

Report to:	Climate and Environment Advisory Committee (CEAC) 6 th December 2022
Lead Cabinet Member:	Lead Cabinet Member for Environment
Lead Officer:	Head of Climate, Environment and Waste

GCSWS Circular Resource Plan Update

Executive Summary

1. This report presents an explanation of the Greater Cambridge Shared Waste Service's Circular Resource Plan. This information was requested at the previous CEAC meeting held on Tuesday 4 October 2022 where the Committee discussed SCDC's Zero Carbon and Doubling Nature Action Plan (ZCDNAP).

Recommendations

2. The Committee are asked to make comments and recommendations to the Lead Cabinet Member for Climate and Environment, to Cabinet or to officers as required.

Reasons for Recommendations

3. The update has been brought to CEAC to allow the Committee to fulfil its role advising Cabinet on policies, actions and resources required to deliver on the Council's climate change and environmental ambitions.

Details

4. Within SCDC's 'being green to our core' business plan priority, there are several key actions identified regarding waste reduction and increasing recycling. Integral to all our communication and engagement activity is to target less household waste generated; a greater proportion of household waste recycled; and improvement in the quality of recycle i.e. less contamination.
5. The Waste Policy team is designing behavioural change campaigns which are evidence/data based, incorporate the latest in behavioural change theory best practise as well as reflect change in national policy from The Resources and Waste Strategy (DEFRA December 2018). Although behavioural change

campaigns can have delayed result, close monitoring and evaluation will refine the approach.

6. As well as our local action, a review of the Joint Waste Strategy by RECAP (Recycling in Cambridgeshire and Peterborough) is imminent – the review is due to commence at the end of this calendar year and will amongst other things consider the impacts of the government’s imminent regulations on DRS (deposit return systems) and EPR (extended producer responsibility), which will have a significant impact on the type of materials that will be within kerb-side bins as well as impacting how materials are collected.
7. The GCSWS’s Circular Resource Plan sets out five focus areas with key actions being undertaken:

A. Fostering a Circular Economy

- i. Work with Cambridge Carbon Footprint (CCF) to update their Circular Cambridge pages and directory of repair shops
- ii. Promote relevant Transition Cambridge & CCF events e.g., clothing swaps
- iii. Support setting up of Cambridge Library of Things
- iv. Work with RECAP partners to promote washable nappies, wipes & period & incontinence products
- v. Promote refill and reuse initiatives
- vi. Community Action days

B. Prevention and recycling of more food waste

- i. Stickers on black bins
- ii. Review and evaluate segregated food waste trial
- iii. Replenish event toolkit
- iv. Promotion of home composting and discounted compost bins
- v. Continued work with Food Hubs / food banks

C. Reducing contamination of dry recycling - streamlining monitoring process and feedback to crews

D. Promotion of recycling

- i. Work with schools, RECAP, and other partners to deliver recycling education
- ii. Attendance at community events
- iii. Advertising
- iv. Welcome pack for new developments

E. Increasing provision for recycling of WEEE (Waste electrical and electronic equipment)

- i. Installing WEEE collection banks at new locations
- ii. Collection of WEEE from Repair Cafes

iii. Promotion of new collection banks

8. The key achievements from actions within GCSWS's Circular Resource Plan to date include:
- Leading a RECAP-wide pilot project to supply locally made reusable wipes to low-income families. Launch of packs planned for January 2023.
 - Supporting Cambridge Carbon Footprint with a funding bid for Repair Cafes
 - Creation of new Community Waste Reduction Projects page on our website, to facilitate groups setting up circular economy projects and to showcase local exemplars.
 - Targeted food waste prevention for black bins on four collection rounds (approx. 2000 bins in South Cambridgeshire).
 - New leaflets, banners and practical promotional items (e.g. measuring cups) purchased for events to reduction food waste
 - Home composting promoted via tailored content on social media
 - Across the Greater Cambridge area, 25 community events attended, engaging with approx. 2500 residents. Kitchen caddies given out at many of these.
 - Four new small WEEE collection banks have been installed in the district, along with four in Cambridge. These have been promoted through press coverage, social media and council magazine articles
 - A mobile small WEEE collection bin has been provided to five Repair Café events in the district, with over 100 items collected.
9. In preparing for 2023-24, the Circular Resource Plan will be reviewed and updated to take into consideration changes from planned route optimisation which occurs every 3 to 5 years. This exercise takes into consideration the growth within the District and plans collection rounds that are optimised in terms of cost, collection times / frequency, overall productivity per collection stream, and crew well-being. The approach would be to initially model the existing set-up and then seek to re-balance and re-distribute the rounds as best as possible. Once this is done and the route model has been effectively verified, we will then consider a variety of modified operational scenarios (for now and the future) to determine their potential impacts - these will include change to the frequency of bin collections taking into established best practices
10. A review of the top performing councils has been undertaken to look for indicators of their success which could be applicable to our service delivery. Nine out of the top 10 councils all provide a segregated weekly food waste collection and kerbside sorted textiles/batteries/WEEE collected at least fortnightly. Some of

these councils also collect dry recycling more frequently (weekly). A similar exercise was undertaken into 3-weekly residual collections to identify the potential impacts on recycling rates. The findings showed that this did not have a significant impact on recycling rates alone. Those that are performing higher than GCSWS and operating 3-weekly residual waste collections also provided weekly food waste collections, and in some cases, more frequent dry recycling.

Options

11. The plan covers the period from April this year until March 2023, and resources have been identified to deliver this.

Implications

12. There are no significant implications.

Consultation responses

13. The Lead Member for Environment has been consulted on this report.

Alignment with Council Priority Areas

Growing local businesses and economies

14. The Circular Resource Plan also includes support to local businesses to reduce waste and increase recycling. Several of our activities support small and community focused businesses including a local Community Interest Company who are part of the reusable wipes pilot project with RECAP.

Being green to our core

15. The Circular Resource Plan is focused on delivering behavioural change resulting in lower residual household waste and a higher proportion of waste recycled.

Background Papers

CEAC Minutes – Tuesday 4 October 2022
[Printed minutes Tuesday 04-Oct-2022 14.00 Climate and Environment Advisory Committee.pdf \(moderngov.co.uk\)](#)

Appendices

Appendix A: GCSWS Circular Resource Plan 2022-23 Executive Summary

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