

## **Submission from West Lothian Council**

West Lothian Council in principle welcomes the new regulations but recognises the significant practical and financial challenges the regulations will present. Waste and recycling collections will require to undergo significant review and amendment at a time of reducing budgets.

The support offered on behalf of Zero Waste Scotland in regards to the available funding for food waste collections is welcomed, however it is understood that it will result in an immediate funding gap, reducing to zero funding after 3 years. The support offered on behalf of Zero Waste Scotland in regards to the available funding for food waste collections is welcomed, however it is concerning that beyond the initial 3 year period, this legislative change is unfunded. In addition, new glass collections and associated costs may be required, and again this is unfunded legislative change. Understandably this is a concern to the Council and its ability to sustain such new collections in the future.

Furthermore, West Lothian Council shall, in accordance with the new regulations, be required to significantly evolve its trade waste services. Whilst it is recognised that the cost of trade waste collections can be reflected in the service charge to trade waste customers, the introduction of such change in itself poses a substantial challenge in the absence of sufficient remuneration from supporting bodies.

In support of the Governments Zero Waste Policy (ZWP), the Council is however currently in procurement for a major waste treatment facility within West Lothian which will meet the challenge of the ZWP by diverting further waste from landfill, increasing recycling, and greatly reducing the Council's carbon footprint.

In summary, whilst the Council agrees with the general direction of travel of the new regulations, the full financial consequences appear significant at a time of shrinking budgets. There should therefore be a greater emphasis on practical and financial support to allow the council to meet its full shared zero waste objectives.

6 January 2012