



Draft Waste Strategy

2025-2030

June 2024

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1.0 Purpose

To review and update the Council's Waste Strategy to meet the Welsh Government (WG) overall Waste Strategy; to move towards the output requirements of WG's Collections Blueprint; maximise waste minimisation, reuse, and recycling over and above statutory recycling target currently set at 70% recycling in 2024/25; to maximise efficiency of the service; and minimise the service's carbon footprint.

To agree a Service Improvement Implementation Programme and to understand options and potential challenges into the longer term.

2.0 The Waste Agenda

2.1 The Current National Context

Any waste strategy must be aligned with the relevant, current UK and Welsh Government policies and legislative acts including:

- Waste Framework Directive
- The Waste (England and Wales) Regulations 2011
- Towards Zero Waste
- Waste (Wales) Measure 2010
- Environment (Wales) Act 2016
- Climate Change Strategy for Wales
- Workplace Recycling Regulations

It is considered that there will be a significant increase in demand for waste services over the next decade particularly having regard to the targets being set by the Welsh Government, outlined below. Specifically, the Welsh National Waste Strategy – “Towards Zero Waste” was launched in 2010. The strategy sets out the long-term framework for resource efficiency and waste management between now and 2050.

Welsh Government's intermediate priorities and principles for collection are summarised as:

1. Provision of kerbside collection services that reduce residual waste arisings, collect high levels of clean recyclables and is at lowest overall financial cost;
2. Collection services are delivered in a way that helps elicit the desired behavioral changes amongst householders whilst at the same time providing convenience;

3. Provision of kerbside collection services that can provide source segregated food wastes to anaerobic digestion facilities that produce renewable energy and soil fertiliser; and
4. Provision of well signed, equipped, and staffed Household Waste Recycling Centres that enable as many people as possible to access facilities for recycling as wide a range of materials as possible.

By 2024/25, the strategy expects that 70% of what is produced will be recycled. Of the remaining 30% a maximum of 5% can go to landfill with the remaining fraction to Energy from Waste

The target brings with it substantial financial penalties of £200 per tonne, for not meeting the required levels of recycling. Missing a target by 1% would result in a fine of circa £225K.

2.2 The Future National Context

The Welsh Government's Towards Zero Waste Strategy has been reviewed and supplemented by a new strategy document titled "Beyond Recycling - A strategy to make the circular economy in Wales a reality".

This review aspires to move towards a circular economy to:

- Become zero waste by 2050
- Reduce emissions
- Realise our economic potential
- Make resource efficiency part of our Welsh culture

Welsh Government have long had an objective to reach zero waste by 2050 and this goes hand in hand with their goal of a net zero carbon Wales. With this in mind, there is a strong likelihood that further statutory recycling targets in excess of 70% will be introduced. A future target of 80% would not be unexpected, although specific proposals have not been determined by WG yet.

2.3 UK Context

The UK Government is also in the process of implementing reforms to improve waste management in England, and these reforms will have an impact on the rest of the UK.

Some of the significant items of legislation include:

- Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR)
- Simpler Recycling and a potential Deposit Return Scheme (DRS)
- Emissions Trading Scheme (ETS)

2.4 The Local Context

The City and County of Swansea is a mainly urban Authority with rural areas to the west and north.

It has approximately 114,000 properties with a significant level of ongoing housing growth, and a population of around 250,000.

The Authority has a thriving tourism industry, two large Universities, and a large commercial sector. The area also has a significant proportion of high-density housing in the form of terraced/town houses, houses in multiple occupation, and flats.

The area currently has 75 Elected Members covering 32 Electoral Wards.

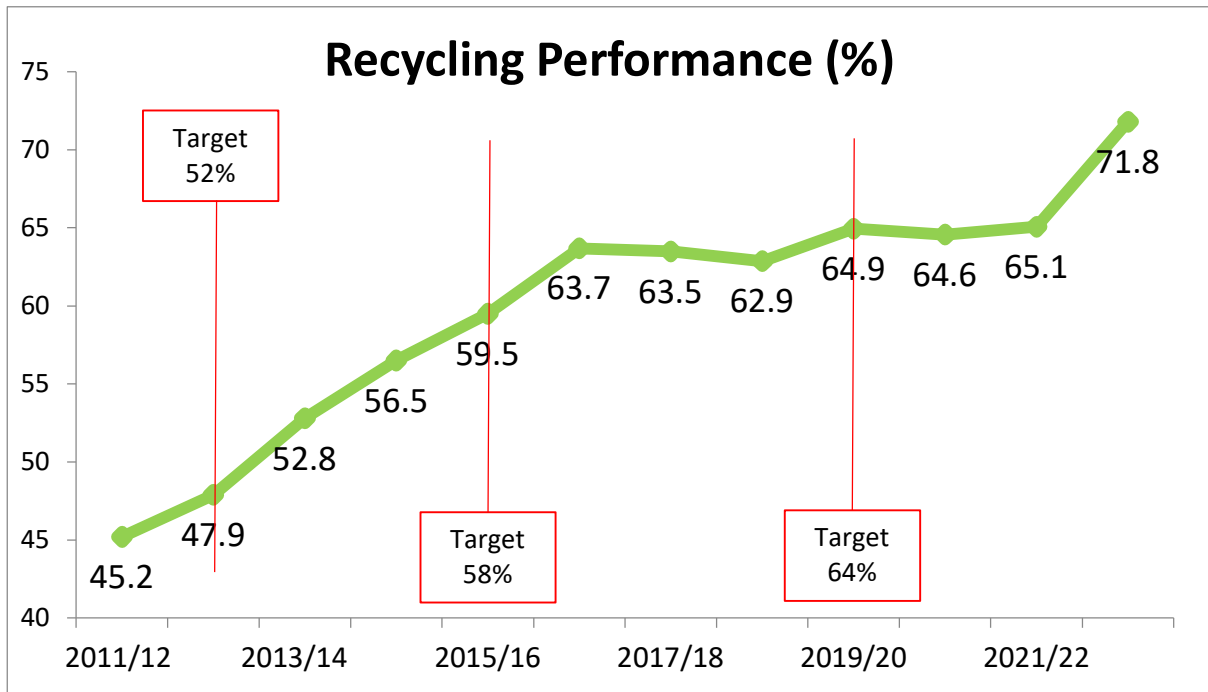
The City & County of Swansea published its well-being statement before 31st March 2017 as required by the Well-Being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015.

Swansea's Corporate Plan 2023-28 clearly states its commitment to the environment through its Corporate Priority **Delivering on Nature Recovery and Climate Change** – so that we maintain and enhance nature and biodiversity in Swansea, reduce our carbon footprint and tackle climate change.

The Corporate Plan also recognises the importance of supporting prosperity through **Transforming our Economy & Infrastructure** – so that Swansea has a thriving mixed use City Centre and a local economy that will support the prosperity of our citizens.

3.0 History of Waste Management in Swansea

The following graph shows Swansea's recycling rates from 2011 up to 2023.



Recycling has a long history in Swansea and has gone through many changes.

However, there was a clear rapid increase in the recycling rate once a Sustainable Waste Management Grant from the Welsh Government was made available in the early 2000's. This grant has reduced significantly over the last 10 years.

The following timeline gives a summary of the various service and operational changes, undertaken over the last 20 years, and shows significant progress in moving forward waste minimisation, recycling, and composting.

Since 2006/07, the Authority's non-recyclable waste has reduced from 100,000 tonnes per annum to around 30,100 tonnes per annum, a reduction of 70%.

Year	Initiative
2004	Kerbside Recycling Collections expanded to cover whole County of 110,000 properties.
2005	Garden Waste Collections to 35,000 homes introduced.
2006	Kitchen Waste collections to existing Garden Waste Areas introduced.
2008	Inclusion of cardboard to Kerbside Collections
2009	Kitchen Waste and Garden Waste expanded to cover whole of County and Kitchen Waste changed to weekly collection.
2010	Plastic Collections introduced to whole of County on opposite week to green bags.
2011	Alternate Weekly Collections (AWC) of black bags introduced.
2014	Introduction of 3 black bag limit
2016	Black bag skips restricted to Llansamlet and Clyne HWRCs, and recyclables prohibited from black bag skips.
2017	Re-useable pinks introduced for plastics
2018	Re-use shop expanded
2019	Recyclables prohibited from black bags at the kerbside
2020	Re-use shop further expanded
2021	Recovery of Bulky Recyclables
2022	Thermal Treatment of Residual Waste
2024	Implementation of the Workplace Recycling Regulations
2024/25	Re-useable containers being introduced for paper/card and cans/glass

4.0 Our Vision and Strategy

4.1 Vision - The purpose of the Waste Management Service is to provide a cost effective, legally compliant, and well managed service; and offer expertise and guidance to our customers.

4.2 Mission - Waste, Parks and Cleansing will strive to deliver first class services to all of its internal & external customers to support an attractive place to live, work, & visit, and allow equal opportunity for all of its employees to develop, treat them with respect and value everyone's contribution to the organisation

4.3 Core Objectives - In line with the Circular Economy principles and the Waste Management Hierarchy, our key Core Objectives are:

1. Upscaling prevention and re-use
2. Building on our recycling record
3. Investing in infrastructure
4. Enabling community and business action

5.0 Existing Waste Management Provision

5.1 Domestic Collections

Domestic Waste from residents is currently collected primarily using Twin Pack Refuse Collection Vehicles (RCVs), with narrow access areas collected using transit tippers. Each household receives the following collections, all wastes collected once a fortnight apart from food waste which is collected every week.

	Week 1	Week 2
RCV 1	Residual waste (Black Bags)	Cans & Glass / Paper & Card
RCV 2	Plastic / Food waste	Garden waste / Food waste

The Service also provides collections from the doorstep, Assisted Lifts, for households with no-one who is able to present waste at the kerbside.

The introduction of reusable containers for Cans & Glass, and Paper & Card for the majority of our residents will save around 10 million single use green bags a year and reduces the processing required to de-bag.

5.2 Bulky Collections

A collection service is available for domestic bulky furniture and other items including beds, carpets, fridges, freezers, and wardrobes. The collection is chargeable, with a 50% discount for residents in receipt of a variety of support schemes. Every effort is made to put items collected back into use, recycle single material products such as wooden furniture, or break down mixed material items for recycling where practicable such as bed bases and mattresses.

5.3 Commercial Waste Collections

The Service has a statutory requirement to provide a waste collection and disposal service to businesses when asked to do so. This must be a chargeable service which at least covers its costs.

All waste collected through this service is included in our recycling performance, so recycling by our commercial customers is essential to minimise the negative impact on our performance.

Welsh Government introduced the Workplace Recycling Regulations which were implemented in April 2024 requiring the separate collections for paper/cardboard, glass, plastics (bottles, tubs, & trays) & cans, tetra pak type cartons, food waste,

unsold textiles, and unsold small electrical goods. The legislation prohibits these recyclables from being disposed of with residual or non-recyclable waste.

We usually have approximately 1,500 commercial customers, which mostly comprise of smaller, local businesses with the larger national chains serviced by national waste contractors. It should be noted that the pre-legislation change commercial recycling rate of around 58.7% and it remains to be seen how the new legislation will impact on this recycling rate.

5.4 Recycling Centres

The Authority has a statutory duty to operate at least one Household Waste Recycling Centre. We currently have five Recycling Centres at Llansamlet, Clyne, Garngoch, Penlan, and Tir John.

The recycling performance of the sites improved from 65% to 89% when, in 2016, the receipt of non-recyclable waste was channelled to just Llansamlet and Clyne Recycling Centres and recyclables mixed with the black bag waste was not accepted. This diverted over 8,000T a year of waste from landfill.

5.5 Waste Minimisation and Reuse

Our Reuse Shop, Tip Treasures, continues to be at the forefront of our repair & reuse efforts and has continued to be improved. The shop sells a large range of used goods from electricals to clothes and jewellery.

We support a number of community Repair Cafes through our mobile Repair Café set up, and a third sector organisation uses our tools inventory to run a Library of Things at <https://www.swansealibraryofthings.co.uk/>.

A wood reprocessing area has been set up to reuse waste wood for fire wood, and other wood products. Waste wood and part used tins of paint are also being set aside at the Llansamlet Recycling Centre for visitors to take and use, to save buying new.

Opportunities continue to be explored internally and with the private and third sectors to maximise reuse and recycling of bulky items.

5.6 Transfer Station

The Authority's Baling Plant Transfer Station continues to be extremely busy accepting, processing, bulking, and transferring wastes for further processing or disposal.

Non-recyclable waste is sent for thermal treatment, with recyclable wastes sent to a variety of recycling outlets.

Food waste is transferred to an anaerobic digestion (AD) facility in Bridgend for composting to produce renewable energy and soil conditioner/fertiliser.

5.7 Thermal Treatment of Residual Waste

Following the closure of Tir John landfill site, the Authority procured a thermal treatment contract in line with Welsh Government's Collections Blueprint which provides a clear strategy direction from landfill to Energy from Waste for the disposal of residual waste.

The ash produced from the power generation process can also be recycled.

The Authority initially procured a 3-year contract, which commenced in February 2022, with the option to extend, year on year, for a further 4 years. This strategy provides the optimum balance of a cost-effective solution, with the flexibility to adapt should technology and/or market conditions change.

5.8 Recycling Promotions and Enforcement

Recycling promotions and enforcement play a key role in achieving high recycling performance. The Service strives to achieve the optimum balance between the two, always initially seeking to encourage residents and businesses to recycling through the provision of information on the benefits of recycling and how to recycle, provision of facilities to recycle, and breaking down any barriers to recycle.

Initiatives include school visits, pop up information stalls in shopping areas, working closely with the Universities and student unions, use of social media platforms, specific promotion campaigns, and our Keep it Out campaign.

Enforcement is only used as a last resort when residents or business refuse to do their part in responsibly managing their waste.

6.0 Modelling of Potential Collection Improvement Opportunities

6.1 Introduction

Even with the 2024/25 WG Statutory Recycling Target of 70% being met 2 years early, consideration of options to improve recycling performance has been explored due to the potential for increased WG Statutory Recycling Targets going forward, and to provide a buffer against issues which could adversely impact local authorities recycling performance such as the Government's proposed Deposit Return Scheme.

A waste management Consultant was commissioned via Waste and Resources Action Programme (WRAP), and funded by WG, to explore the range of waste collection options available and the predicted impact of those options.

6.2 Options Modelled

Stage 1 modelled 9 different collection options and sub-options against our existing baseline collection system.

A number of options have been discounted on financial grounds, including the use of wheeled bins and 4 weekly collections of residual waste, due to this requiring wheeled bins.

Further sensitivities were also modelled on the following viable options:

- **Option A** (originally Option 2B): Alternate weekly dry recycling collection and weekly food waste collection (Twin packs). Film & textiles in with plastics. Fortnightly garden waste collection (RCV). Fortnightly residual waste, with 2 bag limit, and weekly food waste collection (Twin packs).
- **Option B** (originally Option 4): Alternate weekly dry recycling collection and weekly food waste collection (Twin packs). Fortnightly garden waste and weekly food waste collection (Twin packs). Three-weekly residual waste, with 3 bag limit, and film/textiles (Twin packs).
- **Option C** (originally Option 5): Weekly kerbside sort dry recycling and food waste collection (RRVs). Fortnightly garden waste collection (RCV). Three weekly residual waste collection with 3 bag limit (RCV).

The Sensitivities added to these three options were:

Sensitivity 1: Impact of a reduced collection performance of 10%.

Sensitivity 2: Impact of ceasing garden waste collections for 4 months through the winter.

Sensitivity 3: Impact of plastic film not being viable to collect.

6.4 Modelling Results

6.4.1 From the modelling, there is a clear indication that the options using variations of the current twin pack system are significantly cheaper in general than comparable options which use “kerbside sort” RRV collections. One factor that “kerbside sort” collections do offer, is closer alignment with the Welsh Government’s (WG’s) Collections Blueprint, which specifies single-pass weekly recycling collections. “Kerbside sort” options are also generally slightly more beneficial in terms of carbon emissions, due to the better fuel efficiency of the vehicles used to collect dry recycling and food waste when compared to the twin pack used in non-kerbside sort options; however, all options presented demonstrate a reduction in carbon emissions compared to the baseline due to the increase in recyclable materials collected.

Options using the current twin pack system can also totally align with WG’s Collections Blueprint, in terms of waste streams collected and outputs, however investment would be needed for a Plastic and metal cans sorting line. Discussions with WG and their consultants have commenced to review the potential of WG investment.

All options modelled have impacts in terms of the current waste infrastructure in place and create a need for investment.

The “kerbside sort” options would also introduce significant additional upfront costs such as new material sorting equipment, changes to the Baling Plant transfer station tipping arrangements, and a depot expansion to cater for the parking of additional collection vehicles, which are not included in the modelling.

In terms of the sensitivities tested, the collection of films for recycling does not have a compelling financial case at present and only has a minimal impact on recycling rates (0.3%), however it does mitigate any proposals to further restrict residual waste. The modelling assumes an overall cost-neutral disposal route for films, which could be considered an optimistic assumption, with the Consultant stating that a significantly higher cost for recycling films is certainly plausible, and the recycling market for films is uncertain and underdeveloped at present, adding more risks. However, there are plans in place for film recycling in the Swansea area, and a film collection trial would help to assess how much film residents would recycle, any additional collection costs, and the state of the reprocessing

market. Collecting and recycling this material does present a benefit in terms of carbon emissions which must be considered if the market can effectively recycle the material.

The tested sensitivity of seasonal garden waste reduces staff costs for options where it is collected separately (eg Option A), with a minimal penalty in terms of reduced recycling rates and carbon benefits.

Collection option	Benefits	Disbenefits
A	Very cost effective Low initial capital cost Keeps a fortnightly black bag collection Little change for residents Little change in operations Significant improvement in recycling performance A good reduction in carbon emissions Has potential to comply with WG Blueprint outputs Limited depot changes	Reduction to 2 black bags per fortnight Black bags have to be moved to “Green Week” to benefit from seasonal garden waste collections
B	Very cost effective Low initial capital cost Little change in operation Significant improvement in recycling performance A good reduction in carbon emissions Has potential to comply with WG Blueprint outputs Limited depot changes	Black bags collected every 3 weeks Complex for residents due to weekly, fortnightly, and 3 weekly collections Significant change for residents
C	Weekly recycling collections Has potential to comply with WG Blueprint A slightly higher reduction in carbon emissions	Significant increase in cost Increased vehicles numbers require depot expansion Significant change of operation for crews Requires increased capital investment in the Baling Plant transfer station Slower operation would result in increased disruption on the highway

6.4.2 Charging for Garden Waste Collections

This has been commented on separately by the Consultant and could be considered as a stand-alone option which could be added to any of the collection options modelled.

It is very difficult to predict the impact of introducing a charged garden waste service, as there are little discernible trends in areas which have previously introduced such charges. The basic assumptions are that the overall amount of garden waste collected will reduce by a small amount, adversely affecting recycling performance, with the scale of this impact being sensitive to the area's demographics and the rate charged.

As an example of potential impacts, the introduction of a charge of £20 per year, with a 25% of households participating would generate an income of around £500K per year, with a predicted reduction in recycling rate of less than 0.5%. There would also be administrative costs involved in running such a scheme.

It is considered proportionate to introduce seasonal garden waste collections instead of charging for garden waste collections, so charging for garden waste collections does not form part of the recommendations of this draft Strategy.

7 Collection Trials

7.1 Seasonal Garden Waste Trial

A trial cessation of garden waste collection was run through December 2023 and January 2024. The trial proved very successful with very little issues raised by residents. Over the 8-week period, the Service Area is only aware of 9no corporate complaints being raised. The Corporate Communications Team have advised that there was very little concerns raised through social media platforms.

Tonnages of garden waste brought to the Recycling Centres showed little change, and there was no evidence of increased fly tipping through the trial.

Due to the success of the trial, it is recommended that the Authority adopt Seasonal Garden Waste Collections going forward, starting winter 2024/25.

7.2 Collection of Additional Materials Kerbside

The collections modelling undertaken assumed that kerbside recycling collections for plastic film and textiles, as the highest tonnage of dry recyclables in our black bags, would be introduced.

Research raised concern over the potential cost and robustness of recycling plastic film in a developing market. Concern was also raised about the likely quality of kerbside collected textiles, and whether this would simply divert textiles from our recycling centres to the kerbside.

The potential for the introduction of a new expansion of the UK Emissions Trading Scheme (ETS) to cover Energy from Waste (EfW) plants within the next 5 years brings with it the risk of significant increased costs of EfW. These costs have been forecasted by WG consultants to increase by circa £1M in 2028, rising to £2.2M by 2035 if no further mitigation measures are put in place. Reducing fossil fuel derived materials, such as plastics, textiles, and electricals, from our black bags will help to mitigate against these cost increases.

The Service Area is currently in discussions over a WG Funded trial for plastic film planned for the end of 2024, with the potential to add on electricals and textiles funded by the Council, to better inform the viability of implementing these on a permanent basis .

8.0 Recommended Service Improvement Plan

A Service Improvement Implementation Programme for the recommendations below is attached as Appendix 1.

8.1 Seasonal Garden Waste

Following the success of the trial, it is recommended that that the Authority adopt Seasonal Garden Waste Collections going forward, starting winter 2024/25. The intention is to stop garden Waste Collections from mid-December to mid-March.

To maximise the efficiency of the service, it is also proposed to swap garden waste and black bag collections around, so that black bags and food waste can be collected on the same vehicle. Garden Waste can then be collected on its own.

8.2 Kerbside Collection Option

From the Collection Options modelled, it is recommended to adopt:

Option A: Alternate weekly dry recycling collection and weekly food waste collection (twin packs). Viable additional materials in with plastics. Seasonal fortnightly garden waste collection (RCV). Fortnightly residual waste, with 2 bag limit, and weekly food waste collection (twin packs). The current exemption process for residents generating more than 2 bags of non-recyclable waste will still apply.

This Collection Option is preferred because it:

- i. has little change for residents, keeping black bag collections fortnightly, although with the introduction of a 2-bag limit. A recent survey showed over half of the properties checked had 2 or fewer bags out for collection,
- ii. is the most financially favourable option in terms of operating costs,
- iii. has the lowest initial capital cost,
- iv. results in little change in the operation for Collection Crews,
- v. provides a significant increase in recycling performance,
- vi. gives a good reduction in carbon emissions
- vii. has the potential to comply with the WG Collections Blueprint in terms of outputs, if funding is made available for new material sorting infrastructure.

Having the lowest operating costs relies on the introduction of seasonal garden waste, collecting garden waste on its own by collecting food waste with black bags on “Green Week”, and the collection of plastic film.

8.3 Collection of Additional Materials

It is recommended that trials be run for the kerbside collection of plastic film, textiles, and small electrical equipment, and implementing these, or some of them, on a permanent basis if and when viable. Discussions are ongoing for a WG funded trial of plastic film collections.

Based on the successful trials of the kerbside collection of plastic film, textiles, and small electrical equipment, it is recommended to implement these on a permanent basis as they become viable. The newly planned expansion of the ETS will need to be factored into the assessment of viability of any additional collections.

Discussions with the recycling markets will continue to determine the most appropriate timing for the introduction of these materials for kerbside collections.

8.4 Collections of Metal Cans with Plastics

It is also recommended that metal cans be moved from being collected with glass, to being collected with plastics, if WG funding can be secured for the installation of a plastic and cans sorting line.

This would have the benefit of bring the Council's collection streams and outputs totally in line with the WG Collections Blueprint and provide a wider range of fallback options in case of any extended sorting facility shutdown.

9.0 Potential Future Challenges/Options

9.1 A Changing World

The requirements for the management of waste are varying rapidly through legislative, regulatory, and technological changes. This requires an element of early consideration of potential options to meet a range of potential scenarios going forward as clarity of direction becomes available.

9.2 New Recycling Targets – As outlined in paragraph 2.2 above, there is a strong likelihood that WG will introduce further statutory recycling targets in excess of 70%. A future target of 80%, or even higher, would not be unexpected in order to achieve WG's zero waste by 2050 ambitions.

Increasing recycling targets could also be made even harder to achieve should some material, currently contributing to our recycling performance, be excluded due to:

- i. Regulatory changes – for example National Resources Wales have recently determined that certain waste woods cannot be considered for recycling, and have stopped waste wood being used for certain products
- ii. Changes in WG definitions – it is possible that WG could decide review definitions of recycling meaning that some waste materials, such as wood, rubble, incineration ash etc., could no longer be included in our recycling performance figures.
- iii. Deposit Returns Scheme – Such a scheme, which is covered in more detail below, could reduce our recycling performance by up to 2%, depending on how it is managed.

9.3 Deposit Return Scheme (DRS) – A DRS is where consumers have to pay a deposit for the container their product comes in, in addition to the usual purchase price, with that deposit only being recouped when they return the empty container.

A DRS is under consideration by WG, as it is by all nations across the UK, and whilst a scheme is reasonably certain to be implemented, the scope and method of operation are still to be determined. Current indications are that the scheme will include at least metal, glass, and plastic drinks containers, including large family sized containers and multipacks. The full range of products covered is not yet known and could be expanded upon following initial implementation.

The method of operation is also key to the impact such a scheme could have on our recycling performance and income from recyclables. A model which relies on

the public returning all their cans and plastic and glass bottles to a reverse vending machine to recover their deposit, would remove all that valuable, recyclable material from our waste streams, reducing our recycling performance and the income we receive for those materials. Unfortunately, it wouldn't reduce our collection costs as we would still need to collect food tins, glass jars, and plastic tubs and trays. It is extremely difficult to quantify the potential impacts, however we consider that this model could reduce our recycling performance by over 2% and reduce our income by around £200k-400k.

An alternative model which has been trialled, with each container having its own individual label which a resident can scan with their phone when they put it into their recycling container and recover their deposit that way. The Council would then still collect the material and have the income from it, although there are undoubtedly some technological issues to resolve such as how each container is given a unique label.

The benefit of a DRS is that it should further encourage recycling and discourage littering of these containers. The current estimate for the implementation of a DRS is 2025/26.

9.4 Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR) – This is based on the principle of the producer of a product pays for the collection, processing, and recycling or disposal of its packaging, and where relevant, the product itself when it reaches the end of its life. The current types of items in scope include:

- Packaging
- Drinks containers
- Electrical Goods
- Batteries
- Textiles
- Vehicles

WG have advised that this scope could be expanded going forward to include additional items.

The scheme would require producers to reimburse Councils a fair cost, for collecting/receiving, processing, and disposing of those items within the scope of the scheme.

The aim of EPR is to encourage end of life considerations in the designs of products and packaging to facilitate reduced waste and products and packaging which is easier and cheaper to recycle, although there is a risk that Producers' increased costs will be borne directly by the consumer.

Issues still to be understood include how a “fair cost” will be determined, and whether this will then result in a corresponding reduction in WG core funding?

It is currently anticipated that EPR schemes will be phased in a material stream at a time, with Packaging EPR (pEPR) in place by late 2025.

9.5 Emissions Trading Scheme

The potential for the introduction of a new expansion of the UK Emissions Trading Scheme (ETS) to cover EfW plants within the next 5 years brings with it the risk of significant increased costs of EfW. These costs have been forecasted by WG consultants to increase by circa £1M in 2028, rising to £2.2M by 2035 if no further mitigation measures are put in place.

ETS is intended to be a tax aimed at discarded fossil fuel based materials. Reducing fossil fuel derived materials, such as plastics, textiles, and electricals, from our black bags will help to mitigate against these cost increases.

Significant work is being done at UK and WG level to attempt to ensure that costs are fairly distributed. Waste composition analyses may be required on an annual basis to calculate the respective tax liabilities of each waste producer.

9.6 New Recycling Streams

In order to achieve potentially increasing WG Recycling Targets it will become essential to be able to recycle material which are currently not practicably recyclable. These could include items such as carpets and mattress flock.

Either new technology, a change in composition of those items driven through the EPR Scheme, or a combination of both, will be required to enable some of the difficult materials to be practical to recycle.

9.7 Residual Restrictions

The WG Collections Blueprint originally recommended residual waste collections were restricted to 140 litres, the equivalent of 2 black bags, per household per fortnight. A subsequent review highlighted the recycling and cost benefits of moving to a 3 or 4 weekly collection frequency for residual waste.

Whilst it is currently recommended to move to a 2 black bag per fortnight, future consideration may need to be given to increased restrictions if WG introduce higher recycling targets to move towards their Zero Waste aspirations, and changes to waste composition and quantities allow.

9.8 Chargeable Garden Waste Collections

Charging for Garden Waste collections is also a recommendation of WG's Collections Blueprint, and whilst this has an obvious financial benefit, it would also result in some reduction in recycling performance. We currently collect around 6,000 to 7,000T of garden waste per year, with approximately 2,500T taken at our Recycling Centres. If a charging scheme reduced our overall annual tonnage by 1,200T, that would reduce our recycling performance by about 0.5%.

It is recommended that charging for garden waste not introduced until there is clarity on the impact of the recommendations in Section 8 of this strategy, and a clear understanding of future WG recycling targets.

9.9 Potential Future Budget Pressures

Potential future budget pressures may require consideration of appropriate control measures and these would be consulted on as part of future budget setting rounds.

Appendix 1 – Service Improvement Implementation Programme

TASK	Aug-24	Sep-24	Oct-24	Nov-24	Dec-24	Jan-25	Feb-25	Mar-25	Apr-25	May-25	Jun-25	Jul-25	Aug-25	Sep-25
Reusable Containers (Operational change in advance of Strategy)														
Roll out of reusable containers - Phase 1	█													
Roll out of reusable containers - Phase 2						█								
Swap Garden and Black Bag Collection Weeks														
Implementation of change in collections					█									
Implementation of Seasonal Garden Waste Collections														
Cessation of Garden Waste Collections					█									
Trial Collection of Additional Recycling Streams														
Subject to funding and timings from Welsh Government					█									
Further Residual Black Bag Restrictions														
Implementation Commencement												█		
Moving of Cans from Glass to Plastic Collections														
Subject to Welsh Government Funding for Sorting Facilities - Discussions ongoing														