



## MSP Policy Briefing Paper

# Circular Economy Bill Stage 3 - Amendment Request

[Circular Communities Scotland](#) is the national network supporting community-based reuse, repair, sharing and recycling projects.

We are advocating for a further amendment to the Circular Economy Bill at Stage 3. Specifically:

Section 8 - Restrictions on the disposal of unsold goods:

What

We call on MSPs to move and support an amendment in Section 8:

“to include provision for prioritising reuse over recycling of unsold goods in line with the principles of the waste hierarchy”

and

“to include provision to maximise the social impact of unsold goods within the existing network of community reuse organisations in Scotland”

Why?

We fully support the principle behind Section 8 of the Bill and want to see it enacted, but it could, and should go further.

Section 8 of the CE Bill should explicitly state that unsold goods and returns should be prioritised for reuse over recycling, as per the waste hierarchy. This aligns with Section 1 (3A) of the CE Bill that speaks to the circular economy strategy following the principle of the waste hierarchy.

Furthermore, there is an existing network of community reuse organisations across Scotland who are already best placed to receive and make best use of donations of unsold goods and to keep the value and social impact of these items local where possible.

## Overview & Background

Circular Communities Scotland fully supports the Circular Economy Bill and from the outset we have been advocating for a strong Bill that supports Scotland's ambition to be a world-leading circular nation.

Our CEO, Michael Cook, was pleased to give evidence to the NZET Committee at Stage 1 explaining why an ambitious CE Bill was necessary to support Scotland's shift to a more circular economy.

Furthermore, at Stage 1 we [produced a policy paper](#) that called for a "strong and ambitious Bill" that highlighted our 3 key areas of interest:

1. Reuse Targets
2. Restrictions on the disposal of unsold goods
3. A statutory code of practice that prioritises reuse over recycling

There are many elements of the CE Bill at Stage 3 that we are fully supportive of:

- Producing a circular economy strategy that has due regard for reducing material consumption and the waste hierarchy (repair and reuse especially).
- Producing a circular economy strategy that has due regard for the principles of a Just Transition.
- Producing a circular economy strategy that has due regard for encouraging more circular behaviours.
- Setting appropriate circular targets that should include targets reducing consumption and increasing reuse, refurbishment and repair.

All of these elements connect to our core vision of a thriving circular economy for Scotland, where items and materials are in use for as long as possible and the value of those materials supports local environmental, social and economic impact.

## For Further Contact and Questions:

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