

Transport and Environment Committee

10.00am, Tuesday, 29 October 2013

Trade Waste Policy Options

Item number	7.5
Report number	
Wards	11, 12, 13

Links

Coalition pledges	P44 , P49 , P50 , P52 , P53
Council outcomes	CO17 , CO18 , CO19 , CO26 , CO27
Single Outcome Agreement	SO4

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Executive summary

Trade Waste Policy Options

Summary

The appearance of Edinburgh can be spoiled by the sight of bulky, brightly-coloured trade waste containers lining the streets, lanes, closes and pavements. In addition to the visual impact, the unregulated presence of trade waste containers and bags left out on streets can cause obstructions and, if not properly managed, contribute to spilled waste and litter. Although existing legislation provides local authorities with powers to both control and prescribe how and when trade waste should be presented, these have never been fully applied by the Council.

This report considers the options for mitigating or eliminating the adverse impact of current trade waste collection arrangements and practices with a view to developing a city wide policy. The report identifies limiting the presence of bins/bags and the collection of trade waste to certain times of the day as the preferred option and proposes carrying out three pilots in order to evaluate the effectiveness of this approach.

Recommendations

It is recommended that Committee:

- a. agrees to trialling timed trade waste collections in Rose Street (and its lanes), the High Street and Leith Walk for a period of up to nine months commencing 6th January 2014;
- b. notes the intention to produce progress reports for this committee on the outcome of the pilots before and after the Summer Festival Period.
- c. notes the importance of having a compliance team in place to provide information and enforcement to businesses and to support the implementation of the three pilots.

Measures of success

Success will be measured by:

- Reduction in the number of trade waste containers on the streets.
- Reduction in trade waste derived litter on the streets.
- Businesses managing their waste more responsibly and recycling more.

- Cost effectiveness i.e. any costs associated with implementation will be offset by savings in street cleaning.

Financial impact

There is no financial impact directly resulting from this report. Resources will be required to promote the timed collection approach and to support local businesses to meet the new requirements. Environmental Wardens will also need to prioritise enforcement of the policy in the pilot areas. However it is anticipated that for the purposes of the pilot any additional costs or resources will be contained within existing budgets. The evaluation of the pilots will consider the cost of implementing this approach on a city wide basis and the impact on trade waste customers.

Equalities impact

There are currently no equalities impacted as a result of this report.

Sustainability impact

Encouraging businesses to reduce the volume of waste they produce by promoting; prevention, reuse and recycling will reduce carbon emissions.

A more robust approach to the management of trade waste will encourage businesses to take more responsibility for their waste, improving the appearance and cleanliness of the local environment and putting sustainability at the forefront of businesses organisational priorities.

Consultation and engagement

Extensive research into other cities waste management policies has been undertaken.

The cities of Melbourne, Calgary, Westminster, Manchester and Glasgow in particular have worked in partnership with City of Edinburgh to share information and trade waste policy advice.

Best practice from these cities has been identified and assessed for use in Edinburgh.

The local business community has been engaged with throughout the course of this research and planning process. Regular presentations and meetings have been held with the following organisations; Royal Mile Business Association, Leith Walk Stakeholder Group, Clean Leith Forum, Federation of Small Businesses and Essential Edinburgh. Positive feedback has been received from groups representing the three pilot areas who see an improvement in the cleanliness and appearance of their trading areas as beneficial to business.

Trade waste companies have been engaged with for the duration of this project to identify possible solutions.

Environmental organisations such as United Nations Educational Scientific and Cultural Organisation (UNESCO) World Heritage and Historic Scotland have been involved in the formulation of this policy and support the introduction of a Timed Collection approach in Edinburgh.

Local Councillors from the three wards involved have been made aware of the proposals in this report. The responses from councillors were positive.

Background reading/external references

[Trade Waste – Report to the Transport, Infrastructure and Environment Committee 11th October 2012](#)

Trade Waste Policy Options

1. Background

- 1.1 On 11 October 2012, a report considered by the Transport, Infrastructure and Environment Committee gave an overview of the issues and challenges surrounding the management of trade waste in Edinburgh. It outlined the problems faced in Edinburgh and approaches successfully undertaken by two UK authorities, City of Westminster and Manchester to tackle a similar problem in their respective cities.
- 1.2 The recommendation of the report was that a further report be prepared on:
“The options and implications of a more robust approach to trade waste enforcement.”

2. Main report

- 2.1 The heritage and beauty of Edinburgh’s streets are compromised by the volume of trade waste presented throughout the day and the vast number of trade waste bins permanently left on the streets throughout the city.
- 2.2 The constant presence of trade waste in the city not only affects the aesthetic look and feel of Edinburgh but has other public health and environmental implications. The presence of waste attracts gulls and other animals, it creates public safety issues by providing objects that may be tripped over or potentially used to inflict injury and it causes potentially hazardous situations which need to be cleaned up. The cost to the Council, for the cleaning of burst bin bags alone, is estimated to be in excess of £600,000 each year.
- 2.3 Currently the most cost effective way for a business to dispose of its waste is to have the largest container possible with the fewest uplifts. Multiple trade waste companies operate in Edinburgh in a very competitive market. The need to keep costs low in order to remain competitive can often lead to customers being provided with larger containers, for example by exchanging a 240 litre wheelie bin for a 1280 litre container, thereby reducing the frequency of collections. Due to the dimensions of these larger bins, street storage is usually the only option for small businesses.
- 2.4 As of 1 January 2014, the new Waste (Scotland) Regulations 2012 will come into effect. These new regulations are part of the Scottish Governments Zero Waste policy and effectively bring the recycling requirements for commercial or trade waste in line with domestic waste.

- 2.5 Waste (Scotland) Regulations 2012 state that all businesses and organisations must sort and present key recyclable materials separately for collection. This however has the potential to worsen the current situation in terms of the number of trade waste containers on the streets and the impact on the appearance of the city. Every bin currently posing a problem to the look and safety of the streets could be replaced by multiple recycling bins. These potentially comprise a separate container for each of the following: paper, glass, plastic, metal, cardboard, food (for business that generate more than 50kg of food waste) and general waste. The responsibility for ensuring that businesses comply with the new Waste Regulations lies with the Scottish Environmental Protection Agency (SEPA).
- 2.6 From a community safety perspective, recycling bins may be smaller and more prone to becoming a potential hazard in high winds or being used inappropriately by members of the public which may result in injury.
- 2.7 Many other cities globally have implemented successful projects to deal with the proliferation of trade waste containers in streets. Research into these cities has been undertaken and some of the key ideas and best practice have been identified as potential solutions to trial in Edinburgh. Details of each cities project are contained within [Appendix 1](#).

Waste Hierarchy and Duty of Care

- 2.8 The **European Waste Framework Directive** has the intention of turning EU member states into “Recycling Societies”. The Directive aims to shift the focus away from waste being an unwanted burden and instead towards being a valued resource.
- 2.9 If businesses are unable to store their trade waste freely in the streets, finding suitable space in which to store their waste becomes the concern of business owners. To help implement this policy, businesses will need to re-assess their waste arrangements including how they produce and dispose of waste.
- 2.10 Preventing waste through reducing consumption and using resources efficiently are vital steps towards reducing overall waste output. In line with the City of Edinburgh Council’s Strategic Outcome 8, it is important that small, local businesses are supported to do that. Readily available information and education on waste reduction is important in this context. More information on The Waste Hierarchy can be found in [Appendix 2](#).
- 2.11 Each business owner has a duty of care which means they must apply the waste hierarchy, recycle (as of 1 January 2014) and take responsibility for their waste until it is collected.
- 2.12 It is not uncommon for the duty of care to be disregarded by some businesses in Edinburgh; waste is often put out in bags at night and left unattended until collection in the morning. This is a major cause of burst bin bags. Overflowing or unlocked trade waste containers allow other businesses or the public to dispose of their waste illegally in them.

- 2.13 If waste was stored off the streets and on the business property, business owners could more easily and fully exercise their duty of care and Edinburgh would see a reduction in litter, scavenging by animals and potentially anti-social behaviour.

Potential Solutions for Edinburgh

- 2.14 The Roads (Scotland) Act (1984) is used to control structures placed on roads and pavements such as skips, scaffolding, tables and chairs and A-boards. Using this act a local authority may apply conditions to bins such as a time period in which they can occupy the street for collection (Section 59). This legislation can also be used to enforce the removal of trade waste containers from the streets. In terms of enforcement, a local authority has the power to remove any bins which fail to meet any reasonable conditions placed upon them by the local authority (Section 87).
- 2.15 Using the Environmental Protection Act (1990) a local authority can specify the size, type and number of bins allowed to be stored on the streets or pavements (Section 47). This would afford the Council the option of allowing only certain types of trade waste containers on the streets, for example, shared compaction units. These could be used to present businesses with an additional option to storing their waste within their premises and presenting it only at set times.
- 2.16 Three options were identified as possible ways to implement a more robust approach to trade waste enforcement in Edinburgh; **Timed Collections**, **Zero Tolerance** and a **Permit System**. These options have been discussed with representatives from legal, roads, waste services, planning and the neighbourhood teams. A workshop was held to examine each of the options for suitability in Edinburgh and to assess them in relation to current legislation and Council policy. Of the three options, it was agreed that the Timed Collection approach would potentially be the most effective and appropriate.

Timed Collection

- 2.17 A timed collection approach specifies windows of time in which businesses may place their waste onto the street for collection. Outside of these windows no trade waste is permitted to be present in these areas. Businesses will store their waste within the boundaries of their property until the time comes for presentation.
- 2.18 This policy has been successfully carried out in the City of Westminster and Manchester. These cities have employed a Timed Collection approach which has made significant improvements to the reduction of litter and the appearance and safety of city streets. This option is the preferred option.

Pros

- a) Streets free from trade waste for the majority of the day.
- b) Collections could be timed to take place at the least busy periods for traffic and pedestrians e.g. early morning

- c) Reduction of bags left overnight for collection therefore reduction in burst bags.
- d) Little change for trade waste companies.

Cons

- a) For certain periods of time trade waste will be present in the streets.
- b) Initially businesses may be against taking responsibility for storing their waste within their premises.
- c) Businesses with limited storage space may need to increase the frequency of collections and possibly incur additional costs as a result

Zero Tolerance of any trade waste on the street

2.19 All business waste is stored and collected from within an area which is owned by the business. Trade waste containers and bin bags are not permitted on public land at all. Waste has to be presented and collected from within the curtilage of the business premises

Pros

- a) Appearance improved through significant reduction of waste on the street.
- b) Environmental and public safety increased.
- c) Potential for reduction of nuisance animals.
- d) Reduction of bags left overnight for collection – reduction in burst bags.

Cons

- a) Trade waste companies say they lack capacity to provide this service across the city.
- b) Businesses with limited storage space may need to increase the frequency of collections and possibly incur additional costs as a result

2.20 The previous report asked that this option be looked into. However, after engagement with businesses, trade waste companies and Council services a zero tolerance approach to trade waste is not recommended on the grounds that trade waste companies say that currently they do not have the facilities or capacity to collect waste from within each business in Edinburgh. Some businesses welcomed the idea of trade waste companies collecting bins from a storage area on the business property, emptying them and returning them, others felt that this may cause unnecessary disruption to the running of their business.

2.21 A Zero Tolerance approach may be an option for specific streets within the UNESCO World Heritage site if confined to a manageable area. Areas which

make significant contributions to the cultural significance and tourist industry in Edinburgh may benefit from adopting a zero tolerance approach in the future.

Permit System

2.22 A permit system would bring trade waste containers in line with other items which create street clutter such as tables and chairs, skips and scaffolding.

2.23 Businesses would no longer be permitted to permanently store their trade waste containers on the street without the purchase of a valid permit from the local authority. The permit would have an associated yearly cost and have conditions attached to it, for example a trade waste container must:

- be secured at all times;
- occupy a specific area of land and always be within this designated space;
- not be overfilled;
- be maintained in a way that keeps it clean and odour free; and
- display the permit on the bin at all times and have collection company and times, business name and a 24 hour contact number.

2.24 Currently businesses store their bins freely on the street, the number and position of bins is not regulated or controlled.

Pros

- a) Gives the Council control over the location, size and type of trade waste container.
- b) Cost of a permit may incentivise businesses to put in place other arrangements for the storage and presentation of waste that takes it off the street or to share containers with neighbouring businesses.

Cons

- a) Permits on their own are unlikely to make a significant reduction in waste containers on the street unless the cost of a permit is set high enough to provide a disincentive.
 - b) Administration and enforcement of a permit system could be difficult and costly
- 2.25 A permit system is not recommended as a standalone policy for a number of reasons. The appearance of the street may not be improved. Through the introduction of the new Zero Waste Scotland legislation each large trade waste container could potentially be replaced by a number of other smaller containers to provide capacity for recycling. Businesses may look upon the purchase of permits in a negative light, as a needless tax imposed upon them by the Council. It was agreed that this option could present significant enforcement issues regarding keeping track of bins and may be difficult to administer. A permit system where permits are issued only for large communal compaction units or

where businesses are genuinely unable to store waste within the curtilage of their premises, may be used in conjunction with the recommended Timed Collection approach. If the Council were to trial the use of communal trade waste containers to reduce the number of bins on the street, section 47 of the Environmental Protection Act (1990) would allow the local authority to specify the size and type of bin allowed to be stored on the street. Permits only for this size and type of device could be made available effectively allowing the local authority to strictly control, manage and monitor what is stored on the street.

Proposed Pilot Areas and Community Engagement

2.26 It is proposed to pilot the preferred option of Timed Collections so that it's effectiveness can be evaluated. The pilot will also allow limited use of permits for communal compaction units or where neighbouring businesses due to issues of space and cost decide use shared or communal on-street waste and recycling containers. Three areas in Edinburgh have been selected to trial a new approach to Trade Waste: Leith Walk, High Street and Rose Street (and its lanes). Each of these areas has its own unique features which enable this pilot to be tested in three very different environments. The pilot is to begin on 6th January 2014, to coincide with the introduction of the Waste (Scotland) Regulations 2012. The pilots will run for nine months after which they will be evaluated and the outcome reported to this Committee together with a recommendation for the way forward.

Leith Walk

2.27 Leith Walk is the most recently built of the three areas and falls outside the World Heritage site. It has a large number of independent businesses and domestic properties. The majority of the businesses permanently keep trade waste containers on the wide pavements outside their businesses. This has frequently been raised as an issue by a cross-section of local residents, businesses and Councillors. Introducing a Timed Collection policy would make immediate and significant changes to the appearance of the area which has had community support for improved management.

High Street

2.28 The High Street is a 2-block section of the Royal Mile in Edinburgh's city centre. It is part of the World Heritage site and has a large volume of tourists and therefore tourist shops, bars and restaurants. The High Street buildings are historically significant, listed buildings. There are a series of closes running off the High Street in which businesses store trade waste containers. In the early mornings burst bags from trade waste can regularly be seen spread across the road and pavement. The Royal Mile Business Association (RMBA) is positively engaged in making a change to the High Street and have been involved in planning the trade waste pilot.

Rose Street

- 2.29 Rose Street and its lanes, in the New Town of Edinburgh also lies within the UNESCO World heritage site. The majority of the street is pedestrianised from 10:30 – 23:00 but allows access for deliveries and waste collection. Rose Street has back lanes which are used to store waste and trade waste containers have proliferated, impacting on its appearance. Complaints from residents and users of the street are common.
- 2.30 Essential Edinburgh is a not-for-profit organisation which manages a business improvement district that includes Rose Street. Engagement with this organisation has been ongoing throughout the course of this project. In addition to trialling Timed Collection, Essential Edinburgh would like to trial the use of waste compaction unit technology within Rose Street and its lanes. These units will work in addition to a Timed Collection approach and offer an additional option for businesses in this area which will, in turn, allow more flexibility in disposing of trade waste responsibly. The use of the compaction units will be completely optional and at the discretion of the businesses. A business on Rose Street would have the option to access and use these compaction devices through Essential Edinburgh.

Enforcement and Education

- 2.31 Each of the pilot areas have different properties and challenges, this is one of the reasons they were chosen to test this policy option. The challenges faced by businesses, however, will be similar. As of 1 January 2014, all businesses will face a fundamental change to how they manage their waste. If managed properly this will bring about a reduction in landfill, carbon emissions and pave the way for environmentally responsible waste management and sustainability. The combination of the new Waste (Scotland) Regulations 2012 and the introduction of a Timed Collection policy will have a big impact on businesses and many will require support and guidance to conform to these changes.
- 2.32 In each of the cities where similar changes have been implemented there has been some form of compliance team present to help businesses conform to the new rules by offering support, advice, recommendations and ultimately enforcement.
- 2.33 To implement a new, robust policy of Timed Collections and national legislation to make recycling a legal obligation for businesses, behaviour change is paramount. The Council needs to consider how these new requirements will impact on each other and what support and guidance is needed to enable local businesses to meet them. Businesses must be encouraged to act more responsibly by actively reducing, reusing and recycling their waste and engaging with local people to collectively to look after their neighbourhood. Facilitating communication between businesses, support agencies and enforcement organisations such as Environmental Wardens, trade waste companies, SEPA and Resource Efficient Scotland is a key role for the Council.

2.34 In other cities where a more robust approach has been taken to tackle the effects of trade waste on an inner city area, a compliance team has been in place to manage this.

The duties of a compliance team may include:

- Providing information advice and guidance to commercial premises on waste management;
- Conducting compliance visits to commercial premises;
- Investigating complaints;
- Taking action against businesses that do not comply with the requirements for the collection and presentation of trade waste.

3. Recommendations

3.1 It is recommended that the Committee:

- a) agrees to trialling timed trade waste collections in Rose Street (and its lanes), the High Street and Leith Walk for a period of up to nine months commencing 6th January 2014;
- b) notes the intention to produce progress reports for this committee on the outcome of the pilots before and after the Summer Festival Period.
- c) notes the importance of having a compliance team in place to provide information and enforcement and to support the implementation of the pilots.

Mark Turley

Director of Services for Communities

Links

Coalition pledges	<p>P44 – Prioritise keeping our streets clean and attractive</p> <p>P49 – Continue to increase recycling levels across the city and reducing the proportion of waste going to landfill</p> <p>P50 – Meet greenhouse gas targets, including the national target of 42% by 2020</p> <p>P52 – Oppose industrial biomass incineration in Edinburgh</p> <p>P53 – Encourage the development of Community Energy Co-operatives</p>
Council outcomes	<p>CO17 – Clean - Edinburgh’s streets and open spaces are clean and free of litter and graffiti</p> <p>CO18 – Green - We reduce the local environmental impact of our consumption and production</p> <p>CO19 – Attractive Places and Well Maintained – Edinburgh remains an attractive city through the development of high quality buildings and places and the delivery of high standards and maintenance of infrastructure and public realm</p> <p>CO26 – The Council engages with stakeholders and works in partnership to improve services and deliver on agreed objectives</p> <p>CO27 – The Council supports, invests in and develops our people</p>
Single Outcome Agreement	<p>SO4 – Edinburgh's communities are safer and have improved physical and social fabric</p>
Appendices	<p>1 – Trade Waste Management – Good Practice in Other Cities</p> <p>2 – The European Waste Framework Directive</p>

Appendix 1

Trade Waste management - Good practice in other cities

Manchester & Westminster Trade Waste Solutions

These two cities operate a 'Timed Collection' method of waste management similar to the option recommended for Edinburgh.

Each street has allocated times when bag waste is collected. Bags must not be placed on the footpath more than 30 minutes prior to the allocated pick up time otherwise business owners may receive an £80 fine. Bags and boxes must be placed outside as close to the edge of their property as possible. This avoids unsightly large heaps of waste on the pavement.

Here is an example of collections times for a busy main street and for a smaller street:

Regent Street	Mon-Fri		10:00 – 11:00
	Mon-Fri	Sat-Sun	20:00 – 21:00
	Mon-Fri	Sat-Sun	23:00 – 24:00
Knox Street	Mon, Thu		06:30 – 08:30

Bins

Most businesses in Westminster and Manchester do not have the space on their premises for a metal waste bin which means that the waste needs to be presented in pre-paid bags. Waste containers, or bins, are ideal for businesses that have adequate storage space to keep the container off the street.

Compliance Team

In each location where a viable waste management system is in place a compliance team functions to support it. In Westminster a commercial waste customer service unit operates 24/7 and for 365 days a year to handle queries or orders and a dedicated sales team manages all key account customers. *Businesses can contact their local warden via a manned Environment Action Line.*

These teams can tailor waste solutions to the needs of the local businesses with a range of wheeled bins, compactors or bailing machines on offer to businesses with space to accommodate these off the street. If businesses have additional waste extra collections can be arranged.

Melbourne

Melbourne has a series of laneways very similar to our lanes in the World Heritage areas of the New Town such as Rose St and its lanes. Over the years these laneways became full of trade waste containers much like the situation in Edinburgh. In order to clean up these lanes and make full use of them as areas where restaurants and bars can promote a cafe culture, Melbourne introduced a series of changes to the local laws which more tightly controlled how trade waste is managed. The 'Waste Standards' were introduced as an amendment to the cities 'Activities Local Law'.

The City of Melbourne has also trialled the use of shared compaction devices and recycling projects in the laneways exclusively for business waste.

Waste Standards

In July 2010 Melbourne brought into law a new set of standards for trade waste management. A link to these waste standards can be found [here](#).

The standards involved a compliance team assessing each business in the area and promoting the storage of bins within the business curtilage. In some cases this involved changing to smaller bins with more frequent pick-ups. If the compliance team felt it necessary to allow the business to store their bins outside on public land, council designed labels were issued and entitled the business to do this. **After 12 months the volume of bins stored on the street was reduced by 85%.**

Times were set for presentation of waste; these times were not as strict as Westminster or Manchester. No bins are to be presented before 6pm the evening before the scheduled collection time. All bins must be collected between 7am – 7pm and must not stay on the street for more than three hours after collection.

To further support this, a permit system was introduced for trade waste companies wishing to operate in the city centre. The permit had an annual fee and strict set of rules stating; times that trade waste companies could operate in certain areas, that they must keep an up-to-date database of customers and they must use clean vehicles with their logo clearly visible.

In two areas Melbourne Council are trialling the use of compactors in the lanes and a shared recycling facility free to local businesses.

Calgary – 'Dumpster Free Downtown'

In 2007 Calgary was voted the cleanest city in the world by an influential magazine. One of the ways they tackled the problem of trade waste containers on the street was to introduce into planning legislation a waste management clause. This project was named 'Dumpster Free Downtown'. Any new building must be able to accommodate their waste storage inside their building. Older buildings are not required to do this, unless they are renovating, then as part of their building permit, need to retrofit to have waste storage inside.

This project resulted in a reduction of 250 "problem" dumpsters in 2008 to 70 in 2010. As buildings continue to be renovated, Calgary expects to see the numbers of dumpsters in laneways drop to zero.

Glasgow – ‘Style Mile’

Glasgow introduced a pedestrian friendly area in the centre of the city called the ‘Style Mile’. This is an area of Glasgow where businesses and public sector agencies formed a partnership coordinated by Glasgow Council and the Chamber of Commerce. Its aim is to promote footfall and enhance visitor’s experience. In terms of waste, no bins may be present during business hours. This has radically improved the look of the area which is policed by a Compliance Team. This team is very important in making this venture possible, they take the roles of Environmental Health, licensing and enforcement agents, and work with the businesses to educate and inform as well as facilitate trade waste agreements.

The European Waste Framework Directive (2008/98/EC) came into force on 12 December 2010 with the intention of turning EU member states into “Recycling Societies”. The Directive aims to shift the focus away from waste being an unwanted burden and instead towards being a valued resource which can provide opportunities for sustainable growth in a low-carbon economy.

This resource centred approach is summarised in the five step waste hierarchy. Driving waste management up the waste hierarchy is central to the development of sustainable waste management in Scotland and the ambition of a zero waste society.



Preventing waste, through reducing consumption, using resources efficiently, designing longevity and regeneration into consumer goods and substituting less harmful and more sustainable alternative raw materials into products, is the best option. This is followed by re-use of goods such as clothing, books and furniture and repair and remanufacture of products and machinery.

Closed loop recycling of materials such as paper, glass, metals and plastic is the next preferable option and generally constitutes the priority ‘high quality’ recycling as described above. If unable to reuse or recycle in a closed loop, then recovering value, either through low quality recycling or in the form of energy is promoted over landfill.

The Waste (Scotland) Regulations 2012 and the Waste Management Licensing (Scotland) Regulations 2011 place a duty on all persons who produce, keep or manage waste, including Local Authorities, to take all reasonable steps to apply the waste hierarchy.

“It is your duty to take all reasonable steps to apply the waste hierarchy. You must therefore apply the hierarchy **as a priority order** to the management of your waste. This goes hand in hand with the duty to promote ‘high quality recycling’. The Waste Hierarchy Guidance, available from the Scottish government’s web site, provides details of the priority outcomes for a range of common waste streams.”

Duty of Care

- It is the duty of every business owner to apply the waste hierarchy to the management of waste and promote ‘high quality’ recycling.
- From 1 January 2014, present glass, metal, plastic, paper and card (including cardboard) for separate collection.
- Take steps to maintain the quality of dry recyclables presented for separate collection.
- In some circumstances, present food waste for separate collection.
- Take care of the waste while you hold it so it does not escape from your control.
- Ensure your waste is transferred to someone who is authorised to receive it, for example, a registered waste carrier or waste manager with the relevant authorisation. Or, if you are carrying your own waste that you are appropriately registered with SEPA.
- Complete a waste transfer note for any transfer of waste, including a full description of the waste, and retain a copy of this note for two years.
- Describe the waste accurately and provide information for the safe handling, transport, treatment, recovery or disposal by subsequent holders.
- Take reasonable measures to ensure that your waste does not cause pollution or harm to human health.