

# SCREENING REPORT

## STEP 1 – DETAILS OF THE PLAN

**Responsible Authority:**

Aberdeenshire Council

**Title of the plan:**

Waste Strategy 2019-2023

**What prompted the plan:**

(e.g. a legislative, regulatory or administrative provision)

Aberdeenshire Council's previous waste strategy 'Integrated Sustainable Waste Management Strategy for Aberdeenshire 2001-2020' was last reviewed in 2014 and required to be updated to reflect the Scottish circular economy strategy published in 2016 and to comply with the new scheme of governance at Aberdeenshire Council, implemented in 2017/18, which require all policies, including strategies, to be reviewed every 5 years.

**Plan subject:**

(e.g. transport)

Waste management

**Screening** is required by the Environmental Assessment (Scotland) Act 2005.

Based on Boxes 3 and 4, our view is that:

**An SEA is required, as the environmental effects are likely to be significant:** Please indicate below what Section of the 2005 Act this plan falls within

Section 5(3)

Section 5(4)

**An SEA is not required, as the environmental effects are unlikely to be significant:** Please indicate below what Section of the 2005 Act this plan falls within

Section 5(3)

Section 5(4)

**Contact details:**

Kat Laakso  
Strategic Development Officer

**Date:**

20 December 2018

## STEP 2 – CONTEXT AND DESCRIPTION OF THE PLAN

### Context of the Plan:

Aberdeenshire's Waste strategy 2019-2023 is implementing [Scotland's Zero Waste Plan](#) and [A Circular Economy Strategy for Scotland](#) at a local level to prevent waste in the first place and to maximise reuse and recycling. The strategy also implements the [Scottish Household Recycling Charter](#) which aims to provide consistent recycling services across Scotland. In addition, the revised strategy is compliant with the [Waste \(Scotland\) Regulations 2012](#) which ban landfilling of biodegradable waste in Scotland by 2021. The waste strategy for Aberdeenshire is implementing these national plans, strategies and regulatory requirements locally in Aberdeenshire.

### Description of the Plan:

The waste strategy has the following objectives:

1. Support the move towards a more circular economy.
2. Provide a cost-efficient service.
3. Meet statutory obligations.
4. Provide the same collection service across Aberdeenshire.
5. Provide an easy to use service for customers.
6. Reduce carbon emissions.
7. Operate a safe and efficient waste service.

The objectives will be delivered thorough following five measures:

1. Encourage householders to treat materials as a resource.
2. Maximise the quality and value of recyclable materials collected.
3. Maximise recycling through reduced non-recyclable waste capacity.
4. Improve the network of Household Waste Recycling Centres.
5. Recover energy from waste that cannot be prevented, reused or recycled.

The targets of the strategy are as follows:

- Reduce total waste arisings per household by 5% by 2023.
- Increase Aberdeenshire's recycling rate to 60% by 2023.
- Decrease the amount of food waste placed in non-recyclable waste bins by 20% by 2023.
- Increase recycling rate of Household Waste Recycling Centres to 75% by 2023.
- Reduce the cost of waste and recycling service provision by 4% by 2023 through savings in landfill disposal.
- Stop landfilling biodegradable municipal waste by 2021.
- The same recyclables collected from all households.
- Reduce carbon emissions from the collection, disposal and reprocessing of waste by 15% by 2023.
- Minimise accidents and incidents.

The strategy will continue the work to maximise reuse and recycling and allows Aberdeenshire Council's waste service to make changes to the frontline services provided to residents and trade customers in Aberdeenshire over the next 5

	<p>years (2019-2023) to maximise reuse and recycling of waste, in line with national plans.</p> <p>In practice this means encouraging reuse and recycling through more communications and engagement, improving customer service and infrastructure at recycling centres to increase recycling rates at these sites, providing householders with a smaller non-recyclable waste bin/less frequent collections, asking householders to segregate paper &amp; card from other recyclable materials on the kerbside to improve quality of recycling and providing more seasonal recycling points for garden waste. In addition, the strategy makes a link to the ongoing process of building a joint Energy from Waste facility in Aberdeen City, in partnership with Moray and Aberdeen City Councils to help the councils comply with the statutory landfill ban due to be introduced in January 2021.</p>
<p><b>What are the key components of the plan?</b></p>	<p>The strategy focuses delivering improvements in the following areas in the local authority area in line with national plans and legislation:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Increasing the quality and quantity of recyclable materials collected.</li> <li>• Promoting and increasing reuse.</li> <li>• Reducing waste arisings.</li> <li>• Extracting energy from waste that cannot be prevented, reused or recycled.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Have any of the components of the plan been considered in previous SEA work?</b></p>	<p>Yes, the following SEAs cover the strategic impacts of <a href="#">Scotland's Zero Waste Plan</a> and <a href="#">A Circular Economy Strategy for Scotland</a> which Aberdeenshire's Waste Strategy 2019-2023 continues to implement at a local level:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 2008: National Waste Management Plan (SEA\00355)</li> <li>• 2011: Zero Waste Plan Regulations (PRE\00407)</li> <li>• 2015: Circular Economy Road Map (SEA\01070)</li> </ul> <p>A strategic environmental assessment undertaken for Aberdeen City's Waste Strategy (SEA\00397) in 2009 included strategic environmental impacts from the planned energy from waste facility.</p> <p>In addition, as part of a planning application granted by Aberdeen City Council in 2016 for an energy from waste facility in Aberdeen, a full Environmental Impact Assessment was undertaken as part of the planning application (planning ref: <a href="#">160276</a>).</p>
<p><b>In terms of your response to Boxes 7 and 8 above, set out those components of the plan that are likely to require screening:</b></p>	<p>The new revised waste strategy is continuing the implementation of <a href="#">Scotland's Zero Waste Plan</a> and <a href="#">A Circular Economy Strategy for Scotland</a> locally in Aberdeenshire. Both national plans have been subject to a full SEA process.</p> <p>The strategy does not set a framework for development consents for projects and does not set a framework for other plans.</p>

Apart from the energy from waste facility, the strategy does not involve major changes to existing services and infrastructure and no new facilities. The strategic and local environmental impacts from the energy from waste facility have already been assessed, as detailed in the section above.

The strategy is deemed to have no significant environmental effects, following the assessment of each component to identify the potential interactions with the environment. The outcome of the screening assessment is detailed below.

**STEP 3 – IDENTIFYING INTERACTIONS OF THE PLAN WITH THE ENVIRONMENT AND  
CONSIDERING THE LIKELY SIGNIFICANCE OF ANY INTERACTIONS (Error! Reference source not found.)**

Plan Components	Environmental Topic Areas										Explanation of Potential Environmental Effects	Explanation of Significance
	Biodiversity, flora and fauna	Population and human health	Soil	Water	Air	Climatic factors	Material assets	Cultural heritage	Landscape	Inter-relationship issues		
Increasing the quality and quantity of recyclable materials collected.	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✗	✓	✗	Increasing recycling will divert materials from landfill and hence have direct positive impact by reducing environmental impacts resulting from landfill disposal, namely carbon emissions but also the negative impacts landfilling can have locally on fauna & flora, people living in their vicinity and on emissions to soil, water and air. In addition, increased recycling decreases the need for virgin natural resources and associated activities to extract them, hence having a positive impact on all the topic areas noted on the left.	The strategy is a local implementation plan for targets and requirements identified in national plans which have been subject to a full SEA process. The actions detailed in the strategy to increase recycling will not have any additional environmental impacts to those already identified and hence are not considered to be significant.
Promoting and increasing reuse.	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✗	✓	✗	Increasing reuse will divert materials from landfill and hence have direct positive impact by reducing environmental impacts resulting from landfill disposal, namely carbon emissions but also the negative impacts landfilling can have locally on fauna & flora, people living in their vicinity and on emissions to soil, water and air. In	The strategy is a local implementation plan for targets and requirements identified in national plans which have been subject to a full SEA process. The actions detailed in the strategy to increase reuse will not have any additional environmental impacts to those already identified and hence are not considered to be significant.

											addition, increased reuse decreases the need for virgin natural resources and associated activities to extract them, hence having a positive impact on all the topic areas noted on the left.	
Reducing waste arisings.	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✗	✗	✓	✗	Reducing total waste arisings should reduce the need for landfill and hence have direct positive impact by reducing environmental impacts resulting from landfill disposal, namely carbon emissions but also the negative impacts landfills can have locally on fauna & flora, people living in their vicinity and on emissions to soil, water and air.	The strategy is a local implementation plan for targets and requirements identified in national plans which have been subject to a full SEA process. The actions detailed in the strategy to increase reuse will not have any additional environmental impacts to those already identified and hence are not considered to be significant.
Extracting energy from waste that cannot be prevented, reused or recycled.	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✗	✗	✓	✗	Moving from landfilling residual waste to extracting energy (heat and power) from it will have positive environmental impacts in terms of reduced carbon emissions. Impacts on flora & fauna, nuisance to nearby population, emissions to soil, air and water and impacts on landscape would be minimised through design and operational controls, all of which have and will be subject to regulatory scrutiny.	A strategic environmental assessment undertaken for Aberdeen City's Waste Strategy (SEA\00397) in 2009 included strategic environmental impacts from Energy from Waste facilities. In addition, as part of a planning application granted by Aberdeen City Council in 2016 for an Energy from Waste facility in Aberdeen, a full Environmental Impact Assessment has been undertaken as part of the planning application (planning ref: <a href="#">160276</a> ).  The actions detailed in the strategy to extract energy from waste will not have any additional environmental impacts to those already identified and hence are not considered to be significant.

## STEP 4 – STATEMENT OF THE FINDINGS OF THE SCREENING

### **Summary of interactions with the environment and statement of the findings of the Screening:**

(Including an outline of the likely significance of any interactions, positive or negative, and explanation of conclusion of the screening exercise.)

The strategy is not designed to set any framework for development consents for projects and it will not set a framework for other plans. The plans for energy from waste have been subject to a SEA and an EIA separately and the strategy only establishes a link to these plans on strategic level without any additional environmental impacts.

By increasing reuse and recycling, reducing waste arisings and extracting energy from waste that cannot be prevented, reused or recycled, the strategy's aim is to have positive environmental impacts. However, given that the strategy is a local implementation plan for targets and requirements identified in [Scotland's Zero Waste Plan](#) and [A Circular Economy Strategy for Scotland](#), both which have been subject to a full SEA process, it is not considered that the positive environmental impacts likely to result from the implementation of the strategy will be additional to those already identified and considered.

It is our view that the strategy is not likely to have any significant environmental effects within the context of the Environmental Assessment (Scotland) Act 2005. SEA is therefore not deemed to be necessary.

When completed send to: [SEA.gateway@scotland.gsi.gov.uk](mailto:SEA.gateway@scotland.gsi.gov.uk) or to the SEA Gateway, Scottish Government, Area 2H (South), Victoria Quay, Edinburgh, EH6 6QQ.

