



Cairngorms
National Park Authority

Ùghdarras Pàirc Nàiseanta a'
Mhonaidh Ruaidh

Formal Board Paper 1 Annex 1.10

13 March 2026

Paper 1

Annex 1.10



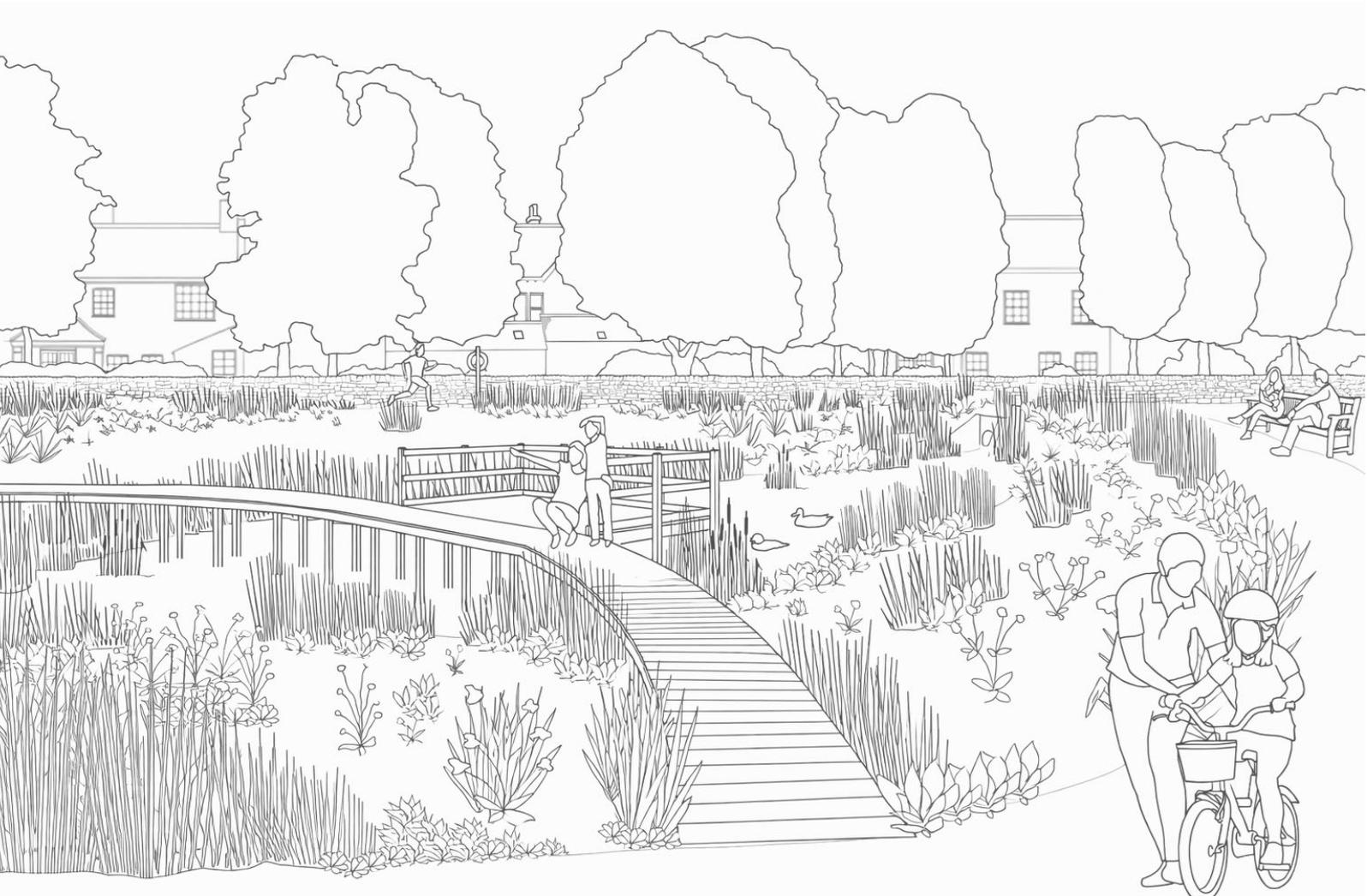
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Sustainable places

Schedule 10: Zero waste

Cairngorms National Park Local Development Plan: Evidence Report

March 2026





Schedule 10: Zero waste

March 2026

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Requirements addressed in this schedule

Table 1 Information required by the Town and Country Planning (Scotland) Act 1997, as amended (CNPA003), regarding the issue addressed in this schedule.

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,
Section 16(2)(a)	To take into account— <ul style="list-style-type: none">i. The National Planning Framework andii. Any local outcomes improvement plan (within the meaning of section 6 of the Community Empowerment (Scotland) Act 2015) for the part of their district to which the local development plan relates,iii. Any registered local place plan (see schedule 19) that is for the part of their district to which the local development plan relates.
Section 16(2)(b)	Are to have regard to such information and considerations as may be prescribed.
Section 16(2)(c)	May have regard to such other information and considerations as appear to them to be relevant.
Section 16B(3)(a)	The evidence report is to set out the planning authority's view on the matters listed in section 15(5) for land in the part of the authority's district to which the local development plan will relate,
Section 16B(3)(e)	Include such other matters as are prescribed.
Section 16B(4)(c)	The evidence report is also to include a statement on the extent to which the views expressed under paragraphs (a) and (b) have been taken into account in the report.
Section 264A	In the exercise, with respect to any land in a National Park, of any power under the planning Acts, special attention shall be paid to the desirability of exercising the power consistently with the National Park Plan as adopted under section 12(7)(a) of the National Parks (Scotland) Act 2000 (asp 10).



Table 2 Information required by the Town and Country Planning (Development Planning) (Scotland) Regulations 2023 (CNPA684), regarding the issue addressed in this schedule.

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

Links to evidence

International documents

- CNPA1246 - Directive 2008/98/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council

Legislation

- CNPA003 - Town and Country Planning (Scotland) Act 1997
- CNPA004 - National Park (Scotland) Act 2000
- CNPA348 - Climate Change (Emissions Reduction Targets) (Scotland) Act 2019
- CNPA389 - Environmental Protection Act 1990
- CNPA395 - Waste (Scotland) Regulations 2012
- CNPA402 - Circular Economy Bill 2024
- CNPA634 - Natural Environment (Scotland) Bill as passed
- CNPA684 - Town and Country Planning (Development Planning) (Scotland) Regulations 2023
- CNPA749 - Local Government (Scotland) Act 1973
- CNPA875 - Roads (Scotland) Act 1984

National documents

- CNPA008 - National Planning Framework 4
- CNPA060 - Securing a green recovery on a path to net zero: climate change plan 2018 – 2032 – update
- CNPA107 - Infrastructure Plan for Scotland 2021-22 to 2025-26
- CNPA394 - Scotland Zero Waste Plan 2010
- CNPA396 - Applying the waste hierarchy: guidance



- CNPA397 - Stop, Sort, Burn, Bury? Independent Review of the Role of Incineration in the Waste Hierarchy in Scotland (report)
- CNPA400 - Making Things Last: A circular Economy Strategy for Scotland
- CNPA401 - Scotland's Circular Economy and Waste Route Map to 2030 Consultation (2024)
- CNPA403 - The Charter for Household Recycling
- CNPA416 - Zero Waste Scotland: Recycling Improvement Fund - Small Grant Scheme
- CNPA417 - Zero Waste Scotland – Recycling Improvement Fund
- CNPA422 - Net Zero Scotland Scotland's Plan
- CNPA547 - Planning Circular 4 / 2025 Planning Obligations and Good Neighbour Agreements
- CNPA1257 - Scottish Government: Programme for Government 2023 to 2024
- CNPA1258 - Bute House Agreement ends
- CNPA1259 - Scottish Government News: £70 million fund to improve recycling
- CNPA1260 - Food waste reduction action plan

Key agency documents

- CNPA116 - Historic Environment Scotland Climate Action Plan 2020 – 2025
- CNPA244 - NatureScot: Developing with Nature Guidance
- CNPA414 - Scottish Environment Protection Agency Household waste data
- CNPA415 - Scottish Environment Protection Agency Waste sites and capacity data
- CNPA942 - Highlands and Islands Enterprise Strategy 2023- 2028

National Park Authority documents

- CNPA010 - Cairngorms National Park Partnership Plan 2022
- CNPA028 - Cairngorms National Park Gypsy and Traveller 2024
- CNPA058 - Grantown Grammar School Place Standard Tool Engagement 2024
- CNPA334 - Cairngorms National Park Local Development Plan 2021 Delivery Programme 2025
- CNPA445 - Cairngorms National Park Authority Local Development Plan Developer Obligations Supplementary Guidance
- CNPA528 - Cairngorms 2030
- CNPA833 - Cairngorms Local development plan place standard tool engagement with Kingussie High School Youth Forum 2025



- CNPA834 - Local development plan place standard tool engagement with the Cairngorms National Park Junior Rangers 2025
- CNPA835 - Cairngorms Local development plan place standard tool engagement with Aviemore Neurodiversity Support Youth Group 2025
- CNPA1104 - Cairngorms National Park Local Development Plan engagement – gamification approach 2025
- CNPA1105 - Local Development Plan engagement – Planning Power with Cairngorms 2030
- CNPA1350 - Topic: Zero waste - engagement version

Local authority documents

- CNPA237 - Badenoch and Strathspey Area Committee Item 6: Badenoch and Strathspey Area Plan
- CNPA359 - Highland Council Net Zero Strategy
- CNPA367 - Perth and Kinross Climate Change Strategy & Action Plan
- CNPA404 - Highland Council Our Future Highland: Corporate Plan
- CNPA405 - Aberdeenshire Waste Strategy 2019 - 2023
- CNPA406 - Angus Council Sustainability Strategy
- CNPA407 - Angus Council Plan 2023-28 – Delivering services for people
- CNPA408 - Perth and Kinross Waste Management Plan 2010 – 2025
- CNPA409 - Perth and Kinross State of the Environment Report
- CNPA418 - Long-term Waste Management, Communities and Place Committee paper from the meeting on 27 November 2024, Agenda Item 1, report number CP/31/4
- CNPA419 - Highland Council: Changes to your bins (webpage)
- CNPA420 - Moray Council: Kerbside Collection Policy
- CNPA526 – Aberdeenshire Council - What happens to your recycling
- CNPA636 - Aberdeenshire Local Outcomes Improvement Plan 2017 – 2027
- CNPA637 - Angus Community Plan 2022 – 2030
- CNPA638 - Highland Outcome Improvement Plan 2024 – 2027
- CNPA639 - Moray Local Outcome Improvement Plan v2
- CNPA640 - Perth and Kinross Community Plan 2022 – 2032
- CNPA1009 - Perth and Kinross Recycling Centre Permits
- CNPA1010 - Aberdeenshire Local Development Plan 2028 Evidence Report Zero Waste
- CNPA1011 - Angus Council Recycling Centres
- CNPA1012 – Moray Council Recycling Guide
- CNPA1013 - Moray Council Recycling Centres and Points



- CNPA1091 - 2024 – 2027 HOIP Delivery Plan
- CNPA1262 - Aberdeenshire Council: Agenda item: Waste Strategy 2019 – 2023
- CNPA1287 - Highland Council Embraces Circular Economy to Drive Net Zero Goals

Community Action Plans

- CNPA063 - Aviemore, Rothiemurchus and Glenmore Community Action Plan 2024
- CNPA064 - Blair Atholl and Struan Community Action Plan: Looking to 2030
- CNPA065 – Grantown-on-Spey Community Action Plan: Looking to 2030
- CNPA066 - Kingussie Community Action Plan: Looking to 2030
- CNPA119 - Ballater and Crathie Community Action Plan 2023
- CNPA121 - Braemar Community Action Plan 2017
- CNPA122 - Carrbridge Community Action Plan: Looking to 2030
- CNPA125 - Dalwhinnie Community Action Plan: Looking forward to 2030
- CNPA127 - Kincaig and locality Community Action Plan: Looking to 2030
- CNPA129 - Laggan Community Action Plan: Looking to 2030
- CNPA131 - Nethy Bridge Community Action Plan: Looking to 2030
- CNPA132 - Newtonmore Community Action Plan: Looking to 2030
- CNPA133 - Strathdon Community Action Plan: Looking to 2030
- CNPA331 - Dulnain Bridge Community Action Plan: Looking to 2030
- CNPA374 - Boat of Garten Action Plan: Looking to 2030

Data sources

- CNPA439 - Scotland's Census
- CNPA563 – National Records of Scotland Rebased population estimates, Scotland, mid-2011 to mid-2021
- CNPA1263 - Sustainable Strathspey
- CNPA1264 - Scottish Communities Climate Action Network
- CNPA1265 - Highlands and Islands Climate Hub
- CNPA1266 - Moray Waste Busters
- CNPA1267 - Highland and Islands Case Studies
- CNPA1268 - ILM Highland

Consultation material

- CNPA1340 - Evidence report engagement responses
- CNPA014 - Email - Highlands and Islands Enterprise on changes to schedules



Summary of evidence

Policy context

National Planning Framework 4

The National Planning Framework 4 (CNPA008) 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 construction waste materials and build facilities to support Scotland's circular economy model. If appropriate local development plans 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 Proposed 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.

Legislation and national documents

National Parks (Scotland) Act 2000

The National Park has four distinct aims as set out in The National Parks (Scotland) Act 2000 (CNPA004). As outlined in Schedule 1: Plan outcomes, these will be amended by the Natural Environment Scotland (Scotland) Bill (CNPA634) once enacted. These are, as to be amended by the Natural Environment (Scotland) Bill:

- To conserve and enhance the area's natural and cultural heritage.
- To promote sustainable management and use of the area's natural resources.
- To promote public understanding and enjoyment of the area's natural and cultural heritage.
- To promote sustainable economic, social and cultural development of the area's communities.

All of the aims are relevant to the matters discussed in this schedule. 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).

Waste (Scotland) Regulations 2012

The legislation (CNPA395) 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.

Scotland's Zero Waste Plan 2010

The Zero Waste Plan (CNPA394) sets the strategic direction for waste policy for Scotland, informed by improved understanding of the environmental consequences of how Scotland's population 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% to landfill. The Proposed Plan should support delivery of the targets set out in the Zero Waste Plan.

Waste hierarchy

Section 34 of the Environmental Protection Act 1990 (as amended) (CNPA389) makes it the duty of everyone (with the exception of occupiers of domestic properties in respect of 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 (CNPA1246).
- Take all reasonable steps to ensure that the waste is managed in manner which promotes high quality recycling.

The waste hierarchy (CNPA396) 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). The Proposed Plans should support the waste hierarchy both in terms of creating new development and during its operation.

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 in the Scottish Government's applying the waste hierarchy guidance (CNPA396).

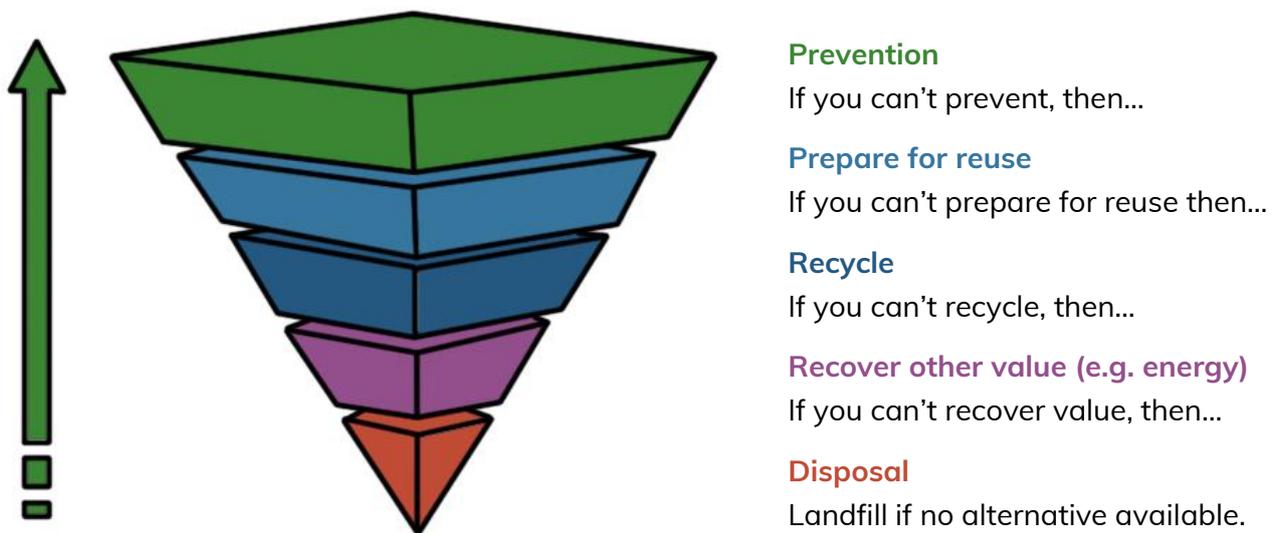


Figure 1 Waste Hierarchy. Image redrawn with National Park colours based on Scottish Government image, 2017 (CNPA396).

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

The report (and the supporting documents) (CNPA397) constitutes the Independent Review of the Role of Incineration in the Waste Hierarchy in Scotland. The conclusions drawn and subsequent recommendation are directed towards Scottish Government and local government. As the National Park Authority does not administer waste collection or treatment, there is 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 and be supported by, and reflected in, the Proposed Plan.

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 (CNPA060) provides an update to the 2018 Climate Change Plan. Since that Plan, Scottish Government has 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 the Covid 19 pandemic 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. The Proposed Plan should support the delivery of the outcomes in the Climate Change Plan.

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, Scottish Government 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:

- Accelerate Landfill Gas Capture and Landfill Legacy Management: Scottish Government 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:

- Scottish Government will lead collaborative efforts to deliver Scotland's landmark Food Waste Reduction Action Plan (CNPA1260). 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:

- Working 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.
- Banning priority single use items: Scottish Government will consult on banning a number of problematic plastic items identified in the European Union's Single Use Plastics Directive.
- Implementation of the Deposit Return Scheme for single use drinks containers.
- Working 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 the wider climate and circular economy ambitions through procurement, embedding climate



considerations in organisational procurement strategies and reporting progress in annual procurement reports.

- Reforming extended producer responsibility schemes: Continue to work with the UK Government and other devolved administrations on reforms to the packaging extended producer responsibility regime, which is expected will deliver improved funding for local authorities in the future.
- Boosting the commitment to building a circular economy, where goods and materials are kept in use for longer. This will be delivered by embedding circular recovery principles in the wider green recovery. Through Zero Waste Scotland and Scottish Environment Protection Agency, intensifying the 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, consider measures to ensure new energy from waste plants are more efficient, and 'future-proofed' for Carbon Capture and Storage technology.
- As part of Scottish Government's work on developing a route map to 2025, a commitment to 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 (CNPA107) 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 aims to deliver plans through the following purposes:

- Decarbonising heat and improved building efficiency.
- Decarbonising industry, including manufacturing.
- Supporting a circular economy.
- Boosting resilience and adaptation.
- Investing in natural capital.



Making Things Last: A Circular Economy Strategy for Scotland 2016

The Strategy (CNPA400) 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. This approach should be reflected in the Proposed Plan. It builds on Scotland's progress in the zero waste and resource efficiency agendas. It 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 they need with opportunities for social enterprise.

The strategy prioritises four key areas for Scotland, namely:

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

The last priority has no relevance to the preparation of the Proposed Plan due to the absence of wind farms or oil and gas infrastructure (which is the energy infrastructure the strategy is most concerned with) in the National Park.

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 Schedule 23: Tourism.

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 (CNPA395).

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 are potential opportunities for further recycling / reuse of materials within these sectors.

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

Scotland's Circular Economy and Waste Route Map (CNPA401) is part of the Scottish Government's wider response to 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 was a key commitment set out in the Scottish Programme for Government 2023 – 2024 (CNPA1257) and the Bute House Agreement (CNPA1258). 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 Scotland's resources across the waste hierarchy. The report acknowledges the progress made against the existing 2025 waste reduction and recycling targets, the areas where it has fallen short, and the lessons that can be learnt 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. The Proposed Plan should support the delivery of Scotland's Circular Economy and Waste Route Map to 2030.



Circular Economy Bill 2024

The legislation (CNPA402) provides Ministers and local authorities with 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 (CNPA1259). Details of funded projects in the Local Authorities overlapping the areas of the National Park are outlined later in the report.

Net Zero Scotland Scotland's Plan

Net Zero Scotland Scotland's Plan (CNPA42) sets out short, medium and long-term goals and when they are to be achieved by in the Climate Change (Emissions Reduction Targets) (Scotland) Act 2019 (CNPA348). Scotland has set an ambitious target to become 'Net Zero' by 2045, five years ahead of the rest of the UK. More detail on matters relating to climate change are set out in Schedule 4: Climate Change.

There are links between the waste hierarchy / circular economy and biodiversity. For example, there are benefits to biodiversity through the selecting of appropriate locations for new waste facilities, as well as the use / reuse of materials, plus, nature-based solutions as part of design.



The Charter for Household Recycling 2016

In 2016 the Scottish Government and the Convention of Scottish Local Authorities¹ agreed a Household Recycling Charter (CNPA403) 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 the Convention of Scottish Local Authorities. 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.
- 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.

Key agency documents

NatureScot Developing with Nature guidance

NatureScot has produced guidance (CNPA244) which is for anyone making or considering a planning application under Scotland's Planning Acts for certain local developments. 'Local development' is any development that is identified as neither a 'national development' nor a 'major development'. Examples include small developments of new housing, industrial and retail buildings, amongst others – which may include development relating to waste management or processing. Local developments are those not subject to an Environmental Impact Assessment (which is required for any application likely to have significant effects on the environment), nor a householder development or open water farmed finfish or shellfish development (National Planning Framework 4 Policy 32(e) refers).

¹ The Convention of Scottish Local Authorities is the national membership organisation for Scottish Local Government. Comprising all of Scotland's 32 councils, it sets the strategic direction for Local Government to best deliver for Scotland's communities.



The information in this guidance is therefore intended to provide an understanding of what common measures to enhance biodiversity are feasible to the non-specialist. Where development interacts with less common, valued, more complex and / or extensive areas of biodiversity interest, expert ecological input and more specific guidance is very likely to be required. The guidance states that the measures should be proportionate to the nature and scale of development proposed. It follows that, for larger scale or complex forms of local development, more detailed consideration and more ambitious measures than are set out in this guidance are likely to be required.

The guidance has been prepared to support application of National Planning Framework 4 Policy 3(c). It should be the starting point for applying Policy 3(c) but will not cover all circumstances. This is non-statutory guidance and not part of the development plan. However, applicants and Planning Authorities are expected to give this guidance due consideration through the site selection, design and planning application process. This guidance will inform the site assessment process, the preparation of the Proposed Plan and any local guidance the Planning Authority may prepare.

Historic Environment Scotland Climate Action Plan 2020 – 2025

In this action plan (CNPA116) Historic Environment Scotland have set out how they plan to transform the way they operate in response to the growing climate emergency. The Proposed Plan should support development that supports the actions set out in the Plan. 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 Historic Environment Scotland's 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 Scotland's population 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.

National Park Authority documents

Cairngorms National Park Partnership Plan 2022 – 2027

The following National Park Partnership Plan (CNPA010) policy 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 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.



Cairngorms 2030

The Cairngorms 2030 projects (CNPA528) will support the delivery of the National Park Partnership Plan 2022 – 2027 (CNPA010). The Climate conscious communities project aims to support grass root projects and initiatives that can support reducing waste, recycling and the circular economy. The Park Authority is in discussions with various communities in the National Park, working with the local authority climate hubs² across the National Park to identify and support projects. None of the projects at present are primarily aimed at reducing waste but the scope of the project work is open to supporting such projects.

The new Cairngorms 2030 Community Fund is an investment in communities – with a twist. In 2026, communities won't just have the opportunity to apply for money, they will design the whole process to hand out £1 million from start to finish as part of the Cairngorms 2030 programme, supported by The National Lottery Heritage Fund. This fund will be open to projects that support waste reduction, recycling and reuse and the circular economy.

In March 2026, 18 people representing diverse communities who live in and love the Cairngorms National Park will come together to form a paid panel. This panel will make all the important choices about the fund, from eligibility criteria to maximum award amounts and how the money is distributed. There will be big decisions to be made, thoughtful conversations, and the chance to make a real impact on the future of the National Park and its communities.

Cairngorms National Park Local Development Plan 2021 Delivery Programme 2025

The Delivery Programme (CNPA334), updated every two years, gives information on the progress of infrastructure projects within or affecting the Cairngorms National Park.

The allocated site ED3 in Aviemore is the location of both the private recycling plant run by David Richie & Sons at Granish Quarry and The Highland Council recycling centre. The Delivery Programme reports that the majority of the wider site is occupied, with 4.06Ha of additional land available for economic development. A planning application was approved in March 2023 on the site for the erection of 20 commercial letting units (2,000m²) and access roads (2022/0057/DET).

² Climate Action Hubs in Highland, Moray, Angus, Aberdeenshire and Perth and Kinross provide support, funding and training to help their areas become more climate friendly. This project is building on the hubs' knowledge and experience, with a focus on communities within the National Park.



Local authority documents

Highland Council Our Future Highland: Corporate Plan 2022 – 2027

The Highland Council's 'Our Future Highland' (CNPA404) is the Council's 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 the ongoing partnership, and explore options for expansion, with ILM Highland, an independent charity and social enterprise, providing home improvement, electrical recycling and retail services.

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. The Proposed Plan should support development in the right locations that supports the targets set out in the plan.

Highland Council Net Zero Strategy

This strategy (CNPA359) 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. The 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 Council's commitment to reducing waste and increasing recycling in its corporate operations. The Proposed Plan should support development in the right locations that supports the targets set out in the strategy.

Aberdeenshire Waste Strategy 2019 – 2023

The most recently published Waste Strategy (CNPA405) for Aberdeenshire Council was initially 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.

On 25 January 2024 it was agreed by Aberdeenshire Council (CNPA1262) that the Waste Strategy would be extended to 2025 to allow for the current strategy to be fully implemented, the impact of the tasks within the strategy to be more fully considered and allow officers to determine how successful they have been in achieving the strategy targets prior to drafting the next strategy.

Aberdeenshire Council planners reported (CNPA1010) that a new Waste Strategy for Aberdeenshire Council is currently being developed and is not yet available publicly. The document will provide insight on 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 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. The Proposed Plan will take into account any replacement strategy during the preparation of the Proposed Plan.

Angus Council Plan 2023 – 2028 – Delivering services for people

The Angus Council Plan (CNPA407) 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. The Proposed Plan should support development in the right locations that supports the targets set out in the Plan.

Perth and Kinross Council Waste Management Plan 2010 – 2025

The Waste Management Plan (CNPA408) 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.

The Proposed Plan should support development in the right locations that supports the targets set out in the Waste Management Plan and updates to the Plan post 2025.

Perth and Kinross Climate Change Strategy and Action Plan 2021

The Climate Change Strategy and Action Plan (CNPA367) outlines 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 (CNPA060), promote a rapid transition to a circular economy and maximise the value from waste by reducing waste to landfill. The Proposed Plan should support development in the right locations that supports the targets set out in the Strategy and Action Plan.

The Plan provides the Council's 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 CO₂e for 2020. Where waste has a much larger footprint is through its Scope 3 emissions, which are estimated at 134 kt CO₂e. 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 people 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.

The Highlands and Islands Enterprise Strategy 2023 – 2028

The Highlands and Islands Enterprise Strategy (CNPA942) sets out the Highlands and Islands Enterprise's ambition for a greener, fairer and more resilient region. The strategy covers the Moray and Highland council areas of the National Park. It is guided by the National Strategy for Economic Transformation, which calls for a new approach to deliver a green recovery and wellbeing economy for Scotland and all its regions. In relation to this strategy and the desired outcomes to reduce waste the strategy makes reference to supporting and encouraging a circular economy. The Proposed Plan should support this approach.

The strategy sets out the vision to make the Highlands and Islands a leading net zero region with a dynamic wellbeing economy, which benefits its growing population and makes a valued contribution to Scotland. With the purpose being to build and sustain a greener, fairer and more resilient region that benefits everyone. To deliver the vision investment is targeted at four key areas: people, place, planet and prosperity. Under the 'planet' heading the strategy sets the following strategic objectives

1. The region is increasingly recognised and valued as an international exemplar for renewable energy and low carbon innovation.
2. The value and opportunity offered by the region's natural resources are understood and are a catalyst for social and financial investment.
3. The region and its communities have embraced and accelerated the just transition to net zero and are increasingly resilient.

Two of the resulting actions aimed at delivering these objectives are:



- Raising awareness and encourage adoption of the just transition to net zero - develop and deliver net zero and circular economy awareness and training programmes including those targeted at the young workforce.
- Support community wealth building / benefit from net zero - develop awareness of nature-based and circular opportunities for communities.

The desired outcome of these actions is that the region's businesses and communities embrace the just transition to net zero and are engaged in the circular economy.

Under the prosperity heading the strategy recognises the economic opportunities brought by a circular economy and diversifying business models that can reduce costs and react to market trends quickly.

Local outcomes improvement plans

Local outcome improvement plans outline key priorities for each community board area that have been identified through a range of engagement processes and are based on the needs of local communities. They set out an approach to working with and empowering our local communities, enabling them to contribute to, influence and shape locally identified actions around the priorities to achieve improved outcomes for their areas. The five local authorities which overlap the Cairngorms National Park all have individual Local outcome improvement plans (in some cases referred to as community plans).

While the Cairngorms National Park Partnership Plan (CNPA010) is the source of the vision for the local development plan (as explained in Schedule 1: Plan outcomes) the local development plan may support the delivery of the vision and priorities of local outcome improvement plans. A summary of issues relating to this schedule for each local authority are set out below.

Aberdeenshire Local Outcome Improvement Plan 2017 – 2027

The Aberdeenshire Community Planning Partnership's Local outcomes improvement plan (CNPA636) sets a ten-year vision. One of two current priorities agreed in September 2024 is place based community planning. While there are no Local Place Plans registered covering any areas in the National Park, the proposed plan will have regard to the community action plans.



Angus Community Plan 2022 – 2030

The Angus Partnership's community plan (CNPA637) has a vision for 2030 that Angus is a great place to live, work and visit. 'Caring for our Place' is one of three priorities to achieve the vision. The plan notes that Angus sends the third lowest amount of waste to landfill in Scotland.

Highland Outcome Improvement Plan 2024 – 2027

Waste issues are not considered in the Highland outcome improvement plan (CNPA638) or supporting delivery plan (CNPA1091).

Moray Local Outcome Improvement Plan v2

Waste issues are not considered in the Moray Planning Partnership's local outcome improvement plan (CNPA639).

Perth and Kinross Community Plan 2022 – 2032

Perth and Kinross Community Planning Partnership's community plan (CNPA640) has an ambition to be the best place in Scotland for everyone to live life well, free from poverty and inequality. Five priorities are identified, all of which focus on inequalities. One of the priorities is reducing poverty and the actions include 'to commission community food providers to deliver projects which reduce food waste'.

Badenoch and Strathspey Area Place Plan

The plan (CNPA237) is an overview of local priorities and opportunities expressed in existing plans, strategies and recent community engagement. It aims to provide a clear statement of identified priorities, strengths, challenges, opportunities and community aspirations within one consolidated 'Plan', which can be referred to by Council services, public services, groups and organisations operating in Badenoch and Strathspey. This aims to help to ensure service provision, funding and developments reflect collective community wants, needs and priorities.

The Plan is split between three headings: People, Place and Prosperity. In relation to this schedule, under the People heading the plan addresses the following priorities:

- Waste reduction and circular economy

The Plan does not set out any specific actions arising from this priority at present. The Area Place Plan will serve as a foundational framework from which more detailed and targeted actions can be developed. The intention is that this will be an evolving plan, and this is the first version of an area plan for the Badenoch and Strathspey region. In



the first instance an action plan will be created to set out the route for delivery of the priorities within the Badenoch and Strathspey Area Place Plan. The action plan will seek to:

- Further understand and develop priorities, in discussion across all sectors.
- Set out to identify the best mechanism for delivery and the range of partners to be involved.
- Assess potential barriers.
- Assess potential funding opportunities.

The Proposed Plan will take into consideration the Action Plan once it has been published and this will inform the preparation of the Proposed Plan.

Community action plans

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

Aviemore, Rothiemurchus and Glenmore Community Action Plan: Looking to 2030

The Action Plan (CNPA063) includes requests for more and / or better recycling points in the town, as well as more general bins and dog bins. The plan also calls for the implementation of a deposit scheme with machines that could accept empty drinking receptacles in exchange for a previously paid for deposit, tied into the cost of the product, to incentivise the collection of refuse. There are no other implications for the Proposed Plan arising from the Action Plan in relation to zero waste in the National Park.

Ballater and Crathie Community Action Plan 2023

One of the goals set out in the Action Plan (CNPA119) is to 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 Action Plan (CNPA064) sets out the action, under the priority to improve the villages visual appearance, to provide 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.



Boat of Garten Community Action Plan: Looking to 2030

Within the Action Plan (CNPA374), under the theme of an economically thriving community there is the suggestion to provide a serviced campervan site, including facilities. Although the suggestion does not specify waste facilities, it is likely such development would include provision for waste treatment.

Braemar Community Action Plan 2017

Within the Action Plan (CNPA121), under theme 4, there is an action to explore improvements to recycling, composting, and refuse collection services for both residents and businesses. This includes reviewing current recycling and composting provision to identify any service gaps and ensuring appropriate uplift and snow-clearing facilities are in place to support year-round waste management and reduce Braemar's carbon footprint.

Braemar Community Action Plan is currently under review and an update is expected to be published in 2026.

Carrbridge Community Action Plan: Looking to 2030

The Action Plan (CNPA122) 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 recycling 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: looking to 2030

The Action Plan (CNPA331) sets out an action addressing the picnic bench area, under the priority to improve community facilities, in the socially connected community theme. Under this action the plan sets out the following sub-actions:

- Reposition recycling to rear of village hall.
- Consider positioning of dog poo bins, so not near to picnic benches.



- Move picnic area to opposite garage if recycling can't be moved.

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 local's garden waste. In the priority to improve the village's visual appearance, the Action Plan includes the action to deliver more litter bins and dog waste bins and to request they are emptied more regularly.

Grantown-on-Spey Community Action Plan: Looking to 2030

The Action Plan (CNPA065) includes the suggestion to provide better provision and management for campervans, under the economically thriving community theme. This suggestion includes the action to identify the best location for a campervan area for visitors with waste and water facilities. There is also a suggestion to improve the aesthetic of the public bins on The Square and ban wheelie bins on the High Street.

The Action Plan also includes a suggestion to:

- Provide a scheme for food waste composting.
- Provide a council recycling centre to have a shed for reusable things / local recycling community enterprise like Moray Waste Busters.

Kincraig and locality Community Action Plan: Looking to 2030

Under the priority for the community hall, in the Action Plan (CNPA127), there is an action to install a motorhome waste disposal point. There are also calls from residents to have more dog waste bins at the north end of the village, Dunachton woods, paths across Knoll, footpath to Feshiebridge and Boathouse, and more rubbish bins generally in the area. Residents also requested more recycling of food waste.

Kingussie Community Action Plan: Looking to 2030

The Action Plan (CNPA066) includes a suggestion to explore further community energy and sustainability opportunities, under the economically thriving community theme. Under this suggestion there is an action to develop local, sustainability-focused services and enterprise, which includes suggestions for:

- A refill shop,
- Tool library and / or,
- Remakery and repair shop for furniture, electronics and household items.

All of these suggestions could contribute to reducing waste and a circular economy.



Laggan Community Action Plan: Looking to 2030

Under the priority to improve the village's visual appearance, the Action Plan (CNPA129) sets the 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 Schedule 23: Tourism.

Nethy Bridge Community Action Plan: Looking to 2030

The Action Plan (CNPA131) includes suggestions from the secondary school aged pupils living in the area for more rubbish bins. As with many of the other settlements / actions plans, concerns about dog litter promoted actions to deliver more dog litter bins.

Newtonmore Community Action Plan: Looking to 2030

Within the Action Plan (CNPA132), 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: Looking to 2030

The Action Plan (CNPA133), under the climate conscious theme, includes a suggestion for Doune Cabin to be used to recycle unwanted goods and plants and advertises larger items and services. There are no other implications arising from the Plan.

Baseline of waste matters

This paper summarises a number of matters relating to waste infrastructure serving the National Park, including: waste management facilities, waste management capacity, household waste and recycling rates, public investment in recycling infrastructure, the current approach to developer contributions and waste infrastructure implications for Proposed Plan.

There are links between this policy area and:

- Schedule 1: Plan outcomes
- Schedule 3: Site assessment methodology
- Schedule 4: Climate change
- Schedule 5: Natural heritage
- Schedule 8: Land use, soil and resources
- Schedule 9: Energy
- Schedule 15: Heating and cooling
- Schedule 21: Economic development

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. The Scottish Environment Protection Agency (CNPA415) 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 2023. Figure 2 shows the waste management assets in and serving the National Park. The information is collated from the Scottish Environment Protection Agency data and local authority websites.

The matter of energy from waste is covered in Schedule 9: Energy.

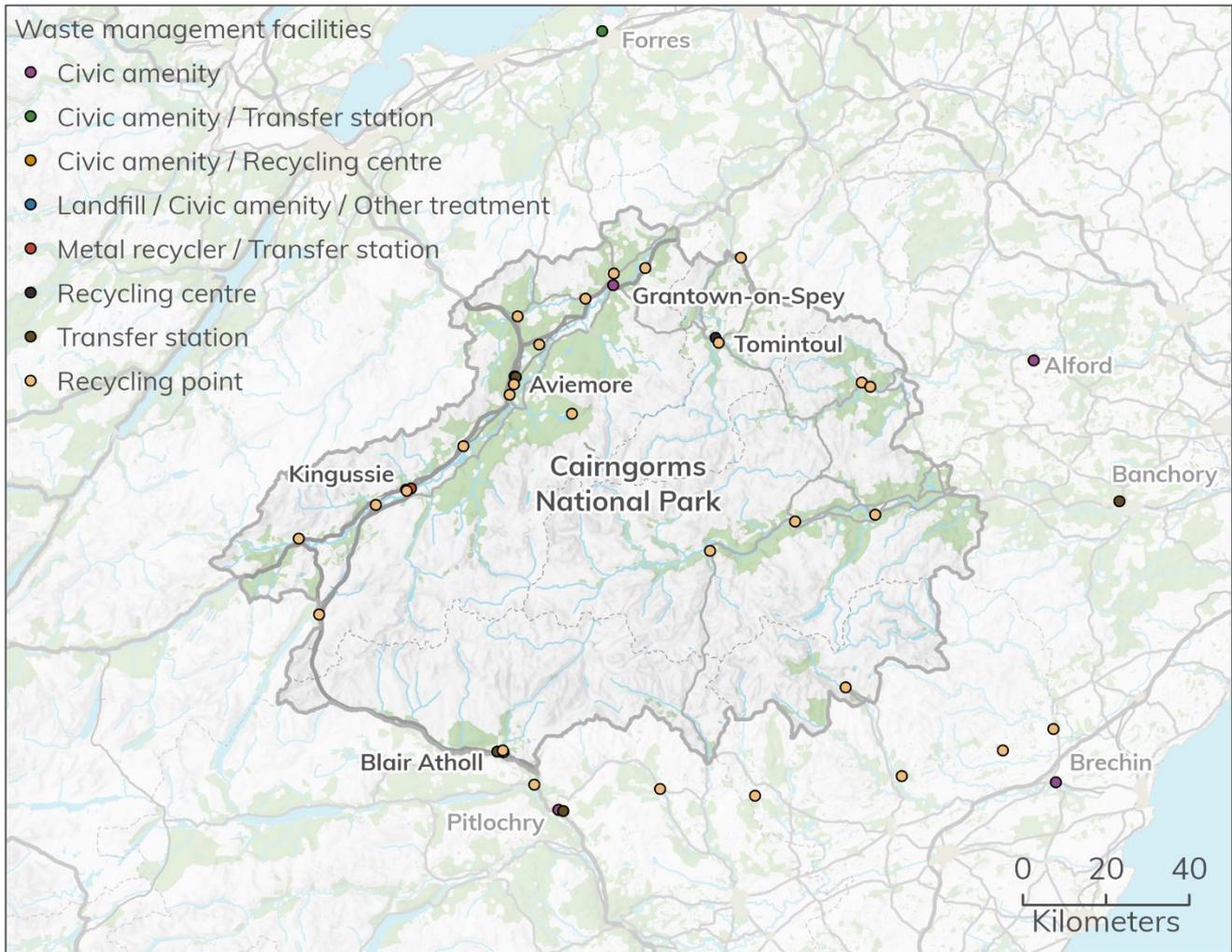


Figure 2 Map showing the waste management facilities within and serving the residents of the Cairngorms National Park. Cairngorms National Park Authority © Crown copyright and database rights 2026 Ordnance Survey AC0000821810. Contains data © Scottish Environment Protection Agency, 2026 (CNPA415).

Highland Council

In August 2024, the Highland Council's Climate Change Committee approved a report (CNPA1287) outlining the Council's commitment to aligning its operations with the Circular Economy (Scotland) Bill (CNPA402). 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.

Highland Council are rolling out changes to the way domestic waste is collected across the highland region (CNPA419). For domestic waste and recycling The Highland Council will now provide the following collections:

- Blue – paper, card and cardboard
- Green – plastics, metals and cartons
- Brown bins - organic waste
- Grey – All other waste that cannot be recycled.

Residents are encouraged to recycle glass at the recycling points.

Achnagonalin Civic Amenity, Grantown-on-Spey

The Grantown-on-Spey recycling centre / civic amenity is located at the Achnagonalin Industrial Estate, PH26 3TA. It 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 the Scottish Environment Protection Agency. It operates under a licence from The Highland Council with a permit for an annual capacity of 999 tonnes. According to Scottish Environment Protection Agency, in 2023, 427 tonnes of waste was processed at the site (with equal inputs and outputs recorded) (CNPA415).



Market Lane, Kingussie

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 activity³' site. The annual waste capacity on the permit (tonnes) for this site is 999t. In 2023, the site processed 157 tonnes of waste (representing equal inputs and outputs) (CNPA415).

Granish Landfill site and Civic Amenity

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

³ 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.



- Soil and rubble
- Textiles
- Wood.

The recycling centre / civic amenity site at Aviemore is operated by The Highland Council with an annual waste capacity permit for 26,000 tonnes. According to Scottish Environment Protection Agency (CNPA415), in 2023, the waste inputs of the site were 8,519 tonnes of waste and the outputs were 5,183 tonnes.

The landfill at Granish has total capacity of 126,000 tonnes. However, the remaining capacity at 31 December 2023 was 14,000 tonnes and with an annual permit of 25,000, it was estimated that the date for ceasing landfill was 11 November 2025. Across the whole of the Highland Council, the total remaining capacity of 491,938 tonnes (CNPA415).

Granish Farm

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 the Scottish Environment Protection Agency (CNPA415), in 2023 the waste inputs were recorded as 13,016 tonnes and outputs at 10,771 tonnes.

The on-site recycling centre / civic amenity at Granish Farm (operated by David Richie 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.

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.
- Kinncraig, 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
- Nethy Bridge, Village Hall, PH25 4DA – glass, textiles, shoes.
- Newtonmore, Industrial Estate, PH20 1AL - glass, textiles and shoes.

Long-term waste management

In November 2024, the Highland Council officers took a report (CNPA418) to members with a recommendation on the direction of long-term residual waste management in the area, due to the fact that in Scotland it is prohibited to send biodegradable municipal waste to landfill from 31 December 2025.

As a collector of biodegradable municipal waste from households and commercial businesses throughout the Highlands, the Council's Waste Service requires to have in place suitable, legally compliant, waste management practices.

The Highland Council has a medium term solution in place currently. This began in January 2023 and runs until December 2027. It has the potential to be extended to the end of 2030 if both parties agree to apply the extension provisions built into the contract.

This contract ensures that the biodegradable municipal waste collected by The Highland Council – the residual waste that will not be recycled –will not go to landfill. It is processed at a licensed facility in Dunbar which incinerates the waste, generating electrical energy for the national grid from doing so.

The contract enables The Highland Council to comply with the Waste (Scotland) Regulations prohibiting landfilling of its residual biodegradable municipal waste. Progressively, over 2023-25, The Highland Council is directing its residual waste tonnage to this facility.



Long-term waste management options

The two principal options which were under consideration by Highland Council were: Send the biodegradable municipal (residual) waste, that which will not be recycled, to a merchant energy-from-waste facility outside the Highland area (as per the developing, current practice). Most likely, it is thought at this juncture, to the Central Belt area of Scotland or process waste collected by The Highland Council at an energy-from-waste facility located locally, potentially at the closed Longman landfill site, Inverness.

The report (CNPA418) concluded that Highland Council's Waste Service will continue to work closely with its current residual waste management service provider to obtain maximum benefit from the existing contract.

It was proposed that The Highland Council's Waste Service should seek to secure its long-term waste management requirements through a merchant service provider contract, rather than seek to pursue the development of a local energy-from-waste facility. Waste Service will study the market within the context of its current service provision, its long term requirement and the evolving market supply capacity, to ascertain when would be the most prudent time to tender its residual waste management specification.

Community interest

Sustainable Strathspey's objective (CNPA1263) 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 is part of the Scottish Communities Climate Action Network (CNPA1263) – a network of community groups and organisations whose 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 (CNPA1265).

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 the Scottish Environment Protection Agency.

Highland and Islands Enterprise: ILM Highland Case Study (CNPA1267)

ILM Highland (CNPA1268) is an independent charity and social enterprise, providing home improvement, electrical recycling and retail services to the Highlands of Scotland. It is the largest electrical recycler in the Highlands and Islands – with collections of electrical equipment coming all over the Highlands and Moray. Each year, ILM Highland's Electrical Waste Service collects and recycles around 2,400 tonnes of electrical waste including all major domestic appliances such as cookers, washing machines, fridge freezers and vacuum cleaners.

ILM Highland collects from all of the Highland Council's household waste recycling centres across the region – and in late 2020 introduced a new small electricals recycling scheme. ILM highland is committed to supporting the local economy by creating jobs within its business and offering training and work experience positions to upskill those in the local community.

In June 2021 ILM Highland introduced its new Spares and Repairs Service – to help address the new 'right to repair' rules being introduced by the UK Government – and is



now supplying spare parts to mend most large domestic appliances including cookers, washing machines, tumble dryers, fridge / freezers and vacuum cleaners. Offering repairs, also helps contribute to reducing waste.

The Proposed Plan should support initiatives like ILM Highland either existing or new ventures that support a circular economy and waste reduction strategy.

Moray Council

Currently there is no specific waste strategy for the Moray Council area. However, while there is not a waste strategy it should be noted that Moray Council has a Kerbside Collection Policy (CNPA420) which is aligned to the Scottish Government's Household Recycling Charter (CNPA403). The Council is currently undertaking a depot review of all facilities, including waste / recycling facilities.

Since mid-2023, the Council's non-recyclable waste has been processed at the North East Scotland Shared Energy from Waste facility, alongside waste from Aberdeen City Council and Aberdeenshire Council.

The North East Scotland Shared Energy from Waste facility, located in East Tullos (outwith the National Park), 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 Moray Council have indicated are no plans to invest in new waste management infrastructure in the short to medium term (C023). 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 one of the highest recycling rates 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 (CNPA1012) that aims to help residents move to zero waste (updated in March 2020).

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 point in Tomintoul (Conglass Lane recycling point) which caters for the recycling of cans, glass plastic bottles / containers, paper and cardboard and textiles. The centre is unmanned and open 24 hours per day seven days per week.

More information on recycling locations in the Moray Council area can be found on their website (CNPA1013).

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

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

Moray Waste Busters, Waterford Road

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 the Scottish Environment Protection Agency (CNPA415), in 2023 the site's waste inputs was recorded at 8,097 tonnes and outputs at 8,156 tonnes. There is another waste transfer station in Elgin.

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).



Highland and Islands Enterprise: Waste Busters Case Study (CNPA1267)

In 2002, the original founders of Moray Waste Busters (CNPA1266) were operating a composting business, making use of green waste from local restaurants and cafes. Based at Moray Council's Household Waste and Recycling Centre, they noticed that high quality items were being thrown away into landfill. Initially they asked for these products as donations to support the composting initiative, but it became apparent that their rescue, sale and re-use was the way forward.

The Highlands and Islands Enterprise report that the social enterprise employs 12 people supporting the local economy and is run by a local board drawn from its 50 plus community membership.

Partnership is an important part of Moray Waste Buster's success, through their working relationship with the local council. Their somewhat unique position of being based at Moray Council's Household Waste and Recycling Centre is hugely useful in diverting material from landfill.

There are plans for expansion into the future. Moray Waste Busters, Moray Council and Highland and Islands Enterprise are working on plans to find more space, allowing Moray Waste Busters to bring in new waste streams and take on new initiatives to make use of the recyclable materials.

The Proposed Plan should support initiatives like Moray Waste Busters and either existing or new ventures that support a circular economy and waste reduction strategy.

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 Council 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 (CNPA1010) 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 streams⁴.

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.

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
- 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.

⁴ Waste streams are the flow of a particular waste from pick up to the point where it is either recycled or disposed of.



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 the Scottish Environment Protection Agency, in 2023, 1,289 tonnes of waste was processed at the site (equal inputs and outputs were recorded) (CNPA415).

Banchory recycling centre

The Banchory recycling centre is located at Crow's Nest, Upper Lochton Road, AB31 4EQ. 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 2023, 16,669 tonnes of waste was processed at the site (equal waste inputs and outputs recorded) (CNPA415).

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 collects mixed recycling from kerbsides, glass and textiles from recycling points and various materials at its recycling centres. The Council has contracts with several reprocessing companies who collect these recyclables and transform them into new products and materials. Aberdeenshire Council provides information (CNPA526) on what happens to the recycling collected in its Council area broken down by type.

The Council reports (CNPA1010) 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 will 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



centres 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 Council'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 the Scottish Environment Protection Agency (CNPA415), 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 North East Scotland Shared 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 European Union emission standards aligning with Scotland's zero-waste society vision. As 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 (CNPA406) 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.



The closest recycling centres / civic amenity site in Angus to the National Park (in operation), is listed by Angus Council (CNPA1011) as at Brechin, (the 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)
- 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.

The Brechin site is operated by Angus Council with an annual waste capacity permit for 2,499 tonnes. According to the Scottish Environment Protection Agency (CNPA415), 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. This 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 (CNPA407) sets the target for household waste recycling at 58% for 2027 / 2028.

Pet cemeteries

According to Scottish Environment Protection Agency (CNPA415), there are no pet cemeteries recorded in Angus.

Perth and Kinross Council

The Perth and Kinross State of the Environment Report (CNPA409) 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 Kirkmichael in the Bannerfield Public Car Park, both accepting cardboard, glass and paper. There are no recycling centres in the National Park.

Pitlochry Recycling Centre

The closest recycling centre / civic amenity to the part 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.

The site is operated by Perth and Kinross Council with an annual waste capacity permit for 2,499 tonnes. According to the Scottish Environment Protection Agency (CNPA415), in 2023, 1,535 tonnes was processed at the site (equal inputs and outputs were recorded).

Aldour Industrial Estate

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 the Scottish Environment Protection Agency (CNPA415), in 2023, it processed 2,041 tonnes (equal inputs and outputs recorded).

Pet cemeteries

There is a pet cemetery in Cromie at the Auchingarrich Wildlife Centre and one in Errol in Perth and Kinross, however the Scottish Environment Protection Agency records both as non-operational in 2022 (CNPA415).

Summary of local authority waste infrastructure

This section provides a summary of the detailed information provided for each local authority.



Table 3 Capacity of landfill sites in the Cairngorms National Park in 2023 (CNPA415).

Name	Location	Local authority	Operator	Within or outwith National Park	Annual capacity (tonnes)	Total landfill capacity (tonnes)	Remaining capacity as at 31 December 2023 (tonnes)	Estimated date for ceasing landfill (tonnes)
Granish Landfill and Civic Amenity	Aviemore	Highland Council	Highland Council	Within	25,000	126,000	14,000	1 November 2025

Table 4 Summary of local authority landfill site capacity 2023 (CNPA415).

Local authority	Number of sites	Total waste landfilled (tonnes)	Remaining capacity (tonnes) as at 31 December 2023
Aberdeenshire	51	208,566	5,405,179
Angus	23	19,272	2,514,116
Highland	29	54,945	491,938
Moray	6	16,755	62,000
Perth and Kinross	12	0	0



Table 5 Capacity of all waste sites that may serve residents of the Cairngorms National Park in 2023 (CNPA415).

Name	Location	Local authority	Operator	Within or outwith National Park	Annual waste capacity (tonnes)	Waste inputs to the site 2023 (tonnes)	Waste outputs from the site 2023 (tonnes)
Achnagonalin Civic Amenity	Grantown-on-Spey	Highland Council	Highland Council	Within	999	427	427
Aldour Industrial Estate	Pitlochry	Perth and Kinross Council	Perth and Kinross Council	Outwith	9,000	2,041	2,041
Alford Recycling Centre	Alford	Aberdeenshire Council	Aberdeenshire Council	Outwith	3,500	1,289	1,289
Banchory Recycling Centre	Banchory	Aberdeenshire Council	Aberdeenshire Council	Outwith	51,523	16,669	16,669
Brechin Recycling Centre	Breching	Angus Council	Angus Council	Outwith	2,499	530	530
Granish Landfill and Civic Amenity	Aviemore	Highland Council	Highland Council	Within	26,000	8,519	5,183
Granish Farm	Aviemore	Highland Council	Ritchie and Sons Ltd.	Within	25,000	13,016	10,771
Market Lane	Kingussie	Highland Council	Highland Council	Within	999	157	157
Pitlochry Recycling Centre	Pitlochry	Perth and Kinross Council	Perth and Kinross Council	Outwith	2,499	1,535	1,535
Waste Busters	Forres	Moray Council	Waste Busters	Outwith	15,288	8,097	8,156



Table 6 Summary of local authority waste site capacity 2023 (CNPA415).

Local authority	Number of sites	Annual capacity (tonnes)	Waste accepted (tonnes)
Aberdeenshire	110	3,414,616	1,312,684
Angus	46	1,198,363	158,951
Highland	93	1,211,429	320,183
Moray	19	584,687	157,708
Perth and Kinross	44	1,617,361	465,946

Table 7 Summary of relationship between waste management facilities and settlements named within the National Park Partnership Plan's spatial strategy⁵ (CNPA010).

Settlement	Status	Local authority	Nearest waste site	Nearest recycling point	Nearest pet cemetery
Aviemore	Strategic	Highland	Aviemore	Aviemore	Inverness
Ballater	Strategic	Aberdeenshire	Banchory	Ballater	Unknown
Grantown-on-Spey	Strategic	Highland	Grantown-on-Spey	Grantown-on-Spey	Inverness
Kingussie	Strategic	Highland	Kingussie	Kingussie	Inverness
Newtonmore	Strategic	Highland	Kingussie	Newtonmore	Inverness
Blair Atholl	Intermediate	Perth and Kinross	Pitlochry	Blair Atholl	Errol
Boat of Garten	Intermediate	Highland	Aviemore	Boat of Garten	Inverness
Braemar	Intermediate	Aberdeenshire	Banchory	Braemar	Unknown
Carrbridge	Intermediate	Highland	Aviemore	Carrbridge	Inverness
Cromdale	Intermediate	Highland	Grantown-on-Spey	Cromdale	Inverness

⁵ See Schedule 1: Plan outcomes for further information.



Settlement	Status	Local authority	Nearest waste site	Nearest recycling point	Nearest pet cemetery
Dalnain Bridge	Intermediate	Highland	Grantown-on-Spey	Dalnain Bridge	Inverness
Kincraig	Intermediate	Highland	Kingussie	Kincraig	Inverness
Nethy Bridge	Intermediate	Highland	Grantown-on-Spey	Nethy Bridge	Inverness
Tomintoul	Intermediate	Moray	Grantown-on-Spey	Tomintoul	Inverness
Angus Glens	Rural	Moray	Brechin	Glen Isla	Cromie
Calvine	Rural	Perth and Kinross	Pitlochry	Blair Atholl	Errol
Coylumbridge	Rural	Highland	Aviemore	Aviemore	Inverness
Dalwhinnie	Rural	Highland	Kingussie	Dalwhinnie	Inverness
Dinnet	Rural	Aberdeenshire	Banchory	Ballater	Unknown
Glenlivet ⁶	Rural	Moray	Grantown-on-Spey	Tomintoul	Inverness
Glenmore	Rural	Highland	Aviemore	Glenmore	Inverness
Glenshee	Rural	Perth and Kinross	Pitlochry	Unknown	Errol
Insh	Rural	Highland	Kingussie	Kincraig	Inverness
Inverdrueie	Rural	Highland	Aviemore	Aviemore	Inverness
Killiecrankie	Rural	Perth and Kinross	Pitlochry	Killiecrankie	Errol
Laggan	Rural	Highland	Kingussie	Laggan	Inverness
Pitagowan	Rural	Perth and Kinross	Pitlochry	Blair Atholl	Errol
Strathdon	Rural	Aberdeenshire	Alford	Strathdon	Unknown

⁶ Glenlivet encompasses the villages of Tomnavoulin, Castletown, Minmore, Chapelton, Clashnoir, Drumin, and Authnarrow.



Waste in the Cairngorms National Park

Estimates of household waste and recycling rates for local authority areas for 2011 – 2022 are recorded by the Scottish Environment Protection Agency (CNPA414). 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 midyear population estimates (CNPA563) 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 (CNPA439) 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.

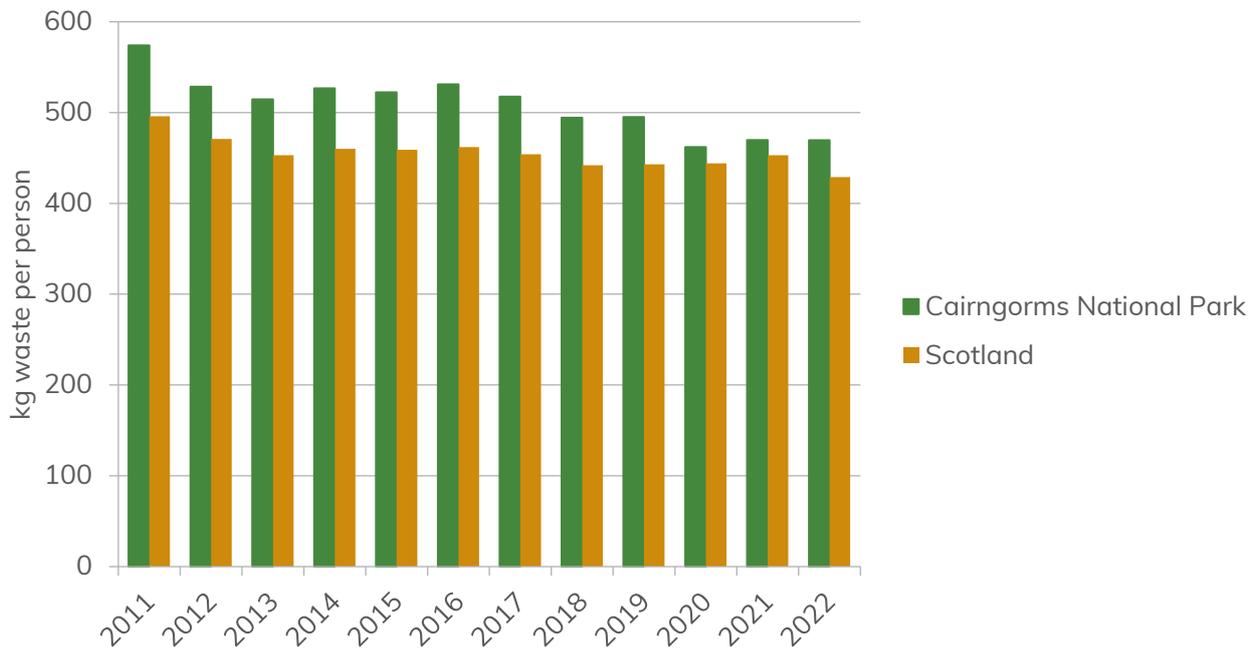


Figure 3 Mean average kg of waste generated per person in the Cairngorms National Park and Scotland. National Park figures derived from local authority data from Scottish Environment Protection Agency, 2023 (CNPA414).

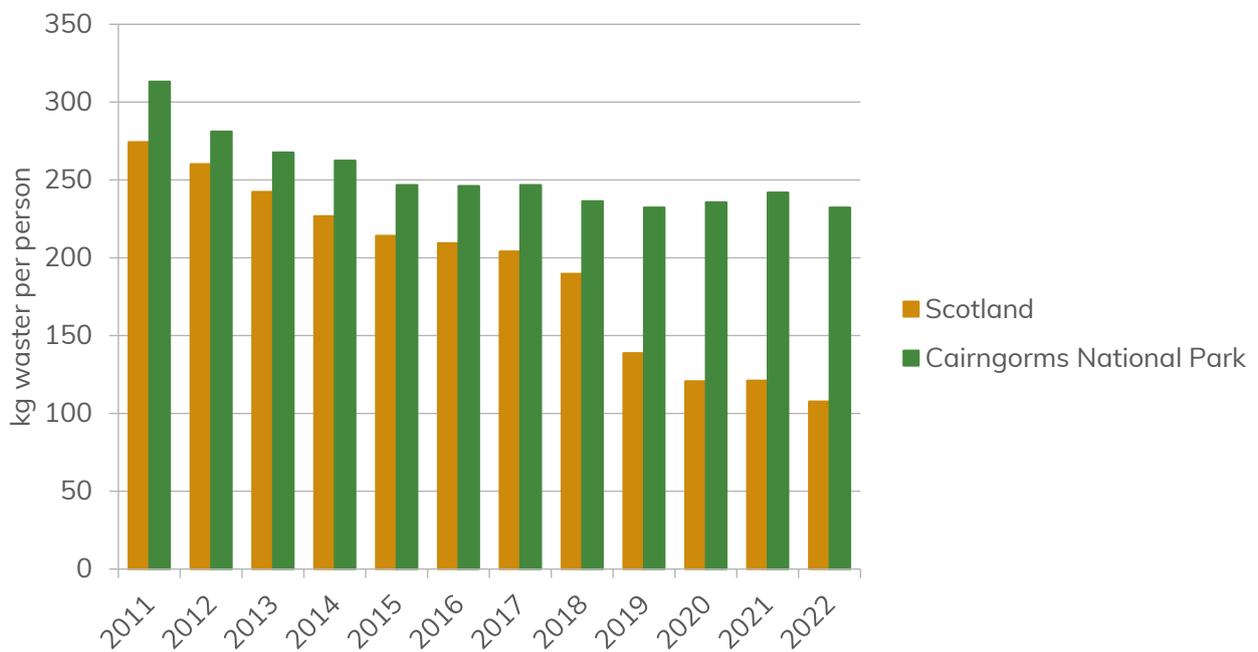


Figure 4 Mean average kg of waste sent to landfill per person in the Cairngorms National Park and Scotland. National Park figures derived from local authority data from Scottish Environment Protection Agency, (CNPA414).

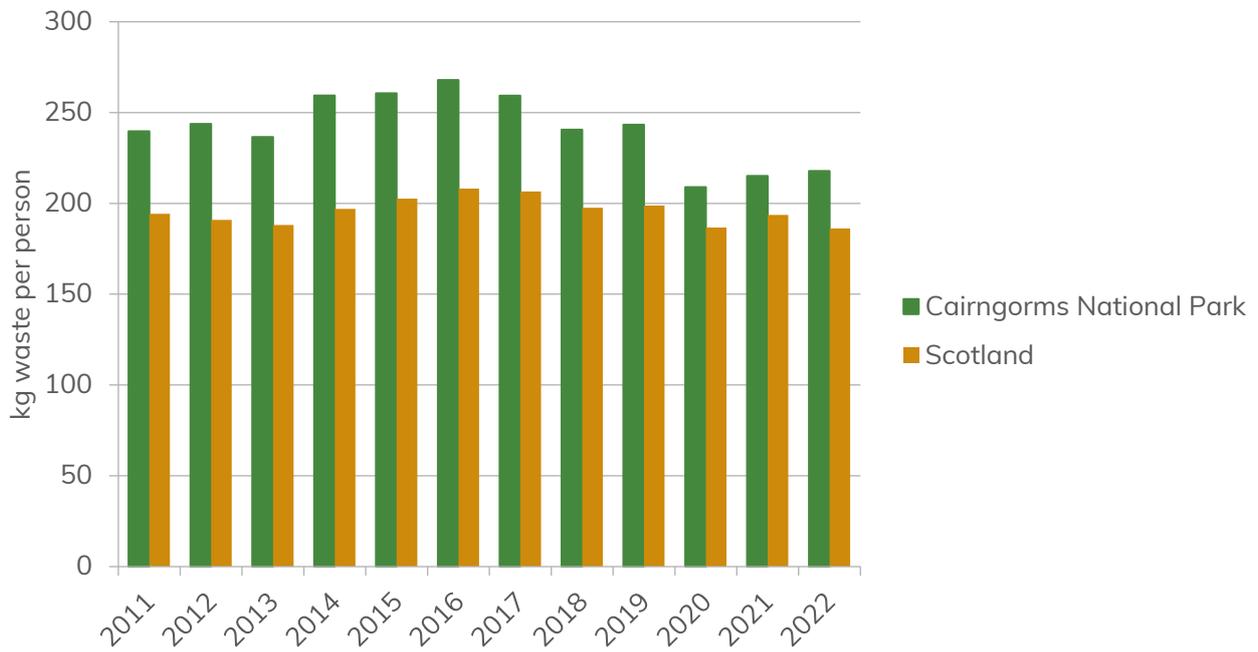


Figure 5 Mean average kg of waste recycled per person in the Cairngorms National Park and Scotland. National Park figures derived from local authority data from Scottish Environment Protection Agency, (CNPA414).

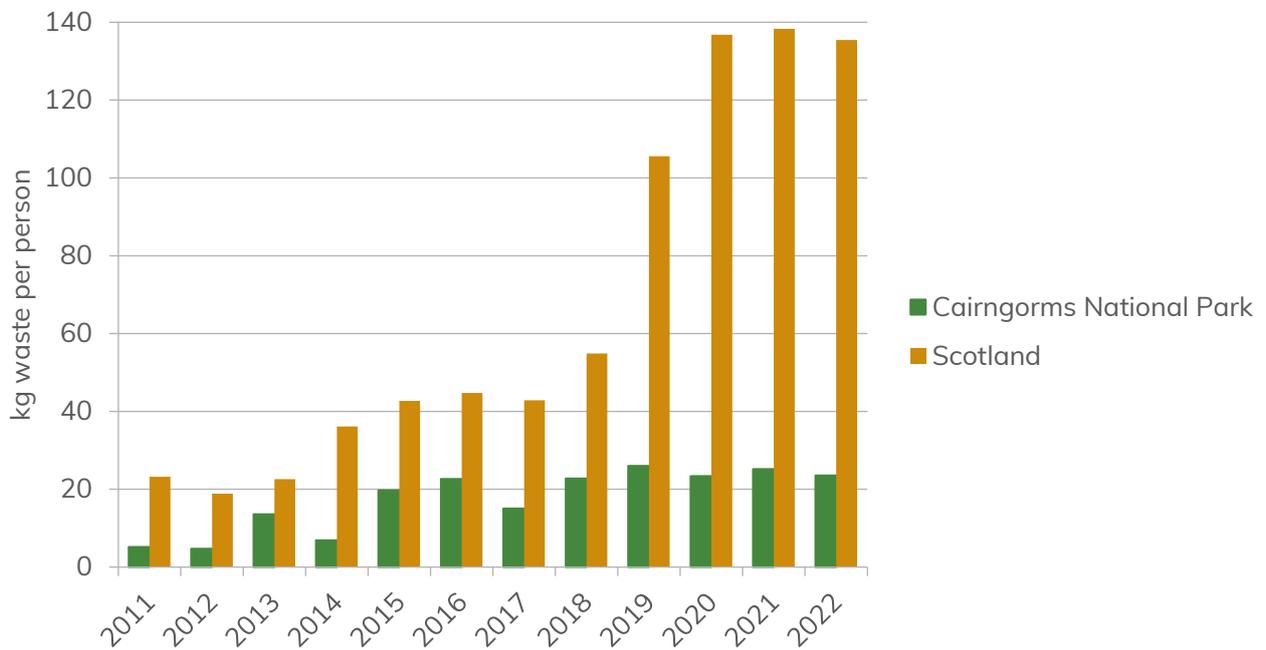


Figure 6 Mean average kg of waste diverted from landfill by other means in the Cairngorms National Park and Scotland. National Park figures derived from local authority data from Scottish Environment Protection Agency, 2023 (waste diverted from landfill, apart from waste recycled, comprising waste



disposed by incineration, recovered by incineration, recovered by co-incineration and waste managed by other methods) (CNPA414).



Figure 7 Mean average tonnes of CO₂e 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 (CNPA414).

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 CO₂ equivalent (CO₂e) produced per person in relation to waste in 2022, the National Park is only slightly higher at 1.06 tonnes of CO₂ per person per year compared to 1.02 tonnes of CO₂ per person per year across the whole of Scotland (Figure 7). Both nationally and in the National Park the average amount of CO₂ 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.

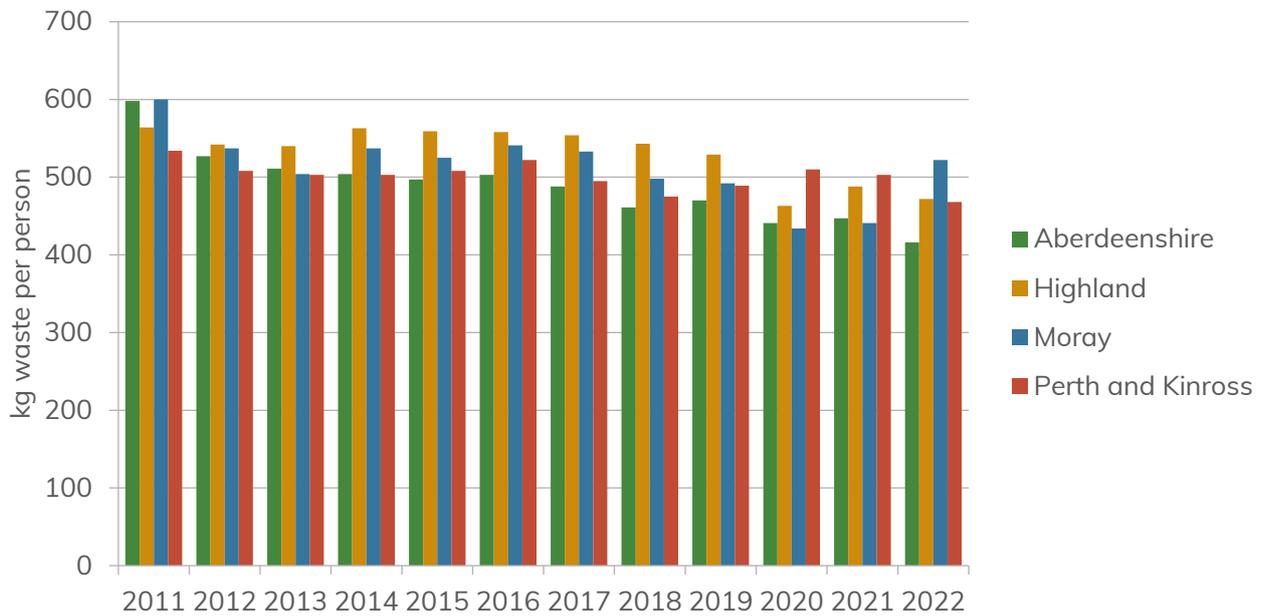


Figure 8 Average total kg of waste generated per person in the different local authority areas of the National Park. Figures obtained from the local authority data from Scottish Environment Protection Agency, 2023 (CNPA414).

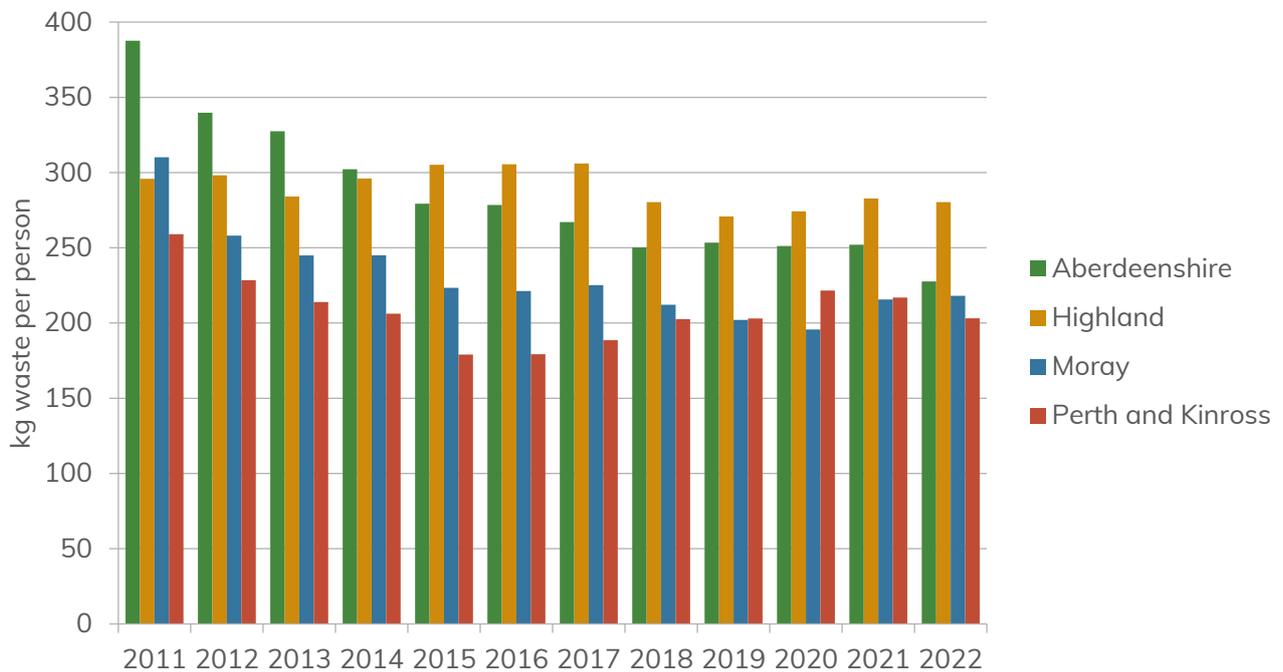


Figure 9 Average kg of waste sent to landfill per person by local authority area of the National Park. Figures obtained from the local authority data from Scottish Environment Protection Agency, 2023 (CNPA414).

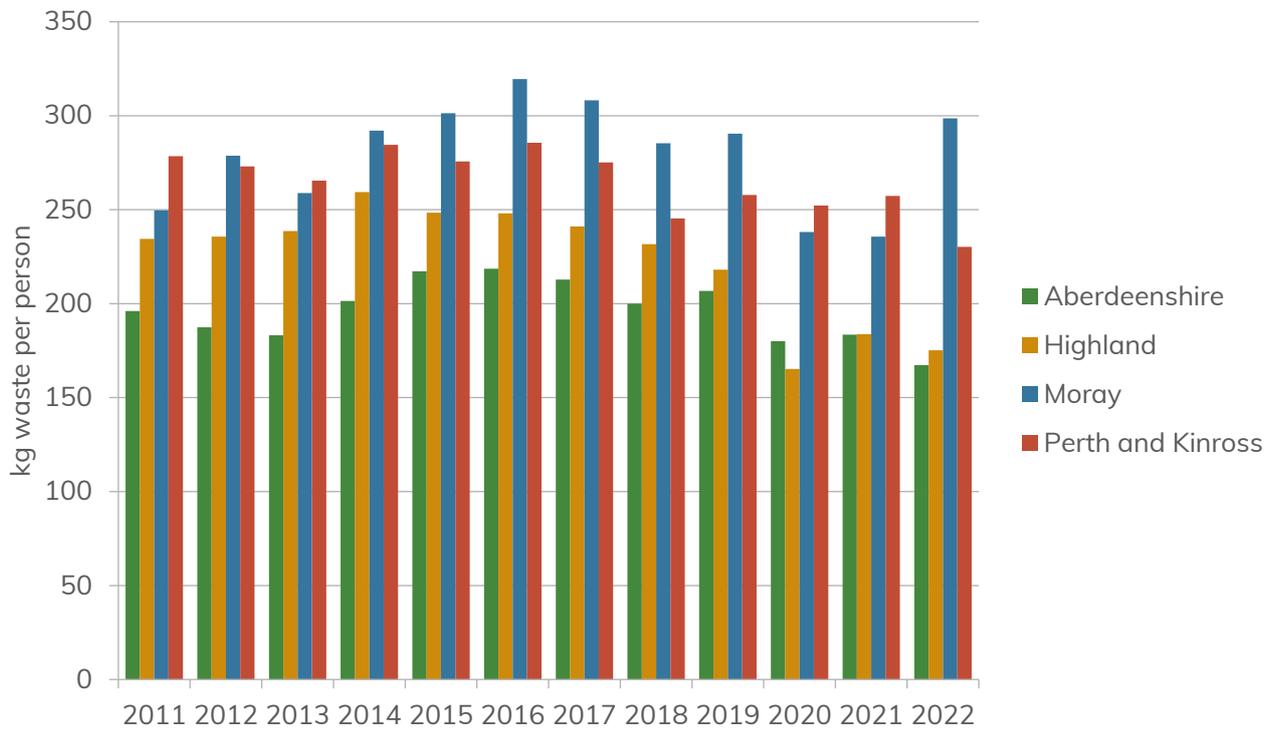


Figure 10 Average kg of waste recycled per person by local authority area of the National Park. Figures obtained from the local authority data from Scottish Environment Protection Agency, 2023 (CNPA414).

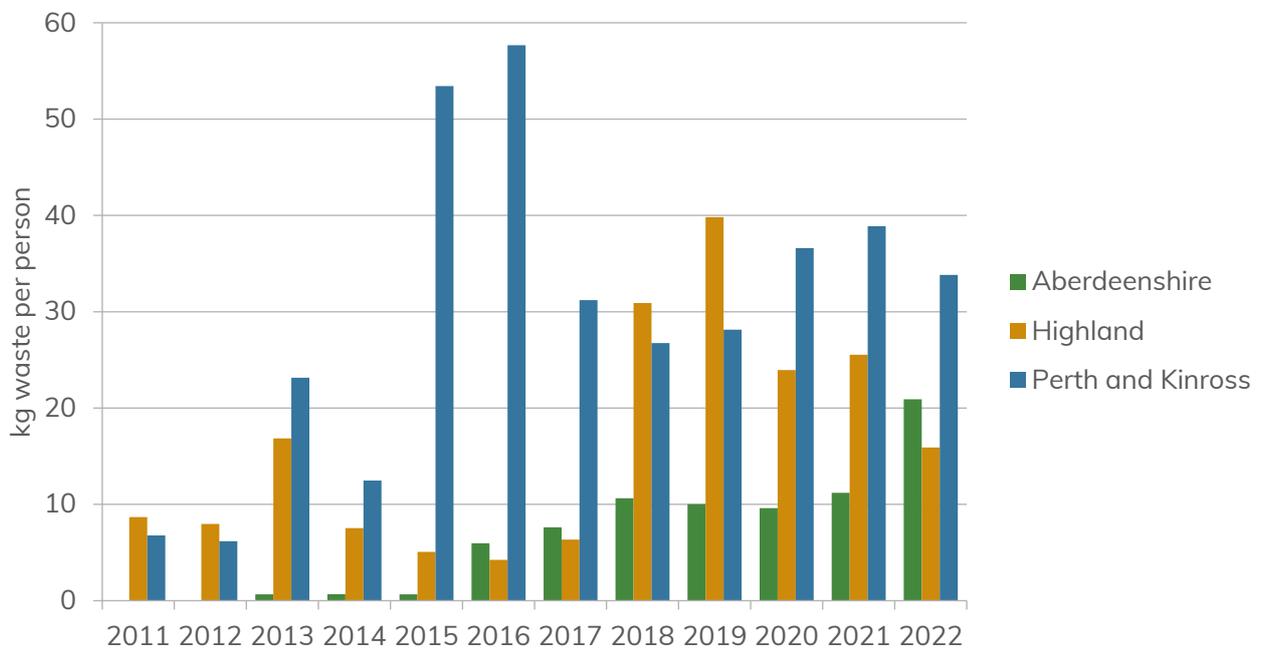


Figure 11 Average kg of waste recycled per person by local authority area of the National Park. Figures obtained from the local authority data from Scottish Environment Protection Agency, 2023. Moray has



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 (CNPA414).

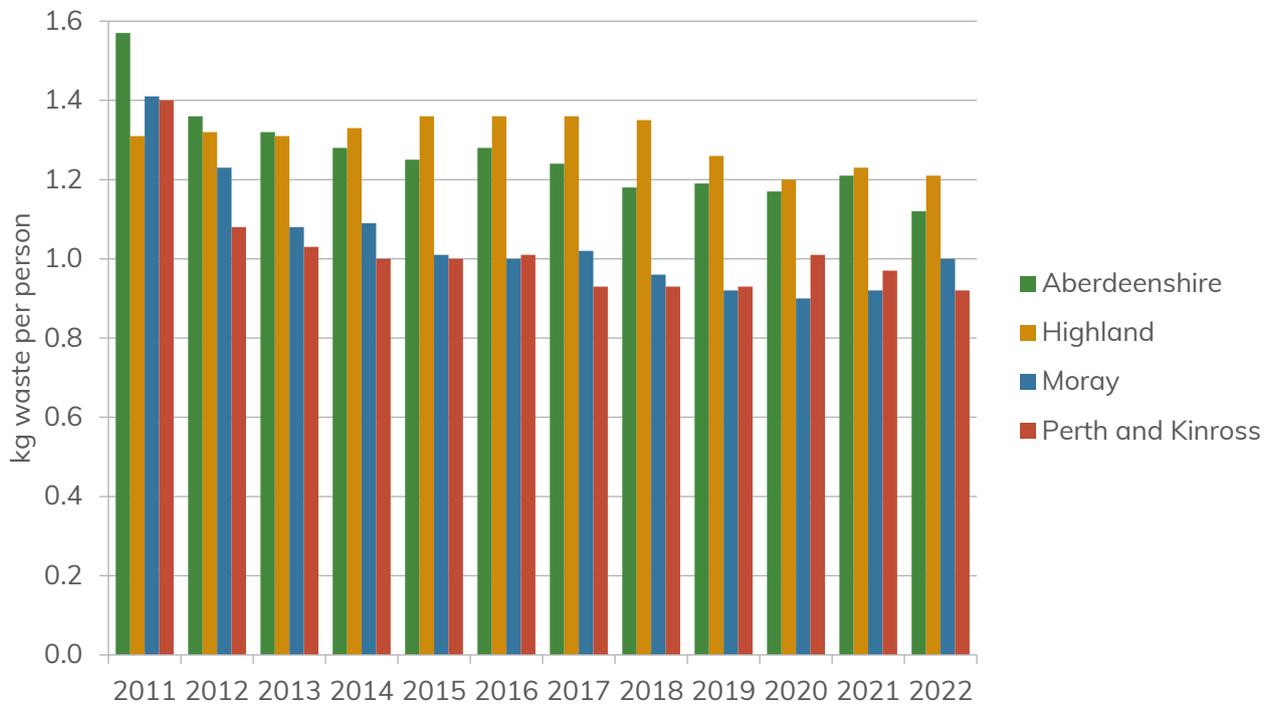


Figure 12 Average tonnes of CO₂ equivalent produced from waste by local authority area in the Cairngorms National Park. Figures obtained from the local authority data from Scottish Environment Protection Agency, 2023 (CNPA414).

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 Moray’s 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).

The Highland Council produced the highest amount of average CO₂ equivalent from waste per person of all the four local authorities in 2022 at 1.21 tonnes of CO₂ equivalent per person per year from waste generated (Figure 12). Adversely Perth and Kinross produced 0.92 tonnes of CO₂ equivalent per person in 2022. Nationally Scottish residents produced on average 1.02 tonnes of CO₂ 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 Park's 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 CO₂ equivalent per person per year (Figure 7).

Biodegradable Municipal Waste cannot be landfilled after 2025 due to the Scottish Biodegradable Municipal Waste 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 8), which was higher than the national average in 2022 of 43.4% (Scottish Environment Protection Agency data, 2022 (CNPA414)). The Scottish national target for recycling is 70% by 2025 (Scotland's Zero Waste Plan (CNPA394)). 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 8 Average mean recycling rates in the Cairngorms National Park. National Park figures derived from local authority data from Scottish Environment Protection Agency, 2023 (CNPA414).

	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 the Park Authority are able to calculate percentages for the sent to landfill rates and diverted from land fill rates (Table 9).

Table 9 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 (CNPA414).

	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	2.6%	1.35%	3.8%	4.3%	2.9%	4.6%	5.3%	5.1%	5.7%	5%



landfill (other ⁷)										
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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 landfill 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 waste 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%
- Angus – 46.4%.

Public recycling investment

Zero Waste Scotland is administering a £70m Recycling Improvement Fund on behalf of Scottish Government to local authorities (CNPA417). 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

⁷ 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.



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 10), 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 10 provides details on the projects awarded to the local authority areas that cover the National Park.

Table 10 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
The Highland Council	Introduction of twin-stream kerbside recycling and expansion of weekly food waste collection service.	£6,550,302
The Highland Council	Expansion of garden waste collection service.	£208,500
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 (CNPA416). They were awarded £37,095 to Expansion of reuse at five Household Recycling Centres (December 2023).

Circular Economy toolkit for Cairngorms National Park based businesses

The Circular Economy toolkit was developed by the Cairngorms Business Partnership and Zero Waste Scotland to reflect the specific challenges faced by businesses in the Cairngorms.



Drawing on conversations with local business owners and insights from the Cairngorms Business Partnership team, the toolkit has been designed to be concise, relevant, and practical. Recognising that most businesses are short on time, it focuses on clear, actionable advice that can be implemented quickly.

By including case studies across a wide range of sectors, businesses can see themselves reflected in the examples and gain confidence that meaningful change is achievable. These case studies also help reduce perceived risk by showcasing real, local successes and highlighting the tangible environmental and commercial benefits of circular practices.

The toolkit encourages businesses to look beyond their own sector, recognising that collaboration delivers innovative ideas. In doing so, it not only provides guidance but also encourages cross-sector partnerships. The toolkit is available to nearly 400 member businesses across the Cairngorms National Park.

Current approach to developer contributions

The requirements for developer contributions are set out in the adopted Cairngorms Local Development Plan Developer Obligations Supplementary Guidance (CNPA445). No developer contributions are currently required for waste infrastructure. Should developer contributions be required, the Park Authority will work with relevant local authorities and the Scottish Environment Protection Agency to set out how these will be levied.

Any developer contributions sought will need to be linked to specific developments, meet the tests set out in Circular 4 / 2025 (CNPA547) and embody the infrastructure first principles with National Planning Framework 4 (CNPA008). Developer contributions may be secured through upfront payments under Section 69 of the Local Government (Scotland) Act 1973 (CNPA749), Section 48 of the Roads (Scotland) Act 1984 (CNPA875) or a Planning Obligation under Section 75 of the Town and Country Planning (Scotland) Act 1997 (CNPA003).

Waste infrastructure implications for Proposed Plan

Infrastructure requirements

The information presented in this schedule and summarised in Table 3, Table 4, Table 5 and Table 6 demonstrates that there is sufficient capacity within the waste management facilities of the local authorities covering the National Park to accommodate further growth and the indicative housing land requirement of 889



dwellings⁸, particularly given that the household waste produced by households within the National Park is in decline (see page 55).

The Park Authority will continue to engage with local authorities throughout the preparation of the Proposed Plan and seek to identify developer contributions if needed,

Spatial strategy

As summarised in Table 7, the National Park Partnership Plan's spatial strategy aligns with infrastructure first principles, with the strategic and intermediate settlements well served by waste management facilities.

Evidence gaps

No outstanding evidence gaps have been identified.

Summary of stakeholder engagement

Engagement with Gypsy and Traveller communities identified waste disposal as a major issue, highlighting the need for greater access to recycling centres, roadside bins, and public toilets to support responsible waste management (CNPA028).

Children and young people raised concerns about litter and dog mess in local areas. Requests included more bins, particularly around Glenmore, and improved maintenance to ensure public spaces remain clean and accessible as they felt that this could be a barrier to leave no trace and movements such as this. As participants also raised concerns surrounding a build-up of litter and other refuse surrounding Kingussie High School. There were also calls for better management of disposable BBQs and other visitor-generated waste to minimise environmental impact (CNPA058, CNPA833, CNPA834 and CNPA835).

Participants in the Aviemore and Cairngorms 2030 planning power events mentioned a general sense of frustration that not enough attention is paid to material origins and waste reduction in current building practices with one player stating that embracing construction waste reduction could create new local business opportunities around reuse and material sourcing (CNPA1105 and CNPA1104).

⁸ See Schedule 13: Housing for further information on the indicative housing land requirement.



Public engagement on the schedule (see CNPA1350 for engagement version) was carried out from 18 November 2024 – 6 January 2025. Eight completed responses were received (CNPA1340).

Summary of implications for Proposed Plan

Based on the available evidence and engagement with key agencies and other interested parties, the Park Authority consider this schedule to provide a sufficient evidence base on which to prepare the 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 (CNPA004), in particular the first aim 'to conserve and enhance the area's natural and cultural heritage' and the fourth aim 'to promote sustainable economic, social and cultural development of the area's communities'.
- Section 9(6) of the 2000 Act, which states that while the aims are to be pursued collectively, if there is conflict between the first aim and any of the others, greater weight is given to the first aim.
- The spatial strategy and principles of National Planning Framework 4 (CNPA008).

There is sufficient capacity within the waste management facilities of the local authorities covering the National Park to accommodate further growth and the indicative housing land requirement of 889 dwellings⁹, particularly given that the household waste produced by households within the National Park is in decline. The Park Authority will continue to engage with local authorities throughout the preparation of the Proposed Plan and seek to identify developer contributions if needed, which will be dependent on the size and location of new development.

In its preparation, the Proposed Plan should seek to:

- Have regard for Scotland's Zero Waste Plan (CNPA394), the Circular Economy Strategy (CNPA401), 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.

⁹ See Schedule 13: Housing for further information on the indicative housing land requirement.



- 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 to be separated from waste - which may require additional space at some facilities.

Statements of agreement

The following people / organisations agree that the evidence presented is sufficient to inform the preparation of the proposed Plan:

- Historic Environment Scotland (C001)
- NatureScot (C004)
- Scottish Environment Protection Agency (C010)
- Highland Council (C021)
- Moray Council (C023)
- Sarah Downes (C107)

Historic Environment Scotland (C002)

Historic Environment Scotland agree that the evidence correctly identifies the characteristics of the Cairngorms National Park. They state that they do not know of any additional information that would help inform the preparation of the next Local Development Plan.

NatureScot (C004)

While NatureScot agree that the evidence correctly identifies the characteristics of the National Park and is sufficient to inform the preparation of the Proposed Plan, they did suggest the following amendments and additions:

- Reinforcement of the links between the waste hierarchy / circular economy and biodiversity.
- Reference to NatureScot's Developing with Nature guidance.
- Reference to Net Zero Scotland Scotland's Plan.
- Add cross reference to Schedule 5: Natural heritage, to help demonstrate the connection between zero waste and the climate and nature crises.
- Highlight link to National Planning Framework 4's policy 1: Tackling climate change and nature crisis.

The stated that, subject to their suggested additional information, that they agreed that the correct implications have been identified.



Park Authority response

The schedule has been amended to reflect NatureScot's comments.

Scottish Environment Protection Agency (C010)

The Scottish Environment Protection Agency agree that that the evidence presented in this report correctly identifies the characteristics of the Cairngorms National Park, although they have stated that they did not know if the correct implications had been identified.

Highlands and Islands Enterprise (C001)

Highlands and Islands Enterprise agreed that the evidence presented in this report correctly identifies the characteristics of the Cairngorms National Park and agreed that the correct implications have been identified.

Highland and Islands Enterprise made the following suggestions for additional information to be recorded in this schedule:

1. Worth noting and discussing the seasonal waste spikes which arise from this type of economy for the area and how this fluctuation in seasonal waste will be managed effectively.
2. Connection between Zero Waste Strategies and climate mitigation goals.
3. Mention made to the circular toolkit for Cairngorms businesses developed by the Cairngorms Business Partnership and Zero Waste Scotland. Did this toolkit provide any valuable insights? Lessons learned?
4. To further strengthen preparation of the next Local Development Plan it would be pertinent to make reference to mechanisms for tracking progress against national waste and recycling targets, with periodic reviews to adjust strategies as needed. Reference is made to working with the UK government and other agencies to develop electronic waste tracking but it would be useful to gain insight into the metrics used etc to ensure data is being captured robustly.
5. Suggestion to include mention of any local participation in waste reduction initiatives, such as reuse hubs, repair cafés, or mention of innovative circular economy projects. This would be beneficial to mention to foster grassroots support and point to some successful case studies. Case studies for this could be found on Highlands and Islands Enterprise's knowledge library feature as well as on the Scottish Environmental Business Awards (VIBES) website.
6. Suggestion that the Highlands and Islands Enterprise's Strategy 2023-28 and Annual Operating plan is also referred to.
7. Suggestion that a reference to Cairngorms 2030 is included in this schedule.



Park Authority response

Responses to the numbered suggestions for additional information shown above are shown here:

1. This data is not available and there has not been included in this schedule. As waste management is primarily a matter for the Local Authorities, the Park Authority is unable to comment on how seasonal waste is or will be managed. However, the Park Authority will continue to engage with the local authorities on Waste management in the National Park during the preparation of the Proposed Plan.
2. Clear links have been provided in the schedule already by way of the reference to the Climate Change Plan and links to other schedules in the Baseline of waste matters section.
3. A reference to the Circular toolkit for Cairngorms businesses developed by the Cairngorms Business Partnership and Zero Waste Scotland has been inserted.
4. The Park Authority do not consider it to be proportionate to the scope of the Evidence Report to make reference to mechanisms for tracking progress against national waste and recycling targets, with periodic reviews to adjust strategies as needed.
5. A reference to local waste reduction initiatives, such as reuse hubs, repair cafés, or mention of innovative circular economy project case studies available on Highlands and Islands Enterprise's knowledge library have been inserted in the summary of local authority waste operation section.
6. A reference to the Highlands and Islands Enterprise's Strategy 2023-28 and Annual Operating Plan has been inserted.
7. A reference to Cairngorms 2030 has been included.

Highlands and Islands Enterprise have confirmed that they are content with this approach (CNPA014).

The Highland Council (C021)

The Highland Council agree that the evidence correctly identifies the characteristics of the Cairngorms National Park, and that it is sufficient to prepare the Proposed Plan. They also suggested the following additional information on:

- The previous waste management collection services delivered to households and businesses in the National Park.
- The Council's long-term waste management strategy for non-recycling.



The Highland Council agree that the correct implications for the next Local Development Plan have been identified.

Park Authority response

The schedule has been amended to reflect The Highland Council's comments.

Moray Council (C023)

Moray Council requested the following additions and amendments:

- A statement that there is no specific Moray Waste Strategy. While there is no waste strategy it should be noted that Moray Council has a kerbside collection policy, which is aligned to the Scottish Government's Household Recycling Charter. The Council is currently undertaking a depot review of all facilities, including waste / recycling facilities.
- Update the statement about Moray Council having 'the highest recycling rate in Scotland', as this is no longer the case as per 2024 data.
- Update statement about Conglass Lane recycling centre, to state 'there is a recycling point in Tomintoul (Conglass Lane Recycling point) which caters for the recycling of cans, glass plastic bottles / containers, paper and cardboard and textiles. The centre is unmanned and open 24/7.'
- Amend text on domestic waste and recycling to read 'Orange box / green hessian sack – glass'.
- Update information on the waste transfer station in Elgin, which having been closed for redevelopment, has now reopened.
- Corrections to some minor drafting errors.

Park authority response

The schedule has been amended to reflect Moray Council's comments.

Statements of dispute

There are no outstanding statements of dispute.