
COMMUNITY RECYCLING CENTRES – UPDATE ON RE-USE / REMARKETING OF GOODS

Report by Service Director Neighbourhood Services

SCRUTINY

22 September 2016

1 PURPOSE AND SUMMARY

- 1.1 **This report provides an update on the re-use / remarketing of goods received at Community Recycling Centres.**
- 1.2 Over the last 10 years the Council has made significant changes to the way it manages waste with a focus on improving recycling performance and reducing waste going to landfill.
- 1.3 As we move towards a more circular economy, where we keep products and materials in use for as long as possible, this focus is likely to shift to waste prevention and re-use.
- 1.4 Progress has been made by the Council in relation to re-use in the following areas:
- Supporting local re-use organisations
 - Bulky Waste
 - Waste Electrical and Electronic Equipment (WEEE)
 - Selkirk Re-Use Pilot
 - Just Cycle – Bicycle re-use
 - Wood and Furniture re-use
 - Textiles

These are discussed in more detail in the body of the report.

- 1.5 The Waste Resource Action Programme¹ (WRAP) have undertaken re-use case studies and developed a best practice guide for Household Waste Recycling Centres (HWRC's). This confirms that there are further opportunities to improve re-use at the Council's Community Recycling Centres.

Reference 1 – WRAP is a registered charity that works with local authorities, businesses, individuals and communities to achieve a circular economy. WRAP was established in 2000 and received funding from DEFRA, Zero Waste Scotland, the Welsh Government, and the Northern Ireland Executive amongst others.

- 1.6 It is important to recognise that the Council faces a number of key challenges in improving re-use at Community Recycling Centres including:

- A lack of space for providing re-use facilities
- A disconnect between the number customers who wish to deposit items for re-use versus those that want to purchase re-used items.
- Impending financial and legislative drivers requiring a continued focus on recycling and diversion from landfill, at least in the short to medium term.

1.7 It is clear that re-use is going to play an ever important role as we move towards a circular economy and this will require the Council to continue to make progress and explore opportunities in this area.

2 RECOMMENDATIONS

2.1 I recommend that the Scrutiny Committee:

- (a) Notes the progress made in providing re-use facilities at Community Recycling Centres.**
- (b) Notes the challenges in providing re-use facilities at the Council's Community Recycling Centres.**
- (c) Supports the continued development of re-use facilities at Community Recycling Centres, where affordable and practicable.**

3 BACKGROUND

- 3.1 Over the last 10 years Scottish Borders Council has made significant changes to the way it manages waste. In 2004 Scottish Borders Council landfilled around 92% of its household waste. By 2014 this had dropped to around 61%. Over the same period recycling performance increased from around 8% to 37%. This is the result of major changes to the services provided by the Council at kerbside and at Community Recycling Centres. This change has been driven by European and National waste policy / legislation, which has seen increased investment and focus in this area.
- 3.2 In recent years most progress has been made in improving recycling performance and reducing waste to landfill and this is likely to continue to be the case in the short to medium term. This is due to impending financial and legislative drivers including the landfill tax escalator and landfill bans.
- 3.3 However as we move towards a more circular economy, where we keep products and materials in use for as long as possible, this focus is likely to shift to waste prevention and re-use. This will also be true for Scottish Borders Council and its future waste service provision.
- 3.4 For further information on current and future European and National Waste Policy/legislation please see appendix 1.

4 PROGRESS SO FAR

4.1 The following section outlines the progress made by the Council in relation to re-use.

4.2 Re-Use Organisations

4.2.1 A number of Re-Use organisations operate across the Scottish Borders including:

- Homebasics (Walkerburn & Hawick)
- Berwickshire Furniture Restoration (BFR) – (Duns)
- Just Cycle – (Galashiels)
- Scrap Store – (Selkirk)
- Book Donors – (Tweedbank)
- Fresh Start Borders – (Selkirk)
- Tweeddale Youth Action Bike Project – (Peebles & Innerleithen)
- Various charity shops which accept furniture

Note: Most have charitable status.

4.2.2 The Council has provided, and continues to provide, financial support to a number of these organisations as part of Service Level Agreements. At the current time the Council has Service Level Agreements with Scrap Store, Homebasics and Book Donors. In return these organisations provide information on the amount (tonnage) of material they re-use, which helps support the Council's recycling performance figures.

4.2.3 It is important to note that the Council's ability to support re-use charities is becoming increasingly challenging given the

pressures to:

- Achieve best value; and
- Deliver efficiency savings whilst protecting core / mandatory services.

4.3 **Bulky Waste**

4.3.1 The Council provides a bulky uplift service for a range of items including white goods and furniture at a cost of £30 for up to 5 items. Where possible, customers are directed by the Council to re-use organisations as a first port of call. Not only does this reduce the cost to the customer it also ensures re-use providers get first choice of high quality products. This is important as the materials collected by or deposited with the Council can become weather damaged and / or harder to get hold of. In most cases this will reduce the ability to refurbish and remarket the product. The Council's bulky waste webpage provides an example of how the Council redirects customers to re-use charities, see appendix 2.

4.4 **Waste Electrical and Electronic Equipment (WEEE)**

4.4.1 The Council accepts Waste Electrical and Electronic Equipment at its Community Recycling Centres, which includes:

- Fridges & Freezers
- Small Domestic Items (SDA) e.g. toasters, kettles, vacuum cleaners.
- Large Domestic Items (LDA) e.g. washing machines, dishwashers.
- Fluorescent Tubes
- Televisions e.g. LED, LCD, and cathode ray tube.

4.4.2 The Waste Electrical and Electronic Equipment received by the Council are uplifted, at no cost to the Council, under contract by a Producer Compliance Scheme (PCS). However this only applies to electrical items produced by householders.

4.4.3 Where electrical items received by reuse organisations (with charitable status) fail a Portable Appliance Test (PAT) the Council has on occasion accepted the item without charge. This is on the basis that the items have been generated by a household but are being delivered to site by a reuse organisation (with charitable status).

4.4.4 This sort of arrangement has operated with the agreement of past Producer Compliance Schemes. However recent changes to the 'WEEE Code of Practice' have significantly reduced the interest of Producer Compliance Scheme in the Council's electrical waste as they no longer receive an income for over collecting their quota. As a consequence current and future providers may be less inclined to support this concept going forwards.

4.5 **Selkirk Re-Use Pilot**

- 4.5.1 The delivery of the re-use pilot at Selkirk Community Recycling Centre was first identified in the Council's approved Integrated Waste Management Strategy 2013. This came about due to ongoing discussions with the local charity Homebasics who had shown significant interest in accessing materials received at the Community Recycling Centres for potential re-use. Following further discussion with Homebasics it was agreed that the Council would look to provide them with Large Domestic Appliances (i.e. fridges, freezers, tumble dryers and washing machines).
- 4.5.2 The next stage of the project was to identify funds to purchase containers for the storage of items for reuse to ensure that they were kept out of the elements and in good working order. A successful bid for two shipping containers was made in August 2013 to the 'Ambitious for the Borders' Capital Fund.
- 4.5.3 The most challenging element of the project was agreeing a protocol with our Waste Electrical and Electronic Equipment Contractor and the Scottish Environment Protection Agency which would enable the Large Domestic Appliances to be treated as an item for reuse rather than as a waste. This process took in excess of 6 months. Once a protocol had been agreed the shipping container was installed at Selkirk Community Recycling Centre and a Service Level Agreement drawn up with Homebasics. The Selkirk reuse project went live on 13 October 2014, see appendix 3 and 4.
- 4.5.4 Following the success of the Selkirk Pilot project the second shipping container is due to be installed at the recently upgraded Hawick Community Recycling Centre. This had not been possible previously due to the lack of space at the site, which is a recurring issuing at all of the Council's facilities.

4.6 **Just Cycle**

- 4.6.1 In 2015 the Waste Services Section was approached by the Council's Social Work Department to explore ways of supporting the Galashiels Men's Shed. Following discussion it was agreed that the Council would provide bicycles to support its ambition to repair bikes for re-use. In order for this to happen the Waste Services Section was required to:
1. Agree a protocol that ensured bikes accepted and stored at the Community Recycling Centre could be processed for re-use. This is important to ensure the bikes were not treated as a waste and consequently did not need to be managed in accordance with restrictive Waste Regulations.
 2. Identify an area within the Community Recycling Centre to safely store the bikes.
 3. Train the Community Recycling Centre Operatives in the appropriate procedure to ensure bikes are accepted for re-use.
 4. Arrange transport to get the bikes to the Men's Shed once the storage area is reached capacity.

4.6.2 Following start-up the Galashiels Men's Shed and the Council's Social Work Department identified the potential to expand the project into something on a larger scale, which has led to the development of Just Cycle. Just Cycle Ltd is a locally registered charity based at Tweedbank, which aims to become a social enterprise. It intends to recycle unwanted bikes and make them available at an affordable price. They can also provide a bike servicing facility to the public. Just Cycle have identified that anyone can benefit from their low cost bikes including:

- Those on low incomes
- Younger people
- School Community Groups
- Those intending to ditch the car
- Those intending to exercise more
- Those recovering from an illness
- The elderly or retired
- Those working with the Social Work Department

4.6.3 Just Cycle also provides bikes to the Council's Criminal Justice Section. The bikes are then repaired by individuals on Community Service orders. This enables those on Community Service Orders to develop bike maintenance skills. The Waste Services Section is currently working with Just Cycle to expand the number of bike donation points at its waste facilities across the Borders. Selkirk Community Recycling Centre is the next facility to be able to accept bike donations.

4.7 **Wood and Furniture Re-Use**

4.7.1 Based on the success of the bike project with the Galashiels Men's Shed, and subsequently Just Cycle Ltd, the Waste Service Section is keen to explore other reuse opportunities and has been approached about wood re-use. The Galashiels Men's Shed has its own workshop in Galashiels and is looking for pallets, wood off cuts and furniture which it can re-purpose. The Council has identified space at Galashiels Community Recycling Centre for storage of wood and it is hoped to commence this operation shortly. If this project is a success the Waste Services Section is keen to expand this to other sites.

4.8 **Textiles**

4.8.1 Textile banks are provided at all of the Council's Community Recycling Centres and the majority of the Council's circa 70 Recycling Points. The textile banks are provided and serviced by Nathans Wastesavers at no cost to the Council. Nathans Wastesavers is one of the largest UK textile companies. Over 250 people sort, grade and process over 600 tonnes of textile material every week. Over 98% of the processed material is either re-used or recycled.

4.8.2 In 2015 the Council recycled 152 tonnes of textiles of which around 78% (119 tonnes) went for re-use, 20% (30 tonnes) was recycled and 2% (3 tonnes) was sent to energy from waste. As part of the arrangement with Nathans Wastesavers the Council receives an income which supports the provision of the Council's wider waste services. In addition Nathans Wastesavers donate a proportion of the income generated to a range of charities

including:

- Marie Curie
- Barnardo's
- Sue Ryder Care
- pdsa
- British Red Cross

4.9 **Community Resources Network Scotland (CRNS)**

4.9.1 CRNS is a membership body for community organisations managing waste resources at a local level through recycling, reuse, composting, waste reduction and waste education activities. In addition to providing information and advice to both existing and emerging community organisations, CRNS works to raise the profile of the sector through promotional activity and political lobbying. The Waste Services Team are scheduled to meet with the Community Resources Network Scotland (CRNS) in August 2016 to discuss future re-use opportunities in the Scottish Borders.

5 **BEST PRACTICE**

5.1 The Waste and Resource Action Programme (WRAP) developed a Household Waste Recycling Centre Guidance Document in 2012 (updated 2016), see link below:

[WRAP - Household Waste Recycling Centre Guidance 2016](#)

5.2 Section 4.10 of the report focuses on Re-Use systems at Household Waste Recycling Centres, stating that:

Although re-use activity does not divert a significant tonnage of waste from landfill, a formal re-use system can have a positive effect on recycling rates by reinforcing the impression that the site's primary focus is the recovery of materials. A re-use facility can influence behaviour and is therefore a good activity to undertake (whether resale is on or off site) provided sufficient space is available. Prioritising re-use on site can increase staff motivation for recycling as a whole. It is also good PR, as council members are usually supportive of re-use systems, and they are often popular with residents. Any site considering undertaking direct reuse or preparation for reuse should consult with the relevant regulatory to ascertain the regulatory requirement applicable to their sites and activities.

5.3 The report goes on to outline types of systems and examples of best practice. However ultimately the main variable for re-use systems at HWRC's is whether the items are segregated for sale on site or off site. It suggests that if items are segregated for **sale off site**, this can be solely managed by a third party, or the site staff can be involved in identifying reusable items for a re-use organisation to subsequently collect.

5.4 Alternatively, if the items are to **stay on site for sale**, options include selling by the site operator or a third party. In addition, the third party may have a workshop to refurbish and repair bulky items. The types of re-use options identified in the guidance document include:

- Waste Electrical and Electronic Equipment
- Furniture
- Bric-a-brac
- Paint - Repaint scheme not set up in the Borders
- Bicycles
- Textiles

5.5 See appendix 5 for examples of re-use schemes as outlined in the following WRAP guidance documents.

- [WRAP - Household Waste Recycling Centre Guidance 2016](#)
- [WRAP Banbridge Case Study](#)

6 CHALLENGES

6.1 Re-Use at Community Recycling Centres

6.1.1 The Council provides 7 Community Recycling Centres at the following locations:

- Hawick
- Kelso
- Galashiels
- Selkirk
- Eyemouth
- Duns
- Peebles

Note: Each facility serves a population of around 16,000 people.

6.1.2 By way of contrast City of Edinburgh Council provides 3 Community Recycling Centres at:

- Sighthill
- Seafield
- Craigmillar

Note: Each facility serves a population of around 167,000 people.

6.1.3 As can be seen the Borders has a comparatively large number of facilities when compared to Edinburgh. However this is due to the sheer size of the Borders. Edinburgh covers an area of around 274km² whereas the Borders cover an area of 4,732km². The result of the above is that the Community Recycling Centres in the Borders are relatively small in terms of their footprint. The size of containers required at a small facility are the same as those needed at a large facility. This compounds the issue of space. This lack of space presents the Council with significant challenges when trying to provide areas for re-use, whether that be accepting items or making items available to the public for free or sale.

6.1.4 The Council has recently invested significant capital funds in the upgrade and development of the following Community Recycling Centres:

- Eshiels (upgrade)
- Hawick (upgrade)
- Kelso (new site)

- 6.1.5 In addition Selkirk Community Recycling Centre has been reconfigured as part of the Selkirk Flood Defence Scheme.
- 6.1.6 Even with these improvements space at the sites is at a premium and it is important that the Council utilises this space to maximum effect. This requires a focus on those items which will divert most waste from landfill and also meets the expectations of householders i.e. facilities for bulky waste, garden waste, wood, scrap metal.
- 6.1.7 It is important to note that re-use is unlikely to divert significant volumes of material from landfill. This view is supported by WRAP in its HWRC guidance document. It is therefore questionable as to whether Re-Use represents the best use of the space available at the Council's Community Recycling Centres at the current time.

6.2 Council Priorities

6.2.1 At the current time the Council's focus is to ensure that the waste services it provides are 'fit for purpose' and financially sustainable in the long term. This flows through to the Council's current key priorities which are outlined below:

- Preparing for the closure of Easter Langlee Landfill Site
- Developing a new Waste Transfer Station at Easter Langlee
- Optimising the Council's current kerbside collection service
- Assessing alternative kerbside collection systems in line with the Scottish Government/COSLA Waste Charter
- Implementing the new CRC trade access policy
- Review the CRC hours of operation

6.2.2 The continued improvement of the re-use services provided by the Council must be considered with this in mind.

6.3 Public Participation

6.3.1 In order for re-use to be effective as part of a circular economy public engagement and buy in is required. This has been identified by the Scottish Government as a key issue in its Circular Economy Strategy for Scotland (see appendix 1). In a recent survey the Borders public were asked a number of questions in relation to re-use facilities at Community Recycling Centres. Survey results identified that:

- 83% of respondents would donate items if re-use facilities were available at Community Recycling Centres
- 59% that would buy items if re-use facilities were available.

6.3.2 This would suggest that there is a disconnect between those that will donate items versus those that would purchase re-used items. This is not an issue that the Council can overcome on its own. It will require the support of government, agencies, suppliers, manufacturers and consumers to change as we move towards a more circular economy.

7 FUTURE PLANS

7.1 It is clear the re-use is going to play an increasingly important role as we move towards a circular economy. To this end the Waste Services Section will:

1. Continue to roll out the re-use projects outlined in section 4 to other Community Recycling Centres where ever practicable.
2. Consider re-use as part of the Council's new Waste Management Plan.
3. Continue to engage with the third sector to identify future opportunities and alternative delivery models.
4. Continue to work with the Council's social work department to identify additional opportunities.

8 IMPLICATIONS

8.1 Financial

There are no costs attached to any of the recommendations contained in this report.

8.2 Risk and Mitigations

Failure to develop re-use / remarketing facilities at Community Recycling Centres limits the Council's ability to:

- Deliver a circular economy in the Scottish Borders.
- Reduce the environmental impact of waste management in the Scottish Borders.
- Support and develop partnerships with local re-use organisations and charities.
- Change public perception and habits

8.3 Equalities

The equality implications of delivering re-use and remanufacturing facilities at Community Recycling Centres are dependent not known at the current time. Equality Impact Assessments (EIA) will be undertaken and considered throughout the development of future re-use projects.

8.4 Acting Sustainably

Increasing the amount of waste that is re-used / remanufactured by the Council will help deliver a circular economy in the Borders, where products and materials are kept in use for as long as possible.

8.5 Carbon Management

Increasing the amount of waste that is re-used / remanufactured will help reduce the carbon emissions associated with the Council's current waste management practices (i.e. landfill and recycling).

8.6 Changes to Scheme of Administration or Scheme of Delegation

No changes are required to either the scheme of Administration or the Scheme of Delegation as a result of the proposals in this report.

9 CONSULTATION

9.1 The Chief Financial Officer, the Monitoring Officer, the Chief Legal Officer, the Chief Officer Audit and Risk, the Chief Officer HR and the Clerk to the Council have been consulted and any comments received have been incorporated into the final report.

9.2 Others that have been consulted are listed below:

- Corporate Equalities and Diversity Officer
- Procurement
- Communications & Marketing
- Chief Social Work Officer
- Head of Economic Development
- Senior Policy Adviser

Approved by

Jenni Craig

Service Director Neighbourhood Services Signature

Author(s)

Name	Designation and Contact Number
Ross Sharp-Dent	Waste Manager, 01835 824000 Ext 8857

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Previous Minute Reference: NA

Note – You can get this document on tape, in Braille, large print and various computer formats by contacting the address below. Jacqueline Whitelaw can also give information on other language translations as well as providing additional copies.

Contact us at Jacqueline Whitelaw, Place, Scottish Borders Council, Council Headquarters, Newtown St Boswells, Melrose, TD6 0SA. Tel 01835 825431, Fax 01835825071, email

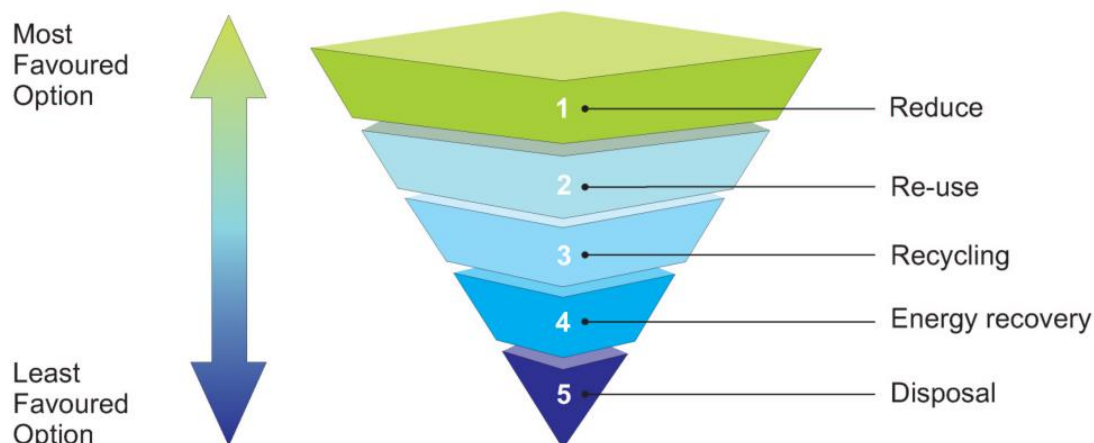
Appendix 1 – Policy/Legislation

1 European Waste Policy

1.1 Waste Framework Directive

- 1.1.1 The Waste Framework Directive (2008/98/EC) sets out the approach for the sustainable management of waste in the Member States of the European Community.
- 1.1.2 The Directive requires the application of the waste hierarchy (see figure 1) as a priority order in waste prevention and waste management legislation and policy.

1.1.3 Figure 1 - The Waste Hierarchy



- 1.1.4 The waste hierarchy ranks waste management options according to the best environmental outcome taking into consideration the lifecycle of the material.
- 1.1.5 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 (i.e. landfill).

1.2 Circular Economy

- 1.2.1 The European Commission published the long awaited redrafted Circular Economy Package on 2 December 2015.
- 1.2.2 The Circular Economy Package consists of an [EU Action Plan for the Circular Economy](#) that establishes a concrete and ambitious programme of action, with measures covering the whole cycle: from production and consumption to waste management and the market for secondary raw materials.
- 1.2.3 The proposed actions will contribute to "closing the loop" of product lifecycles through greater recycling and re-use, and bring benefits for both the environment and the economy.
- 1.2.4 Adoption of the proposal by the EU Parliament and Council is not expected until the middle of 2017. However the direction of travel towards increasing household recycling rates is clear.

2 National Waste Policy

2.1 Scotland's Zero Waste Plan

2.1.1 The Scottish Government Zero Waste Plan 2010 sets out the Scottish Government's vision for a zero waste society. This vision describes a Scotland where all waste is seen as a resource; Waste is minimised; valuable resources are not disposed of in landfills, and most waste is sorted, leaving only limited amounts to be treated.

2.1.2 The overall approach of the Zero Waste Plan follows the European Waste Hierarchy, see figure 1.

2.1.3 The Zero Waste Plan outlines that:

The Scottish Government will develop a Waste Prevention Programme for all waste, in line with the EU Waste Framework Directive, in order to place prevention at the heart of zero waste policy and action.

2.2 Safeguarding Scotland's Resources: Blueprint for a more resource efficient and circular economy

2.2.1 In October 2013 the Scottish Government issued its programme to reduce waste and create a more productive and circular economy entitled 'Safeguarding Scotland's Resources'.

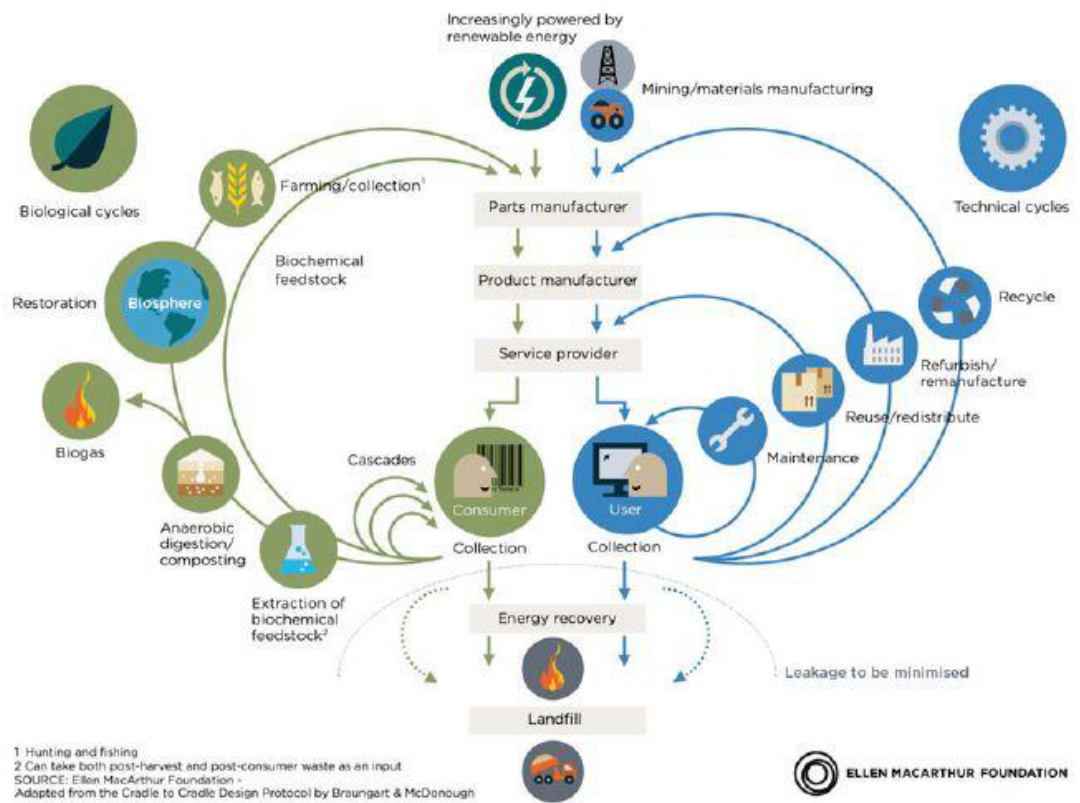
2.2.2 The Scottish Government's programme aims to make today's model of production and consumption more resource efficient (doing more with less, and minimising waste), while also laying the foundations for a more circular economy.

2.2.3 In a circular economy, we keep products and materials in use for as long as possible, extract the maximum value for them whilst in use, the recover and regenerate new products and materials at the end of each service life.

2.2.4 This requires a shift in the traditional production-consumption approach: designing for disassembly or remanufacturing and useable by-products, and deigning out wasted energy, materials and pollution.

2.2.5 The overall aim of the Scottish Government's programme is to prevent waste, increase resource efficiency and enable a shift towards a more circular economy (see figure 2).

2.2.6 **Figure 2 – A Circular Economy**



2.2.7 Action 11 of 'Safeguarding Scotland's Resources' relates to Reuse supply and Demand stating that:

Zero Waste Scotland will work to increase the supply and demand for quality reusable items by:

- Working with Local Authorities and others to support pilots of collection systems for reusable items, including recycling centres and kerbside.
- Working with businesses to identify and stimulate development in refurbishment and repair infrastructure in Scotland'.
- Working with the community sector to further develop the Revolve network and reuse shops.
- Continuing to support the Reuse Hotline helping people donate items for reuse.
- Raising awareness of households and businesses of how they can source reused items.

2.3 Making Things Last – A Circular Economy Strategy for Scotland

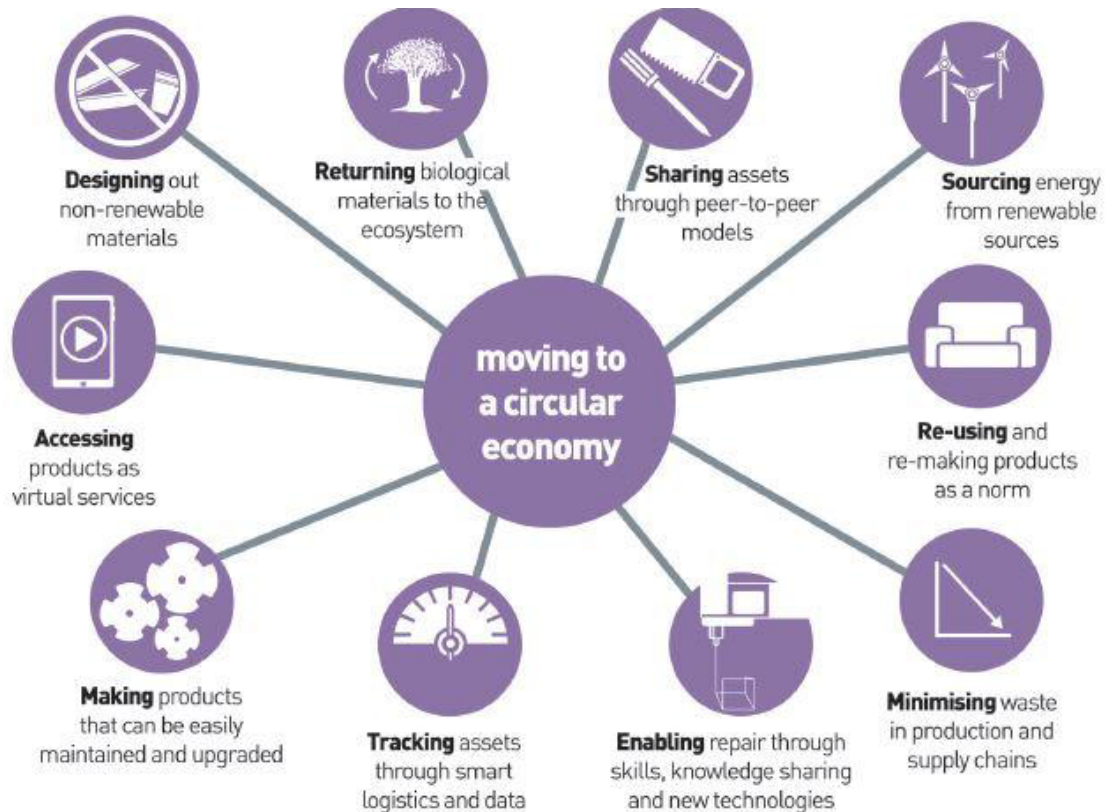
2.3.1 The Scottish Government released its Circular Economy Strategy on 23 February 2016.

2.3.2 This strategy sets out the Scottish Governments priorities for moving towards a more circular economy, where products and materials are kept in high value use for as long as possible.

2.3.3 The Scottish Government outline that there are significant environmental benefits to a more circular economy; from reducing greenhouse gas emissions, relieving pressure on water resources, virgin materials and habitats, and limiting pollution of the air, soils and water courses.

2.3.4 Figure 3 below illustrates the different ways in which the use of goods and physical assets can be increased, prolonging their life and shifting resource use from finite to renewable resources.

2.3.5 **Figure 3 Key changes in moving to a circular economy**



2.3.6 Four priority areas are outlined within the strategy due to their importance for the Scottish economy, including **remanufacture** which contributes £1.1 billion to annual economic activity with potential to add an additional £620 million by 2020.

2.3.7 The strategy document outlines its ambitions for the following areas:

- **Design** – Products to be designed with their full life-cycle in mind.
- **Reuse** – Second hand good to be seen as an attractive options, mainstream, good value.
- **Repair** – First choice for faulty products to be repair, on the basis of convenience and value.
- **Remanufacture** – Want to return products to previous use with it previous performance and a warranty.
- **Producer Responsibility for reuse and recycling** – Those that produce products and put them onto the market for the 'End of Life' management.

2.4 **Scottish Borders Council – Integrated Waste Management Strategy**

2.4.1 The Council approved the Integrated Waste Management Strategy in December 2013.

- 2.4.2 This Strategy majored on treatment and recycling in line with National and European Policy. However it did make reference to waste prevention and the circular economy (see section 6).
- 2.4.3 Action 19 of the Strategy aimed to 'Deliver the re-use pilot at Selkirk Community Recycling Centre.

Donating items to charity

The item you want to dispose of could be accepted at a charity shop or by a local furniture reuse organisation.

Charity shops and organisations that accept large furniture in the Scottish Borders are:

- [Berwickshire Furniture Restoration Co Ltd](#), Showroom, Earlsmeadow, Duns TD11 3AQ - 01361 884886.
- PDSA 64 Channel Street, Galashiels, TD1 1BA - 01896 759881.
- [Home Basics](#), 2 Annfield Mills, Teviot Cresecent, Hawick TD9 9PS - 01450 363974
- [Home Basics](#), Unit 7, Tweedvale Mills East, Walkerburn EH43 6AB - 01896 870455
- St Margaret's of Scotland Hospice, 34 Channel Street, Galashiels TD1 1BA - 01896 751188.

Furniture being donated may need to meet certain safety standards or regulations. Ask the organisation you are considering donating to for further information.

You can donate old bikes to the [bike recycling scheme](#).

Alternative ways to dispose of items

You can dispose of household items and other waste free of charge at your local [community recycling centre](#).

[Book a collection of bulky waste items](#)

Appendix 3

Press release for Reuse cabin in Selkirk CRC

Scottish Borders Council is pleased to announce the opening of its reuse cabin at the community recycling centre in Selkirk. The reuse cabin will be able to accept the following electrical items as long as they are in working condition:

- Fridges – any type & size
- Freezers – but not chest freezers
- Fridge-freezers – any type & size
- Dishwashers
- Microwaves
- Washing machines – front-loading only
- Tumble dryers
- Electric cookers – including desktop cookers but not built-in ovens

Any items that are not in working order can continue to be recycled at the CRC sites but not in the reuse cabin.

The items that are donated to the reuse cabin by householders will be collected by the Borders based reuse organisation Home Basics Ltd. Home Basics is a registered Scottish charity established in 1999 to provide furniture, white goods and other household items to those most in need in the Scottish Borders. This arrangement will enable many items that are still in good working order to be reused locally in the Borders area.

All the items that Home Basics receive will be put through a thorough quality check system to ensure that the appliance works properly and is of a suitable condition for a new owner.

The Selkirk reuse cabin forms part of the Council's overall Integrated Waste Management Strategy,

Expanding the reuse opportunities for householders across the Borders is one of the next steps of the Integrated Waste Management Strategy, aiming to increase the reuse of materials delivered to community recycling centres whilst benefiting local reuse organisations/ charities and the positive work that they carry out across the Borders.

Quote from Cllr Paterson to say "I am very pleased that the reuse cabin is opening in Selkirk, if this cabin proves to be a success then SBC would look to extend the facility to other CRCs in the Borders."

Home Basics website: <http://homebasics.org.uk/>

Recycling 'cabin' first for Borders

13 October 2014 | South Scotland

Share



A first "reuse cabin" in the Borders to allow households to donate unwanted electrical items to disadvantaged people has opened in Selkirk.

The goods will be checked by charity Home Basics before being distributed throughout the region.

Scottish Borders Council's member for environmental services, David Paterson, said he was pleased with the move.

He said that if it proved to be a success the authority would look to extend it to other recycling centres.

Home Basics Business Manager Dennis Fisher said: "It is a brilliant idea.

"It not only helps in need people in the Borders but will also have a positive environmental impact.

"I hope the people of the Borders will give generously to support this scheme - it is a great opportunity."

Any items that are not in working order can continue to be recycled at the Borders six community recycling centres but not in the reuse cabin at Selkirk.

Appendix 5 – Examples of Re-Use Systems

London Borough of Camden

The London Borough of Camden has an on-site container where visitors can leave reusable items and anyone can take them away. No electrical items are allowed because there is no way of testing them. All items are donated rather than being sold. The site staff keep an eye on the container to ensure it is not too full or untidy. Usually the container is not too full because site visitors are now aware of this facility, and so there is a regular turnover of items.

Western Riverside Waste Authority in London

The Western Riverside Waste Authority in London is working with the London Re-use Network and a number of local re-use organisations to increase re-use activity in the area. **Groundwork** will manage a workshop on the Smugglers Way HWRC, where items can be tested and repaired and then taken by different re-use organisations for sale off site. If successful, this model of partnership working between re-use organisations and other stakeholders, allowing storage and movement of items between networks, could be replicated elsewhere in the country. While current re-use schemes which focus on selling items to low income families are extremely beneficial, turnover needs to be maximised if all of the reusable items entering HWRCs are to be diverted from landfill.

Re-use shop and warehouse, Banbridge Household Waste Recycling Centre, Banbridge



The Council noted that there were large numbers of quality items disposed of at the household waste recycling centres (HWRC). The Council decided that the HWRC's were the ideal place to set up a reuse and refurbishment scheme with environmental and social benefits for the local community.

Key facts

- Restore is an on-site reuse facility which opened in June 2009 and was the first of its kind in Northern Ireland.
- It is owned and operated by Banbridge District Council but has its own branding to set it apart from the Council.
- The 3,000 square foot building was constructed when the HWRC was refurbished.
- In the first year, approximately 10 tonnes of waste was diverted but this is increasing as customers learn about the service.

- Start-up funding of £260,000 was obtained from the Northern Ireland European Social Funds Programme through the Department for Education and Learning.
- The funding was for three years to March 2011. This covered capital costs to refurbish the building, tools and a collection vehicle, and covers revenue costs for staff costs and marketing.
- At the time of writing the project was in the pilot phase and the economic costs and benefits over three years are being assessed.
- Current annual running costs are estimated to be £70,000; this includes staff wages, utilities and maintenance.