

Resolution: Towards a Zero Waste Midlothian

Midlothian is a Council which works with its communities to achieve effective services and a quality environment. The Council is therefore determined to make a valuable contribution to the Scottish Government's policy of moving towards a Zero Waste Scotland.

The Scottish and UK Governments can produce the greatest impact through new policy drivers and national education and awareness campaigns, but it is accepted that on the journey towards a Zero Waste Scotland, local authorities will have to continue to treat the symptoms of our 'throwaway society' in the short to medium term.

Midlothian will continue to encourage its residents and businesses to actively participate in reducing, reusing and separating waste for recycling while recognising that, for the foreseeable future, large volumes of unsegregated materials that are discarded will have to be collected and dealt with by the Council.

Accordingly, Midlothian Council will in future aim to treat all discarded materials it collects from the residents and businesses of Midlothian as potentially valuable resources from which maximum practicable value should be extracted in accordance with the waste hierarchy* and within the limits of legislation, government policy and funding.

In making its resolution to move towards a Zero Waste Midlothian, the Council aspires that by 2020 it will exceed the Scottish Government targets by recycling and composting over 60% of the materials it collects, and landfilling close to Zero biodegradable municipal waste.

MIDLOTHIAN COUNCIL RESOLVES

in support of the Scottish Government's aim of moving towards a zero waste society in Scotland:

1. To promote wider understanding of waste management issues, particularly the waste hierarchy, through the provision of public information and education.
2. To support and promote initiatives to reduce the quantity of municipal waste arising in Midlothian, both that which is produced within the Council and externally.
3. To provide recycling and reuse opportunities for all residents and businesses through ongoing development of its kerbside collections, recycling points and recycling centres.
4. To promote awareness and to maximise involvement in the Council's recycling services as part of its continuous improvement strategy.
5. To increase the levels of reuse and recycling of waste within the Council and to improve its level of green purchasing.
6. To evaluate alternatives to landfill disposal, including residual waste treatment technologies, to comply with Scottish Government targets on recycling and energy from waste.
7. To work with partners to explore opportunities for joint working in the provision of waste management services, including the procurement of waste treatment facilities.

8. To develop a zero waste strategy aimed at achieving the Scottish Government targets that is based on life cycle analysis and the Best Practicable Environmental Option.
 9. To investigate and pursue opportunities to source additional funding to implement all aspects of the Council's zero waste strategy.
 10. To utilise the expertise gained from its former Pathfinder status and to work in partnership with national organisations and initiatives.
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*NOTE

The Waste Hierarchy contained in the National Waste Plan provides a framework of options for managing waste in the following order of priority:

- *Prevention*
Waste should be prevented or reduced at source where possible.
- *Reuse / Refurbishment*
Where waste cannot be prevented, waste materials or products should be reused directly, or refurbished and reused.
- *Recycling / Composting*
Waste materials not reused should then be recycled or reprocessed into a form that allows them to be reclaimed as a secondary raw material
- *Energy Recovery*
Where useful secondary materials cannot be reclaimed, the energy content of the waste should be recovered and used as a substitute for non-renewable energy sources.
- *Landfill Disposal*
Only if waste cannot be prevented, reclaimed or recovered, should it be disposed of into the environment by controlled landfilling.