

AGENDA ITEM NO 6

REPORT NO 48/25

ANGUS COUNCIL

COMMUNITIES COMMITTEE – 25 FEBRUARY 2025

RECYCLING RATE OF HOUSEHOLD AND TOTAL WASTE GENERATED

REPORT BY GRAEME DAILLY, DIRECTOR OF INFRASTRUCTURE AND ENVIRONMENT

1. ABSTRACT

- 1.1 This report presents information on household waste recycling rates and total waste managed by Angus Council from 2019 to 2023. Angus Council remains in the top quartile of Scottish local authorities for household recycling rates and, in terms of carbon impact, has one of the lowest recorded per capita rates in Scotland.

2. ALIGNMENT TO THE COUNCIL PLAN

- 2.1 The proposals contained in this report align with the following Council Plan priorities.

Caring for our Place:

- We will take action to mitigate against climate change by delivering our Transition to Net Zero Action Plan: 2022 to 2030.
- We will deliver efficient waste services and encourage more recycling and cleaner streets.

Angus Council is Efficient and Effective:

- We will deliver our statutory obligations and core functions, tailored to suit our available resources and making best use of our data/performance information.

3. RECOMMENDATION

- 3.1 It is recommended that the Committee notes the information provided relating to household waste recycling rates and total waste managed by Angus Council from 2019 to 2023.

4. BACKGROUND

- 4.1 The Public Bodies' Climate Change Duties Annual Report 2023/24 ([333/24](#)) was considered at a meeting of Angus Council on 7 November 2024. An additional recommendation was agreed at this meeting that the Director of Infrastructure and Environment would provide annual reports to the Communities Committee detailing information relating to recycling rates for both household waste and total waste generated.

Recycling rate for household waste

- 4.2 It was requested that Angus Council's household recycling rate be provided for the past five years with year-on-year trend analysis and ranking compared to other Scottish local authorities.
- 4.3 The Scottish Environment Protection Agency (SEPA) is responsible for reporting national waste statistics to the Scottish Government and for undertaking regulatory functions. To facilitate this, SEPA collects data from local authorities and licensed waste management sites.
- 4.4 SEPA collects data by calendar year and publishes verified local authority household waste recycling rates yearly (usually in the October of the following year). Data is published both for individual local authorities and Scotland as a whole, which allows comparison between authorities and against the national picture. The most recent five-year period for which published data is available is 2019 – 2023.

- 4.5 The Local Government Benchmarking Framework (LGBF) compares data across service areas from Scottish local authorities to aid understanding in variations in cost and performance. The process is organised around 'family groups' of councils so that councils that are similar in the types of populations they serve, and the type of area (e.g. urban, semi-rural or rural) can be compared.
- 4.6 The LGBF indicator ENV6 'Percentage of total household waste arising that is recycled' compares data across each of four family groups. Angus shares its group with the authorities listed below.
- Clackmannanshire
 - East Renfrewshire
 - Inverclyde
 - Midlothian
 - Renfrewshire
 - South Lanarkshire
 - West Lothian
- 4.7 The waste data reported by SEPA at sepa.org.uk (household waste data reporting) will be used to provide the household waste recycling rate and national rankings. Information provided at improvementservice.org.uk/benchmarking will be used to provide comparisons within the family group.

Recycling rate for total waste generated

- 4.8 It was requested that the Council's overall recycling rate (percentage of total waste generated that is recycled) be provided for the past five years with year-on-year trend analysis and ranking compared to other Scottish local authorities.
- 4.9 SEPA does not report data relating to total wastes managed by local authorities and thus no comparison can be carried out to rank Angus Council's overall performance in relation to other authorities. The data required to provide the Council's overall recycling rate is held by waste services and can therefore be provided for the period 2019 – 2023.

Revised Kerbside Recycling Service

- 4.10 The revised kerbside recycling service (KRS) collects recyclables in separate streams in order to improve the quality and quantity of household recycling, help tackle climate change and save money (reference Report [276/23](#)). Paper and card are collected in the blue bin, plastic bottles and containers, cans and cartons in the grey bin, and glass bottles and jars are accepted at an expanded network of recycling points. The KRS has been rolled out in phases, as per Table 1 below, with Phase 3 set to complete the service change by March 2025.

Table 1: Revised KRS roll-out schedule

Phase	Area – to include surrounding areas	Roll-out commencement
1	Arbroath, Monifieth and Carnoustie	June 2024
2	Forfar and Kirriemuir	October 2024
3	Montrose and Brechin	February/ March 2025

5. CURRENT POSITION

Recycling rate for household waste

- 5.1 Angus Council's household waste recycling rate from 2019 to 2023 is shown in Table 2 overleaf, along with the national recycling rate. Also tabled are the rankings that show the position the council placed in relation to the 32 Scottish local authorities, as well as the LGBF family group.

Table 2: Angus Council's household waste recycling rate and rankings from 2019 - 2023

Year	Recycling rate		Ranking among	
	Angus	Scotland	All councils	LGBF family group
2019	59.1%	44.9%	Second	Second
2020	57.9%	42.0%	First	First
2021	54.7%	42.7%	Fifth	Second
2022	51.7%	43.3%	Ninth	Third
2023	52.1%	43.5%	Seventh	Second

Change in household waste recycling rate through time

- 5.2 The key reasons for changes in household waste recycling rate from 2019 - 2023 are shown in Table 3 below. Removal of residual waste skips from smaller recycling centres (and other changes such as the introduction of skips for soil and plasterboard) improved recycling rates in 2019. COVID-19 resulted in the closure of recycling centres (RCs) for up to three months in 2020. This resulted in less waste overall at RCs however there was significantly less recycling than residual waste brought, resulting in a reduction in recycling rate.

Table 3: Change in Angus Council's household waste recycling rate from 2019 - 2023

Year	Recycling rate	Change from previous year	Key influences
2019	59.1%	N/A	
2020	57.9%	-1.2%	COVID-19 restrictions impacted services
2021	54.7%	-3.2%	Wood disposal as biomass not counted as recycling
2022	51.7%	-3.0%	Less wood and garden waste recycled
2023	52.1%	0.4%	No significant change

- 5.3 In 2021 wood disposed of as biomass was not counted as recycling, significantly impacting the recycling rate. The amount of wood disposed to biomass increased in 2022, further reducing the recycling rate, and this year also saw a marked reduction in garden waste recycled (drier weather during growing season was a factor).
- 5.4 Importantly, the amount of household waste being generated in Angus shows a year-on-year decline from 2019 – 2023 (with the exception of 2021 which was also elevated across Scotland). This ties in with the national picture and SEPA report that in 2023 the lowest amount of household waste was generated since 2011.

Angus Council's ranking compared to other local authorities

- 5.5 Table 2 shows that Angus Council has remained in the top quartile of Scottish local authorities for household recycling rate (this has been the case since 2015), with the exception of 2022.
- 5.6 Angus has performed well amongst the LGBF family group, consistently placing within the top two for household waste recycling and has remained well above the national recycling rate for Scotland.
- 5.7 Angus Council has been among the authorities landfilling the smallest percentage of waste, ranking either 30 or 31 between 2019 and 2023.
- 5.8 The carbon impact of household waste generated and managed by Angus Council in 2023 was calculated as 98,029 tonnes of carbon dioxide equivalent (tCO₂e). In terms of carbon impact per capita, Angus was ranked at 30 out of 32 making it one of the authorities with the least impact per person.

Recycling rate for total waste generated

- 5.9 The recycling rate for the total waste generated by Angus Council from 2019 – 2023 is shown in Table 4. The total waste recycling rate is consistently less than for household waste which is influenced by various factors, chief among them that commercial waste customers tend to

produce a greater proportion of non-recyclable waste than householders do compared to recyclable materials. In addition, waste from sweeping is classed as commercial 'other' waste (not classed as recycling but as diversion from residual disposal).

Table 4: Angus Council's overall recycling rate for total wastes generated from 2019 - 2023

Year	Recycling rate	Change from previous year	Key influences
2019	53.7%	N/A	
2020	52.6%	-1.1%	COVID-19 restrictions impacted services
2021	49.8%	-2.8%	Wood disposal as biomass not counted as recycling
2022	47.5%	-2.3%	Less wood and garden waste recycled
2023	46.9%	-0.6%	

- 5.10 The year-on-year change in total waste recycling rate is generally of the same order as that for the household recycling rate. It is considered that the same factors that influenced the household rate have also influenced the total recycling rate.

6. PROPOSALS

- 6.1 The data relating to the Council's household waste from 2024 is being prepared for submission to SEPA and is expected to be published in October 2025. A further report will be brought to committee thereafter to examine any changes in recycling rate and ranking for household waste, and for the overall recycling rate for total wastes generated.
- 6.2 The 2024 data will assist analyses of the changes brought by the revised KRS, though it should be noted that the full picture relating to the bin changes will not be available until after the roll-out is fully complete i.e. 2025 data is available.

7. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

- 7.1 The monitoring and improvement of recycling rates will save money on disposal costs given the revised KRS results in income/ much reduced disposal costs for recyclable materials.

8. RISK MANAGEMENT

- 8.1 There are no direct implications regarding risk management arising from this report.

9. ENVIRONMENTAL IMPLICATIONS

- 9.1 Recycling more will conserve natural resources, reduce pollution, save energy and help to tackle climate change.
- 9.2 In 2019 Angus Council declared a Climate Emergency. Improving recycling will help meet the requirements of the Angus Council Transition to Net Zero Action Plan 2022 to 2030, and The Sustainable Energy and Climate Action Plan (SECAP).

10. EQUALITY IMPACT ASSESSMENT, HUMAN RIGHTS AND FAIRER SCOTLAND DUTY

- 10.1 A screening assessment has been undertaken and a full Equality Impact Assessment is not required for this report for the following reason:

- It is information for elected members.

11. CHILDREN'S RIGHTS AND WELLBEING IMPACT ASSESSMENT

- 11.1 A Children's Rights and Wellbeing Impact Assessment has been undertaken and a full assessment is not required as the "General Principles" do not apply to this proposal.

12. CONSULTATION

- 12.1 The Chief Executive, Director of Finance and Acting Director of Legal, Governance and Change were consulted in the preparation of this report.

NOTE: The background papers, as defined by Section 50D of the Local Government (Scotland) Act 1973 (other than any containing confidential or exempt information) which were relied on to any material extent in preparing the above report are:

- Report [333/24](#)
- Report [276/23](#)

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