

Submission from Renfrewshire Council

Renfrewshire Council believes that the Scottish Government has underlined their commitment to challenging the waste sector, and those who produce waste, to deliver a more resource efficient economy in the future.

The policy statement outlines some key measures, including banning biodegradable waste going to landfill from 2020, a first in the UK.

There is rightly, a strong focal point on promoting high quality recycling, including a requirement that co-mingled schemes must deliver the same quality as source separated collection – the challenge has now been put to Materials Recycling Facility operators and the market to ensure quality standards are met. The provision to allow Scottish Ministers to introduce statutory quality standards should they be required is also welcomed.

The ban on materials collected for recycling going to landfill or incineration is also welcomed, as are new requirements to remove key recyclables from unsorted waste prior to incineration.

Businesses producing waste will also be expected to fulfil the new obligations in the way they present recyclable materials for collection, and Renfrewshire Council support the Governments revised timescales for SME's to prepare for this challenge. They are however, ambitious goals and for those who manage business waste, more details will be needed to allow for business to develop arrangements to meet them. Clear communications will be the key to realising this aim

The legislation that will be introduced must be realistic and workable, clear in their intention and accompanied by comprehensive guidance to ensure that they can be understood easily by all concerned. The targets set must be achievable and should bring about the results the Government strives for in improving public confidence in recycling to help reaffirm Scotland's position as a recycling nation.

Renfrewshire Council also welcomes the recognition by the Government that some of the timescales require extending (food waste) to allow for problematic housing types, more effective communication with householders, and timely investment in additional treatment infrastructure to support greater collection and separation of recyclable materials.