



**RECYCLING AND RECOVERY PERFORMANCE**

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**2.0 INTRODUCTION**

- 2.1 Argyll and Bute Council is both a waste collection and waste disposal authority. Recycling, composting and recovery (i.e. other landfill diversion) statistics are reported quarterly within the council's performance system Pyramid. Statutory returns to SEPA e.g. licensed site tonnage, landfill tax and waste data flow vary from quarterly to annual.
- 2.2 This report provides details on the council's recycling and landfill diversion performance along with national policy, targets and regulations which are likely to impact on future performance.

**3.0 RECOMMENDATIONS**

- 3.1 It is recommended that Members note and give consideration to the details as outlined in this report and the national policy drivers that will likely impact over the coming years.

**4.0 DETAILS**

- 4.1 The council's waste strategy was approved by the Environment, Development and Infrastructure Committee in September 2019. Whilst this strategy will emerge in line with government guidance, regulation legislation, and contractual

4.2 Argyll and Bute Council operate a performance management system 'Pyramid'. Quarterly recycling/composting, recovery and landfill percentages are included – split between the Islands landfill sites, Waste Management PPP and Helensburgh/Lomond areas. These details include:

percentage of waste recycled and composted;1 0-(iD 4/Lang (en-GB)BDC BT1 0 0 11

	% waste recycled and composted	28.5%	23.6%	33.0%
	% waste recovered	18.1%	21.5%	17.6%

overall recycling and landfill diversion rates in 2021 returned to pre-covid levels. There are some disposal area differences when comparing 2019 and 2021, e.g. most of the glass collected in the Helensburgh/Lomond and the PPP areas is serviced by a dedicated glass collection vehicle and staffing based in Helensburgh. Depending on collection volumes and routes, the vehicle will sometimes discharge the glass at PPP sites and on other occasions at the Helensburgh site which varies the location where the glass is registered as being recycled. In 2021, there was significantly more glass discharged for recycling at the PPP sites (and subsequently less at the Helensburgh site) compared to 2019 levels. In the Islands disposal area, there was a drop in recycling from 2021 compared to 2019, this is mainly due to a large reduction in wood delivered for recycling at our Mull and Islay facilities.

The recovery in the Waste PPP area is carried out by Renewi through residual waste mechanical biological treatment plants based at their waste facilities near Oban, Dunoon and Lochgilphead.

The recovery in the Helensburgh and Lomond area is mainly carried out by Barr Environmental at their Auchencarroch waste facility, near Alexandria.

There was an increase of circa 13% in overall municipal solid waste tonnages in 2021 compared to 2020. Tonnages in 2020 were much lower than normal mainly due to the sharp reduction in visitors and the closure of many commercial premises during the first lockdown in 2020. However, it is noteworthy that the 2021 tonnages were still higher by circa 3% compared to 2019. The overall tonnage increase in 2021 is likely due to the high number of staycation visitors during

## **Landfill Ban**

4.4 The Waste (Scotland) Regulations were introduced by the Scottish

Garden waste collections may become mandatory in 2023;  
Textiles collections may be made mandatory in 2025;  
Hazardous household waste collections may be made mandatory in 2025;  
The Household Recycling Charter may be made mandatory in future;  
Statutory Recycling Targets may be placed on individual Councils in future.

## **5.0 CONCLUSION**

5.1 Steady progress was made on recycling and composting performance during 2021 after being affected during the early months of the pandemic in 2020. Since council kerbside services returned and recycling/civic amenity sites re-opened in June 2020, more normal recycling levels have returned throughout 2021. National Policy drivers such as the ban on biodegradable waste to landfill, the Scottish Deposit Return Scheme and the circular economy proposals will have significant implications for future recycling, composting and recovery performance.

## **6.0 IMPLICATIONS**

- 6.1 Policy - National policies and regulations will likely impact on future recycling, composting and recovery performance. The council's policy is to reduce landfill.
- 6.2 Financial - The 2025 ban on biodegradable waste to landfill will have financial implications. An update report can be found in the September 2022 Environment, Development and Infrastructure Committee.
- 6.3 The landfill ban (delayed until 31<sup>st</sup> December 2025) is a legal requirement under the Waste (Scotland) Regulations 2012. Other legal requirements may result following The Scottish Government Circular Economy proposals.
- 6.4 HR – None.
- 6.5 Equalities – None.
- 6.6 Risk - Risks to the council on the landfill ban and any other future statutory requirements are mainly financial. A national deposit scheme for drinks containers will hopefully have an overall environmental benefit, although it may impact negatively on council recycling rates.
- 6.7 Customer – None at present.

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