am to 4pm (closed 12:30pm to 1pm)

The following items are accepted at the Brechin Recycling Centre:

- Household batteries
- Bikes
- Cans
- Car batteries
- Cardboard
- Cooking oil
- Electrical and electronic equipment
- Engine Oil
- Food waste
- Garden waste
- Gas bottles
- Glass
- Liquid food and drinks cartons
- Metal lids
- Paper
- Plastic bottles
- Plastic food containers
- Plastic lids
- Rubble
- Scrap metal
- Shoes and handbags
- Textiles
- Tin (aluminium) foil
- Wood.

There is no need to pre-book cars unless they are carrying commercial waste, but vans, pick-ups and trailers must pre-book visits in advance. There is pedestrian access as the volume of traffic entering and leaving the centre can make pedestrian access unsafe. The Brechin site is operated by Angus Council with an annual waste capacity permit for 2,499 tonnes. According to Scottish Environment Protection Agency, in 2022, 530 tonnes of waste was processed (equal inputs and outputs recorded at the site).

Waste collected in the Angus Council area falls into four main categories and is processed as:

- Grey bin waste – recyclables which are sorted at a materials recovery centre. From there they are sent to other re-processors and made into new products including



garden furniture and vehicle and other metal components. Glass containers are made into new bottles and jars. Fibre materials are made into new paper and card products. In some areas domestic collection also includes a blue bin to separate out paper and cardboard.

- Garden waste (green bins) – which is turned into soil enhancer. This is used for land restoration at the landfill site and for agricultural and horticultural purposes.
- Purple bin waste – which constitutes household nonrecyclable waste is taken to the energy from waste facility at Baldovie, Dundee. There the waste is incinerated to generate electricity. The remaining ash is used in the construction industry.
- Food waste (brown bins) - Food waste collected is de-bagged, shredded, pasteurised and then digested. Bio fertilisers, compost and energy are produced. The electricity generated is used on site or sold onto the National Grid. It is processed by Earnside Energy.

The Angus Council Plan 2023 – 2028 (updated in 2024) sets the target for household waste recycling at 58% for 2027 / 2028.

According to Scottish Environment Protection Agency, there are no pet cemeteries recorded in Angus.

## **Perth and Kinross Council**

The Perth and Kinross State of the Environment Report (2007?) provides a diagnostic tool that is aimed at helping to inform plan-makers, decision-makers and the community about the condition of the environment. The report notes that municipal waste production within the Council area is continuing to increase.

There are two recycling points in the National Park in the Perth and Kinross Council area at:

- Blair Atholl Bowling Green Car Park, that accepts cardboard, glass, paper, rigid plastics, textiles and shoes.
- Blair Atholl Blair Castle Caravan Park, that accepts cardboard, glass and paper.

Outwith (south of) the National Park the closest recycling points are located at Killicrankie at the Garry Bridge Car Park and another at Kirkmichael in the Bannerfield Public Car Park, both accepting cardboard, glass and paper. There are no recycling centres in the National Park.

The closest recycling centre / civic amenity to the area of the National Park in the Perth and Kinross Council area is at Pitlochry. The site is open from Thursday to Monday



(closed on Tuesday and Wednesday) from 9am to 4pm. There is no cycle or pedestrian access.

Materials accepted at the Pitlochry Recycling Centre include:

- Bicycles
- Books (in reusable condition, those that cannot be reused can be recycled with paper)
- Bras (in the textile bank)
- Bulky goods
- Car batteries
- Cardboard
- Cartons and Paper containers with metal ends
- Cooking oil
- Electrical and electronic equipment
- Engine oil
- Fluorescent, light emitting diodes (LEDs) and long-life light bulbs
- Fridges and freezers
- Garden waste
- Glass
- Household batteries and battery-operated, single-use disposable vapes
- Large domestic appliances (e.g. washing machines and tumble driers)
- Non-recyclable waste (large bulky items)
- Non-recyclable waste (bagged and small waste)
- Paper
- Rigid plastic packaging
- Rubble
- Scrap metal
- Soil
- Stone
- Telephone directories
- Textiles (clothes and shoes)
- Timber
- Car tyres (maximum two per day, strictly household only)
- Vapes
- Waste upholstered domestic seating- e.g. sofas, armchairs, upholstered chairs etc
- bulky / black bag waste.





Liquid petroleum gas (LPG) gas bottles are not accepted and must be returned to the supplier. Free compost is also available at the Pitlochry site, subject to availability; a maximum of 2 x 25kg bags per person per day.

All commercial traders and commercial type vehicles wishing to use any of Perth and Kinross Council's recycling centres must apply for the appropriate recycling permit. Information on the types of permits offered, and how to apply can be found here:

- <https://www.pkc.gov.uk/recyclingpermits>

The site is operated by Perth and Kinross Council with an annual waste capacity permit for 2,499 tonnes. According to Scottish Environment Protection Agency, in 2022, 1,466 tonnes was processed at the site (equal inputs and outputs were recorded).

There is a waste transfer site at Blair Atholl Roads Depot inside the National Park, which has an annual waste capacity permit for 5,000 tonnes. According to Scottish Environment Protection Agency, in 2022, the site recorded 5 tonnes of waste being processed.

There is another waste transfer station outwith the National Park in Perth and Kinross at the Aldour Industrial Estate in Pitlochry. The site has a 9,000 tonnes annual waste capacity permit and, according to Scottish Environment Protection Agency, in 2022 it processed 2,241 tonnes (equal inputs and outputs recorded).

There is a pet cemetery in Cromie at the Auchingarrich Wildlife Centre and one in Errol in Perth and Kinross, however Scottish Environment Protection Agency records both as non-operational in 2022.

## **Waste in the Cairngorms National Park**

Estimates of household waste and recycling rates for local authority areas for 2011 – 2022 are recorded by Scottish Environment Protection Agency. Specific data for Scotland's national parks is not available and therefore to get an approximation of the Cairngorms National Park's contribution further assumptions must be made.

Between 2011 and 2021 mid-year population estimates have been used as a proxy for proportionally attributing the waste produced and recycled for the local authorities that cover the Cairngorms National Park's area to the National Park itself. For 2022, Scottish Census population estimates have been used. It is recognised that this is a blunt means



of estimation and estimates based on estimates should always be treated with caution. However, no other form of data on this subject is available.

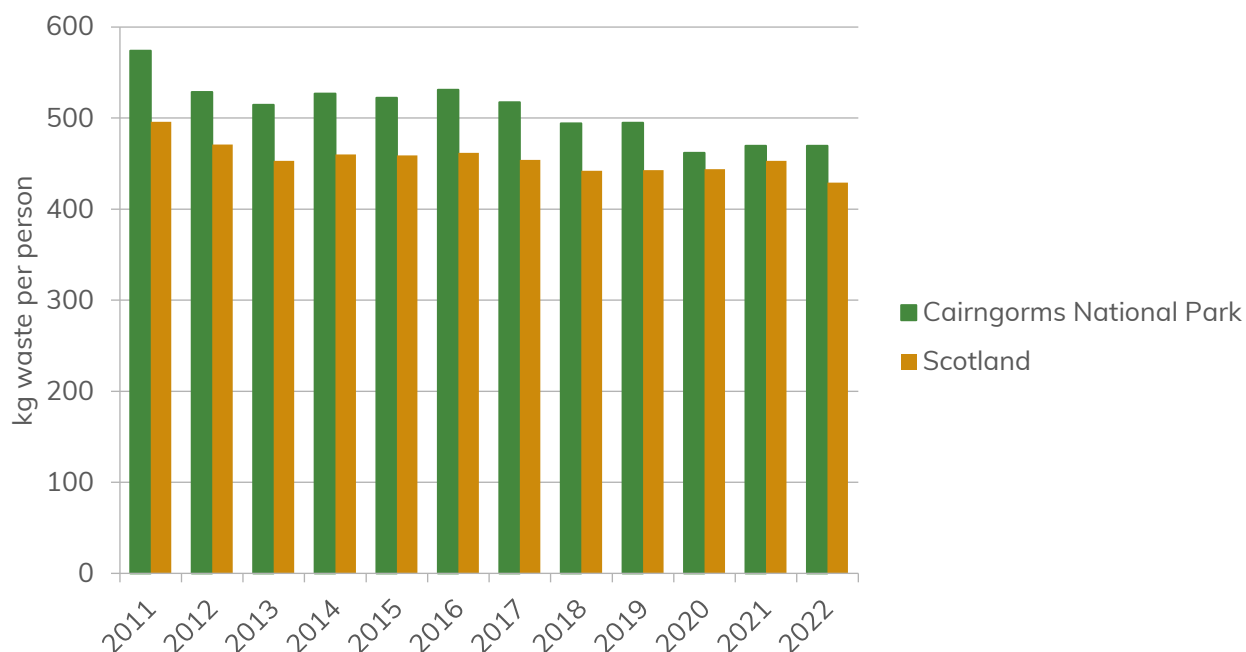


Figure 3 Mean average kg of waste generated per person in the Cairngorms National Park and Scotland. National Park figures derived from local authority data from Scottish Environment Protection Agency, 2023.

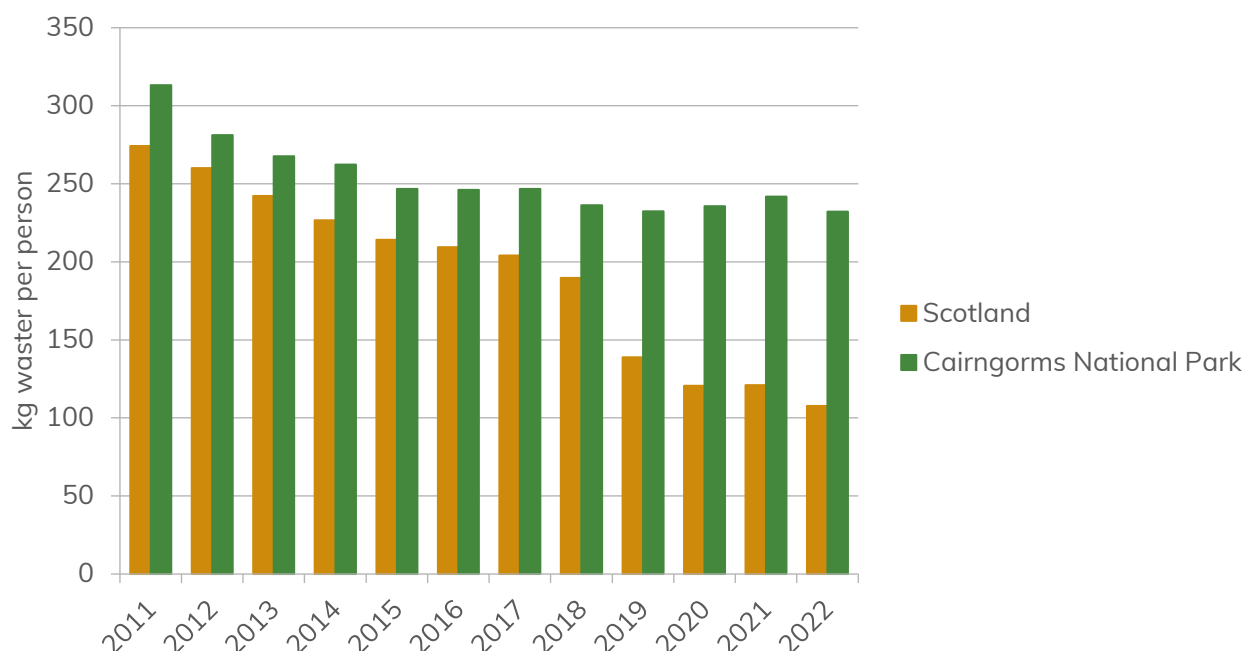


Figure 4 Mean average kg of waste sent to landfill per person in the Cairngorms National Park and Scotland. National Park figures derived from local authority data from Scottish Environment Protection Agency, 2023.



Figure 5 Mean average kg of waste recycled per person in the Cairngorms National Park and Scotland. National Park figures derived from local authority data from Scottish Environment Protection Agency, 2023.

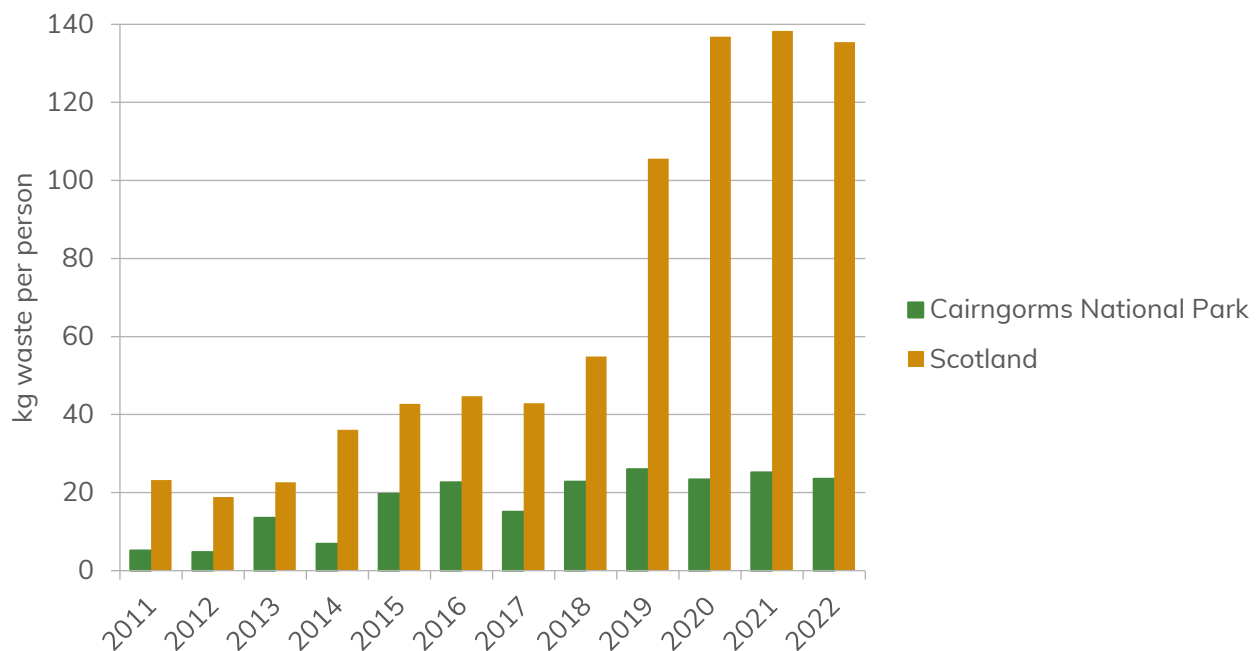


Figure 6 Mean average kg of waste diverted from landfill by other means in the Cairngorms National Park and Scotland. National Park figures derived from local authority data from Scottish Environment Protection Agency, 2023 (waste diverted from landfill, apart from waste recycled, comprising waste disposed by incineration, recovered by incineration, recovered by co-incineration and waste managed by other methods).



Figure 7 Mean average tonnes of CO<sub>2</sub> equivalent per person produced from waste in the Cairngorms National Park and Scotland. National Park figures derived from local authority data from Scottish Environment Protection Agency, 2023.

Household waste per person produced in the Cairngorms National Park in 2022 was slightly higher than the Scottish average, nationally it was approximately 429kg per person, compared to an average of 470kg in the National Park (Figure 3). Trends over the last decade (for available data from 2013 to 2022) indicate that the average waste produced per person per year has reduced by approximately 9% in the National Park which is above the 5% reduction seen nationally (Figure 3).

In the Cairngorms National Park significantly more waste is sent to landfill compared to the Scottish figures. In 2022, in the National Park 232kg of waste per person was sent to landfill compared to the national average figure of 107.7kg per person (Figure 4). Again, looking at trends over the last ten years (for available data from 2013 to 2022) the average amount of waste being sent to landfill in the National Park has reduced by approximately 11%, from 268kg per person in 2013 to 232kg per person in 2022. Although the reduction in the National Park is positive, it is not reflective of the approximate 55% reduction in the amount of average waste sent to landfill per person seen across Scotland (Figure 4).

The mean average amount of waste recycled in 2022 (Figure 5) is slightly higher in the Cairngorms National Park (218kg) compared to the Scottish average (186kg), however this may simply reflect the overall higher amount of waste generated per person in the National Park (Figure 3). The amount of waste recycled per person in the National Park



increased from 2013 to 2016 from approximately 237kg to 268kg but reduced to 218kg reflecting the rise and fall in the overall amount of waste generated. Over the last decade the average amount of waste recycled per person per year in the National Park has fallen by approximately 22% compared to a marginally decrease nationally of approximately 1% (Figure 5).

The amount of waste of waste diverted from landfill by other means is much lower in the Cairngorms National Park at 24kg per person in 2022, compared to 135kg for the whole of Scotland (Figure 6). As the National Park Authority does not process waste for the National Park residents it is reliant on the local authorities and therefore reliant on their waste processing strategies to determine ultimately how much waste is sent to landfill and how much is diverted from landfill.

In terms of the average amount of CO<sub>2</sub> equivalent (CO<sub>2</sub>e) produced per person in relation to waste in 2022, the National Park is only slightly higher at 1.06 tonnes of CO<sub>2</sub> per person per year compared to 1.02 tonnes of CO<sub>2</sub> per person per year across the whole of Scotland (Figure 7). Both nationally and in the National Park the average amount of CO<sub>2</sub> generated per person (in tonnes per year) has been steadily reducing over the last decade.

The following graphs, Figure 8 to Figure 12 show the Scottish Environment Protection Agency waste data for the five local authority areas that cover the National Park.

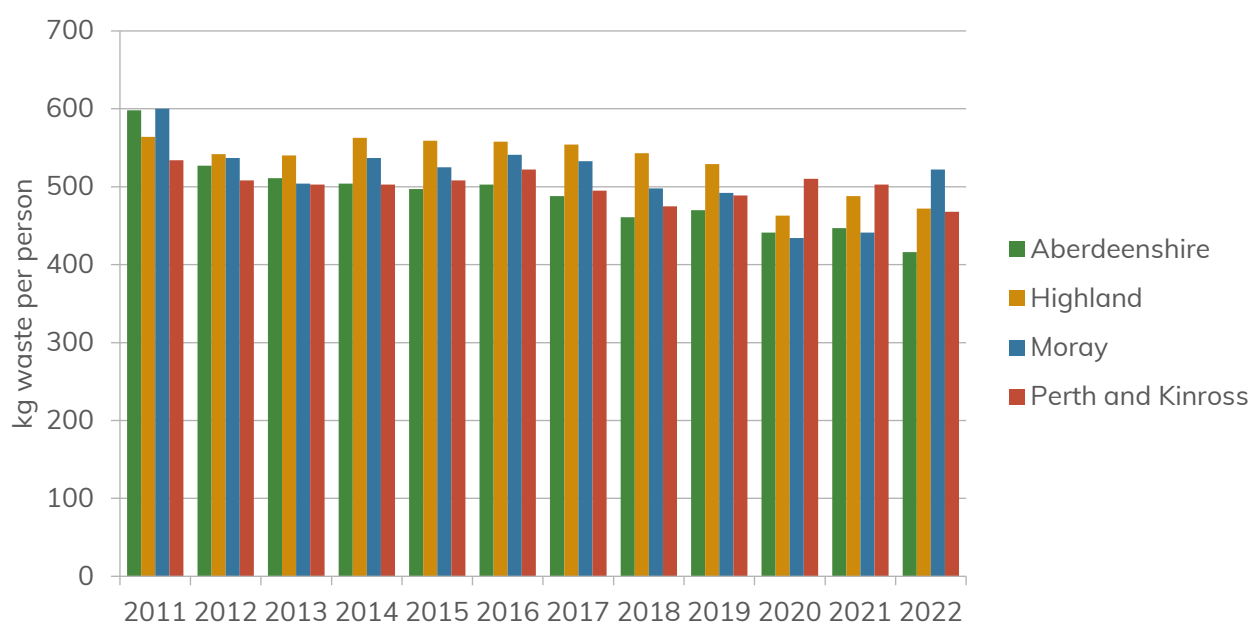


Figure 8 Average total kg of waste generated per person in the different local authority areas of the National Park. Figures obtained from the local authority data from Scottish Environment Protection Agency, 2023.

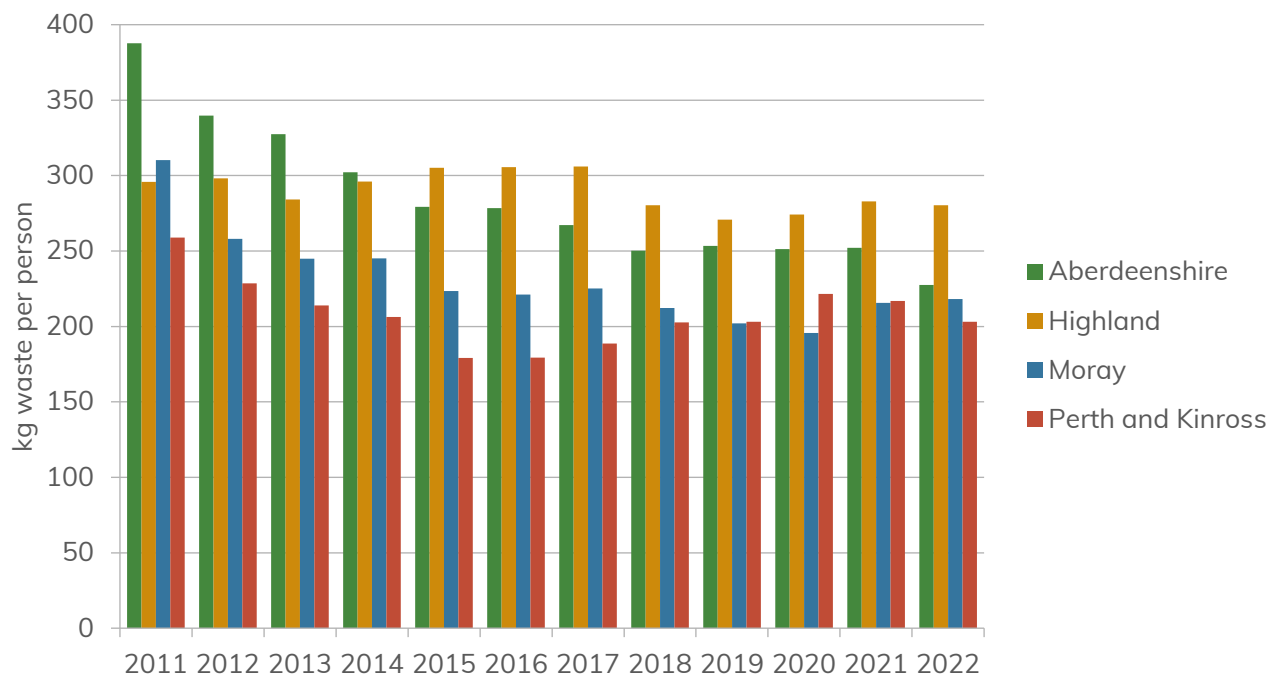


Figure 9 Average kg of waste sent to landfill per person by local authority area of the National Park. Figures obtained from the local authority data from Scottish Environment Protection Agency, 2023.

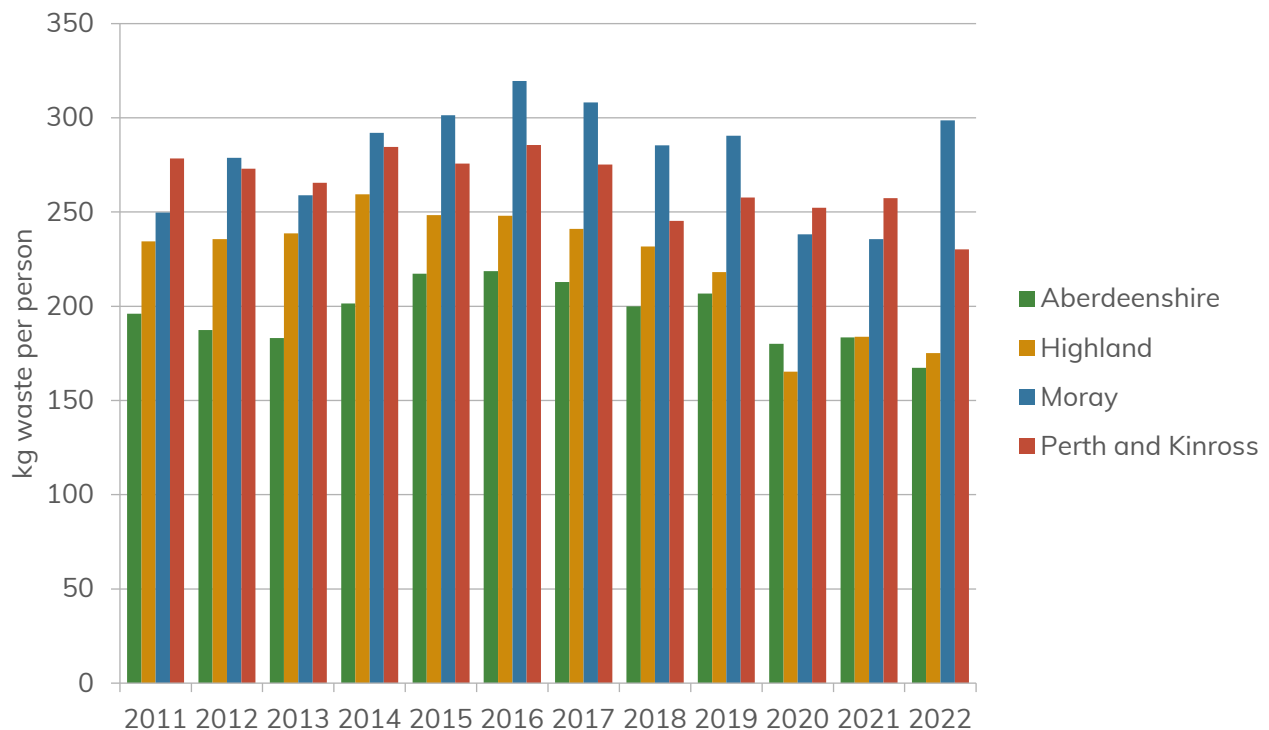


Figure 10 Average kg of waste recycled per person by local authority area of the National Park. Figures obtained from the local authority data from Scottish Environment Protection Agency, 2023.

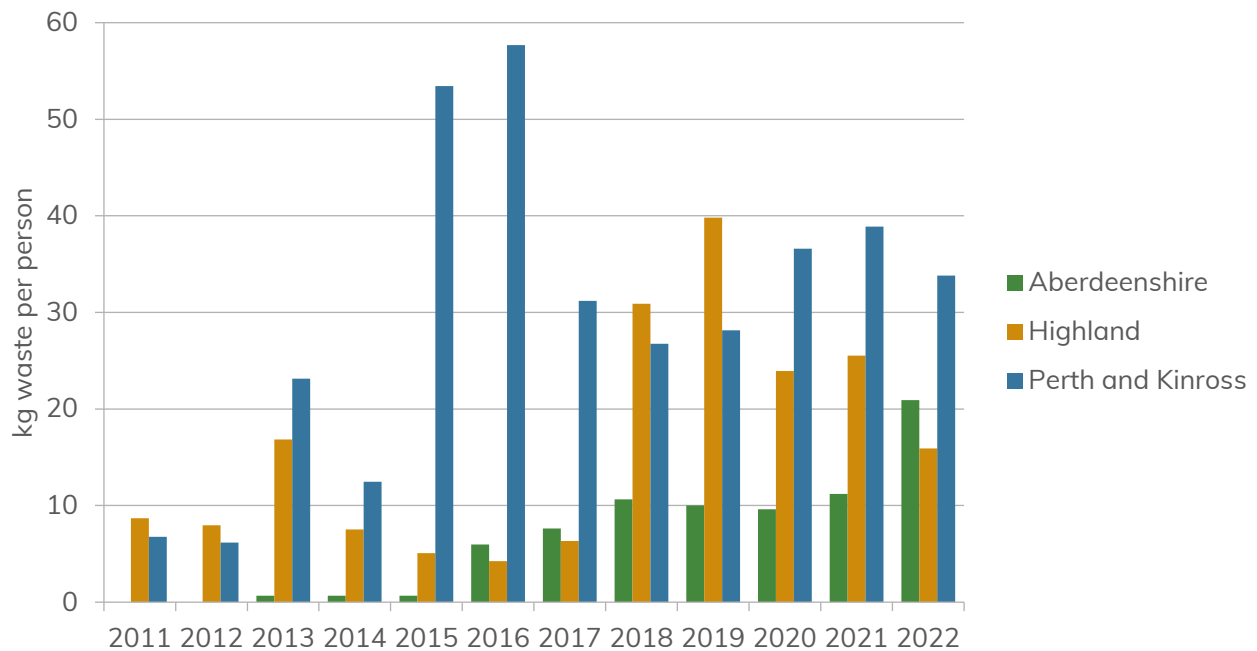


Figure 11 Average kg of waste recycled per person by local authority area of the National Park. Figures obtained from the local authority data from Scottish Environment Protection Agency, 2023. Moray has been excluded from the chart above as from 2011 – 2021 Scottish Environment Protection Agency records no waste diverted from landfill at all and only one tonne in 2022.

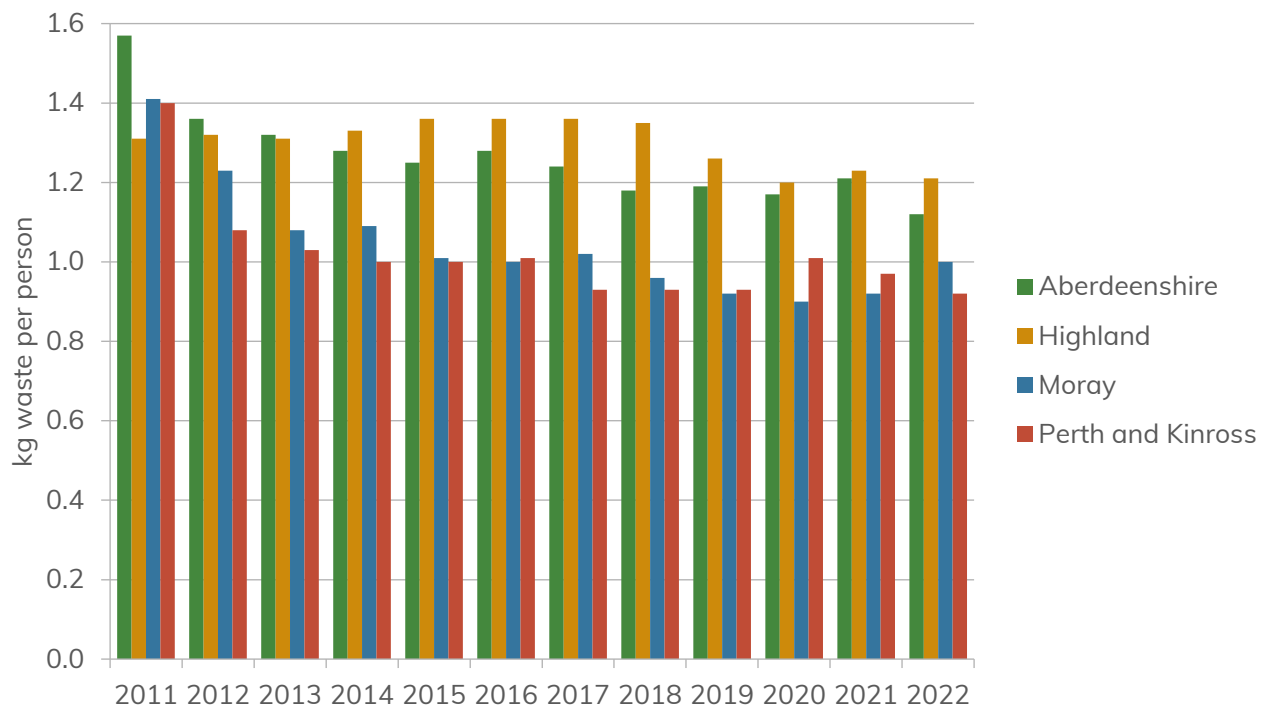


Figure 12 Average tonnes of CO<sub>2</sub> equivalent produced from waste by local authority area in the Cairngorms National Park. Figures obtained from the local authority data from Scottish Environment Protection Agency, 2023.





Looking at the 2022 data (the latest available at the time of writing), Moray residents generated the highest amount of waste at approximately 522kg per person per year compared to the lowest value of approximately 416kg per person per year in Aberdeenshire (averaging 470kg per person across the National Park (Figure 3)). Highland residents generated approximately 472kg of waste per person per year and Perth and Kinross, a similar amount at 468kg per person per year in 2022. Although Morays' waste per person increased in 2022, all four local authorities have seen their waste generated per person decreasing from 2011 to 2022 (Figure 8).

Despite Moray residents generating more waste per person in 2022, Highland sent more waste to landfill at approximately 280kg per person per year, compared to 228kg per person per year in Aberdeenshire, 218kg per person per year in Moray and 203kg per person per year in Perth and Kinross (Figure 9).

In terms of waste diverted from landfill (Figure 11) (which comprises of waste disposed by incineration, recovered by incineration, recovered by co-incineration and waste managed by other methods) the figures for Moray, show that no waste is diverted from landfill, from 2011 to 2021. In 2022, one tonne, was recorded as being diverted.

The amount of waste diverted from landfill in Aberdeenshire has been increasing over the last decade from approximately 0.7kg of waste per person in 2013 to 21kg in 2022 (Figure 11). In 2015 and 2016 Perth and Kinross diverted significantly more waste from landfill with approximately 53kg and 58kg per person respectively. This has decreased in the years from 2017 – 2022, when in 2022 approximately 34kg of waste per person was diverted from landfill in Perth and Kinross. The numbers for Highland have also fluctuated over the last decade, increasing from approximately 16.9kg per person 2013 to 40kg per person in 2019, reducing to approximately 16kg per person in 2022. These figures, including the National Park mean average of approximately 24kg of waste per person diverted from landfill are all far below the national average of 135kg of waste per person diverted from landfill (Figure 6).

Highland produced the highest amount of average CO<sub>2</sub> equivalent from waste per person of all the four local authorities in 2022 at 1.21 tonnes of CO<sub>2</sub> equivalent per person per year from waste generated (Figure 12). Adversely Perth and Kinross produced 0.92 tonnes of CO<sub>2</sub> equivalent per person in 2022. Nationally Scottish residents produced on average 1.02 tonnes of CO<sub>2</sub> equivalent per person in 2022, less than the residents of the National Park (1.06 tonnes per person in 2022), but more than those in Perth and Kinross and Moray. However, given the largest population of the National Parks residents live in the Highland region (where the highest contributors per



person are recorded) this brings the National Park average figure up above the Scottish average of 1.02 tonnes of CO<sub>2</sub> equivalent per person per year (Figure 7).

Biodegradable Municipal Waste cannot be landfilled after 2025 due to the Scottish BMW landfill ban. This was originally meant to come into force in 2021 but later deferred due to lack of capacity in alternative treatment methods. This may be a consideration for the local authorities in terms of expanding new operations to accommodate the changes.

### Recycling rates

In 2022 the recycling rate in the Cairngorms National Park was 46.3% (Table 3), which was higher than the national average in 2022 of 43.4% (Scottish Environment Protection Agency data, 2022). The Scottish national target for recycling is 70% by 2025 (Scotland's Zero Waste Plan). For comparison the recycling rate for the five local authorities that overlap the National Park in 2022 were as follows:

- Highland – 37.2%
- Aberdeenshire – 40.2%
- Moray – 57.8%
- Perth and Kinross – 49.3%
- Angus – 51.7%.

Table 3 Average mean recycling rates in the Cairngorms National Park. National Park figures derived from local authority data from Scottish Environment Protection Agency, 2023.

	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022
Mean kg of waste generated per person	515	527	522	531	518	494	495	462	470	470
Mean kg of waste recycled per person	236.5	259.4	260.6	267.9	259.3	240.6	243.3	208.9	212.0	217.8
Recycling rate (%)	45.9%	49.2%	49.9%	50.5%	50.1%	48.7%	49.2%	45.2%	45.1%	46.3%

Given the fact that over half the Cairngorms National Park residents reside in the Highland region of the National Park which suffered a low recycling rate in 2022, this will have affected the overall mean average recycling rate in the National Park. It should be recognised, as already mentioned that the National Park is not responsible for waste management in the area, with this function falling to the Local Authorities that cover its area.



### Landfill and 'diverted from landfill' rates

Using the mean average figures for the waste (kg) generated per person and waste diverted from landfill per person we are able to calculate percentages for the sent to landfill rates and diverted from land fill rates (Table 4).

Table 4 Average mean rates for the amount of waste sent to landfill and diverted from landfill in the Cairngorms National Park. National Park figures derived from local authority data from Scottish Environment Protection Agency, 2023.

	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022
Landfilled	52.0%	49.8%	47.3%	46.3%	47.6%	47.8%	46.9%	51.0%	51.5%	49.4%
Diverted from landfill (other <sup>12</sup> )	2.6%	1.35%	3.8%	4.3%	2.9%	4.6%	5.3%	5.1%	5.7%	5%

In 2022 approximately 49.4% of waste was landfilled in the National Park from the waste generated per person. This is significantly higher than the national average whereby 25.1% of the household waste generated went to landfill. For comparison the landfilled rate for the five local authorities that overlap the National Park in 2022 were as follows:

- Highland – 59.5%
- Aberdeenshire – 54.7%
- Moray – 42.2%
- Perth and Kinross – 43.5%
- Angus – 1.9%.

In terms of diverted from landfill in 2022, 5% of the waste in the National Park was diverted, which is significantly lower than the national figure of 31.5%. For comparison the rates for waste diverted from landfill for the five local authorities that overlap the National Park in 2022 were as follows:

- Highland – 3.4%
- Aberdeenshire – 5%
- Moray – 0%
- Perth and Kinross – 7.2%

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<sup>12</sup> Other is also to describe the waste diverted from landfill constituting waste that is not reused, recycled, or landfilled. It includes household waste treated by incineration, mechanical biological and heat treatment.



- Angus – 46.4%.

## Public recycling investment

Zero Waste Scotland is administering a £70m Recycling Improvement Fund on behalf of Scottish Government to local authorities. The five-year fund aims to accelerate progress towards Scotland's ambitious waste and recycling targets and net zero commitment. It is one of the biggest single investments by the Scottish Government in recycling infrastructure to date. It aims to provide local authorities the opportunity to take forward projects that increase both the quality and quantity of recycling whilst delivering wider environmental benefits.

Currently, local authority awards have been made for a diverse range of projects. These include service changes to increase kerbside and communal recycling provision, in-cab technologies to support operational efficiencies, and new treatment infrastructure to sort and recycle plastic films.

Aberdeenshire Council was awarded £3.5 million through the fund (Table 5), to introduce a twin-stream collection service for more than 120,000 households to deliver better-quality material being recycled at higher quantities.

To date, a total of £65 million has been awarded to 41 projects, from 26 local authorities across Scotland. Table 5 provides details on the projects awarded to the local authority areas that cover the National Park.

Table 5 Funding awarded under the Recycling Improvement Fund in the local authority areas covering the Cairngorms National Park.

Local authority	Project	Funding awarded
Aberdeenshire Council	In-cab technology and route optimisation software for full fleet.	£250,000
Aberdeenshire Council	Implement a twin-stream recycling service for all households.	£3,540,415
Angus Council	Introduction of twin-stream kerbside recycling service and expansion of glass recycling point network.	£2,843,47
Highland Council	Introduction of twin-stream kerbside recycling and expansion of weekly food waste collection service.	£6,550,302
Highland Council	Expansion of garden waste collection service.	£208,500



Local authority	Project	Funding awarded
Perth and Kinross Council	Expansion of recycling service to Perth City Centre and introduction of twin-stream recycling collection service to kerbside properties.	£2,720,775

Aberdeenshire Council also received grant funding for a small project under the Recycling Improvement Fund - Small Grants Scheme. They were awarded £37,095 to Expansion of reuse at five Household Recycling Centres (Zero Waste Scotland December 2023).

## Summary of implications for Proposed Plan

The proposed plan needs to be prepared in accordance with:

- The four aims of the National Park as set out in The National Parks (Scotland) Act 2000), in particular the first and fourth aims 'to conserve and enhance the natural and cultural heritage of the area' and 'to promote sustainable economic and social development of the area's communities'.
- The spatial strategy and principles of National Planning Framework 4.

In its preparation the Proposed Plan should seek to:

- Have regard for Scotland's Zero Waste Plan, the Circular Economy Strategy, the Scottish Government's Waste Hierarchy and national waste and recycling targets.
- Align and have regard for any emerging waste management strategies or plans arising from the five local authorities that cover the National Park.
- Support development for essential expansion / future growth of existing recycling sites required to meet demand.
- Support development that allows existing operations to expand to meet new / emerging requirements, for example Scottish Environment Agency's guidance from 2023 requiring Persistent Organic Pollutants (POPs) to be separated from waste - which may require additional space at some facilities.
- Identify the need for developer contributions towards waste management, which will be dependent on the size and location of new development. This will need to be considered in partnership with the local authorities covering the National Park.