



Circular Economy Bill, Stage 2

Below are Circular Communities Scotland's recommendations on amendments to the Bill as it moves into stage 2. We believe these are required to maintain a strong role for the community sector in delivering a thriving circular economy in Scotland.

1. Strategy

Section of Bill: 1.3

What? The circular economy strategy should create the right conditions in which community reuse organisations can thrive, with particular attention to: funding including multi-year; skills develop with regard to the Withers Report; supporting community wealth building; and building a better understanding of social impact of the sector.

We are trying to achieve the recognition that reuse, sharing and repairing happens best in communities, and that while growth of this sector is needed, we must avoid the unintended consequences of pricing or targeting out of the market, the vibrant and connections-based community sector, which adds so much to our local economy and social capital.

- The strategy must create the right conditions to support the community reuse sector.
- The right conditions include:
 - Skills & education,
 - Data - supporting the development of reuse data that cover both carbon and social value.
 - Community wealth building,
 - Funding
- The strategy must be cross Directorate, linking with those relevant reports such as the [Withers Report](#) (2023).

How?

After Section 1 (3) (e) add

(f) community reuse and repair organisations are supported to thrive via:

- Skills & education,
- Data - supporting the development of reuse data that cover both carbon and social value.
- Community wealth building,
- Funding

2. Targets

Section of Bill: 6

What?

We would like to see reuse elevated above recycling and targets is one way of achieving this.

However, ideally, there would be mandatory reuse targets within the Bill, yet we are conscious of the unintended consequence of these.

We believe the communities sector brings more value than simply carbon so we would propose a measure of the social value of reuse activities.

How?

Both measures should be part of the strategy (see section above) and tested (note that Circular Communities Scotland are seeking partners and funding to test a carbon and social impact assessment model at present).

3. Code Of Practice

Section of Bill: 12

What? The code of practice on household waste recycling text should be updated to recognise the importance of reuse and the preparation for reuse activities.

In its [Stage 1 report](#), the NZET Committee recommends that “the Scottish Government reconsider the focus of the Code of Practice to incorporate mandatory actions and consistency on reuse and repair facilities and services.”

How?

Replace 12(2)(1) with:

“(1) The Scottish Ministers must prepare and publish a code of practice setting out-

- a) standards expected of, and
- b) steps to be taken by,

local authorities in carrying out their waste management functions in so far as they related to the collection, reuse, repair, and recycling of household waste.”

And add the following sections after 12(2)(2)(b):

“(c) the items of household waste that are to be reused or repaired”.

4. Restrictions on the Disposal of Unsold Goods

Section of Bill: 8

What? Restrictions on the disposal of unsold goods:

- Prioritising use over recycling
- Prioritising local reuse and social impact

We would like it to be noted that using goods that might otherwise have been incinerated is NOT reuse, but just USE, and would like to draw attention to this item NOT being about REUSE it is simply about USE.

How?

In 8 (2) (1) change to

“The Scottish Ministers may, by regulations, make provision prohibiting or restricting the disposal of unsold consumer goods if they consider it appropriate to do so for the purpose of -

- (a) reducing waste
- (b) maximising reuse
- (c) maximising local social impact

We are also in support of the following, in partnership with other organisations:

5. Waste Hierarchy

Section of Bill: new

What? The Bill must focus higher up the waste hierarchy.

How? The Bill should have a purpose clause that centres on moving up the waste hierarchy.

We support the waste hierarchy purpose clause being jointly proposed by the Association for the Protection of Rural Scotland, Friends of the Earth Scotland, ourselves, and other stakeholders.

6. Consumption targets

What? The Bill must consider consumption targets.

How? The Bill should specify mandatory carbon-based consumption reduction targets, with supporting targets and a deadline for introduction.

We support the amendment for consumption-based reduction targets that is being proposed by Friends of the Earth Scotland: The main CE targets should be mandatory, science-based, carbon-based consumption reduction targets, set on the face of the Bill.

Legislative opportunities beyond the CE Bill

Circular Communities Scotland is mindful of Scotland / UK falling behind on Right to Repair, which has just passed in Europe.

We understand some of the rationale to omit a specific Right to Repair clause in the CE Bill as much of the implications would be UK-wide. (E.g. product design; fair access to spare parts, tools & software, repair warranties; fiscal measures to support fair and affordable repair services etc.)

However, not to acknowledge it at all might be a mistake. Especially when the real opportunities for a more circular Scotland lie at the top of the waste hierarchy where “Repair” rightly sits.

Contact:

Laura Alcock-Ferguson, Interim CEO, laura@circularcommunities.scot

Matt Lewis, Membership and Policy Manager,

matt@circularcommunities.scot