Waste Reduction Strategy 2020-2030







DRAFT

November 2019



Draft amendments

Version	Amendments	Date
Draft V1	Changes to increase targets as agreed by	23 rd October 2019
	Members at Full Council (October 2019).	



Forward



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Waste and wastefulness has become part of modern society. It has become all too easy to throw something away and have it collected by the Council. However, now more than ever, there is a necessity for us all to think and act on the pressures that wasting resources has on our environment and finances. This strategy comes at an exciting time as significant changes are happening both nationally and locally that are driving us all to be more ambitious and resourceful in how we manage our waste and resources.

Within this strategy we have set out how we intend to reduce the amount of rubbish we produce on the Isles of Scilly and change the way we think about our resources. We are committed to making the Isles of Scilly a clean, safe and sustainable place for our residents and visitors. We will work hard to ensure we remain at the forefront of developing reduction, reuse and recycling initiatives that improves our sustainability, reduces reliance on mainland solutions and that drives down the cost and carbon-footprint of waste management for the community.

Our Ambitions¹

Manage resources that effectively, efficiently and sustainably:

- Enhance the Isles of Scilly's historic character and outstanding natural environment
- Reduce carbon emissions
- Help deliver social and economic growth and adding value to the communities of the Isles of Scilly

Encourage the use of materials that:

- Are reusable and are made from recycled materials
- Reduce the amount of single-use plastic
- Are kept for as long as possible and are re-used or recycled when they reach the end of their life

Work with partners, businesses and the community to:

- Develop a shared vision for managing resources across the islands, and provide opportunities for the community and businesses to be more involved in waste management
- Provide value for money through services
- Improve existing infrastructure and services

Ensure as a community we use materials sustainably to:

- Reduce the amount of waste generated by all
- Increase re-use and recycling of material

¹ Cornwall Council and Local Nature Partnership Waste and Resources Charter

Our Work

The Isles of Scilly disposed of 1,640 tonnes of residual waste in 18/19, based on 2018-2019 data. There are many ways we can all work to reduce the amount of waste we produce as a community, including buying less items with less packaging and mending or fixing broken items so that they are kept in use, re-purposed or up-cycled. Waste prevention activities that focus on how much waste we produce in the first place will have the greatest financial saving for businesses, residents and the Council.

- 1. Reduce the amount of waste across the islands by supporting businesses, householders, residents and visitors to reduce the amount of the waste they produce;
- 2. Provide opportunities for residents and businesses to reuse as much of their unwanted items as possible;
- 3. To increase initiatives that support waste reduction, reuse, recycling and composting;
- 4. Improve communications with businesses, residents and visitors;
- 5. Provide efficient, effective and reliable services to better manage waste and recycling, tailored to meet the needs of businesses and the community;
- 6. Provide services that keep the public realm clean and litter-free.



Island Futures

'A thriving, vibrant community rooted in nature, ready for change and excited about the future'

The Council of the Isles of Scilly recognises that the health and quality of the environment is fundamental to our community and the economy. Future uncertainties with climate change, visitor numbers, funding opportunities, energy cost, transport and freight costs, all pose significant challenges for our remote island businesses and the community. The waste we generate must be seen as a resource that we should recover as much as we can for reuse or recycling.

Part of this work will be to reduce the islands' plastic consumption, including material washed onto our beaches. As a community we need to work together with our partners to seek as many opportunities for on-island waste reduction, reuse and recycling initiatives to ensure our environment is clean and healthy and we remain prosperous and resilient into the future.



Strategic Context

European Union, national legislation and targets

The EU Landfill Directive sought to reduce the impact of landfilling. This directive has been a key driver in resource and waste management and has led to reduced volumes of waste being landfilled and higher recycling rates in recent years.

The Waste Strategy for England 2007 set National targets of 50% recycling and composting and 75% recovery of municipal waste by 2020.

In December 2017, the EU Commission adopted a Circular Economy package, which set a target of 65% recycling of municipal waste by 2030. Whilst the outcome of Brexit negotiations are still unclear, regardless it is understood that these targets will be integrated into UK legislation.

The Government's Clean Growth Strategy states: "We want low emission, highly productive land while ensuring we hand our environment on to the next generation in a better state than when we found it. As part of this, we want the UK to become a world leader in terms of competitiveness, resource productivity and resource efficiency: maximising the value we extract from our resources and minimising the negative environmental and carbon impacts associated with their extraction, use and disposal. We will work towards achieving zero avoidable waste by 2050."

The Government's A Green Future: Our 25 Year Environment Plan to Improve the Environment sets targets to minimise waste and reuse materials as much as we can to minimise the impact on the environment by:

- Making sure that resources are used more efficiently and kept in use for longer to minimise waste and reduce its environmental impacts by promoting reuse, remanufacturing and recycling.
- Work towards eliminating all avoidable waste by 2050 and all avoidable plastic waste of 2042.
- Reduce pollution by tackling air pollution in the Clean Air Strategy and reduce the impact of chemicals.

The Resource and Waste Strategy 2018 sets out how the Government will preserve our stock of material resources by minimising waste, promoting resource efficiency and moving towards and circular economy by:

- Invoking the polluter pays principle so that producers pay the full cost for the disposal of packaging they place on the market
- Introducing a tax on plastics
- Incentivise consumers to purchase sustainable materials
- Address barriers to reuse
- Encourage appropriate disposal of used products
- Improve recycling rates by ensuring a consistent set of dry recyclable material is collected from all households and businesses (65% in 2035).
- Reduce greenhouse gas emissions from landfill by ensuring that every householder and appropriate business have a separate food waste collection (subject to consultation).
- Improve working arrangements and performance between local authorities.

The Isles of Scilly's recycling rate is approximately 30%-35% (2019) and only changes to our current system will enable the Isles of Scilly to reach the new national targets indicated above. Consistent with the national agenda, the Council's Corporate Plan sets the strategic direction of the Council and acknowledges that increasing recycling rates and lowering the amount and cost of waste disposal is a key priority.

The Energy Infrastructure Plan identified an opportunity to address three key issues for the islands: waste and recycling, wastewater and energy. The Smart Islands' programme is intended to tackle some of the island's infrastructure issues sustainably and affordably. There is an opportunity to generate energy from waste, including creating on-island reuse and recycling of organic wastes (food waste, green waste and sewage sludge) as well as some bulky wastes (including wood,

carpets and mattresses). Energy produced could feed back into a Smart-Grid and the resulting soil-conditioner can be reused on the islands.

Current Services

The Council of the Isles of Scilly manages waste and recycling services for householders and businesses across four islands- the main island of St Marys and the off islands of St Agnes, Bryher and St Martin's. Each off island has an appointed waste contractor who manages the 'bring-sites'. Residents and businesses bring the majority of waste and recycling for sorting before it is transported to St Mary's (contracts are in place until 2020). St Martin's and St Mary's are currently the only islands that benefit from a kerbside collection of both waste and recycling. The island of Tresco manages its own waste and recycling collections and transfer site, with the majority of residual waste and mixed recycling being transferred to St Mary's for onward disposal.



The Isles of Scilly has undergone a transformation in how it manages its waste and recycling in recent years. Historically, the island's waste was managed through an incinerator plant on the Porthmellon Waste Site, which accepted waste from the off-islands and St Mary's, with very little being actively recycled. The ageing incinerator plant was unable to keep up with the increase in waste volumes, particularly during the summer months when the island's population increases, and often failed to meet regulations set by the Environment Agency. This resulted in waste accumulating and eventually being stockpiled on site for a number of years. Subsequently the non-compliant 'landfill site' was closed.

In 2014, through funding received from Defra, the Council started work to redevelop the Porthmellon Waste Site into a modern waste management facility, capable of receiving, managing, storing and recycling materials. The site is now fully

compliant with Environmental permits in place. In December 2018 the Council introduced a recycling scheme for plastic, paper, card and metal across the islands, available to all householders and businesses.

All waste and dry mixed recycling is managed through a procured contract with Suez Ltd to ensure the safe disposal and recycling of materials. All waste from the Isles of Scilly is sent to the Cornwall Energy from Waste plant and dry mixed recycling is bulked up for onward sorting at a Mixed Recycling Facility (MRF) in Avonmouth. There is a separate contract in place for the marine haulage of waste and recycling with the Isles of Scilly Steamship Company. Both these contracts will continue to be operational until 2021.

The Council employs a Waste Site Supervisor and seven Waste and Recycling Operatives who run the day to day activities at the Porthmellon Waste and Recycling Site, including the collection of household waste and recycling, public litter and dog waste bins.

Any future contracts need to be affordable and deliver the aims and aspirations of the Council in reducing waste and increasing recycling rates.

Supporting Community Action

Working closely with our partners and stakeholders, including the Duchy of Cornwall, Isles of Scilly Wildlife Trust, the Local Nature Partnership, the Local Enterprise Partnership, residents and businesses, will enable the Council to enhance the services provided across the islands.

Enabling opportunities for waste reduction, re-use and recycling should be encouraged by all. Developing a waste charter and brand such as, for example, 'Zero Waste Scilly', will encourage community buy-in and create an over-arching vision and driver for delivering projects.

Improving our communications on the ground to raise awareness, promote initiatives and ideas to reduce waste and opportunities for re-use and recycling will help support business and the community to tackle the challenges and issues we face as a remote group of islands.







Future Service Changes & Budget Constraints

With the increasing requirement for Council's to 'do more with less' we must seek to bring financial savings for the Isles of Scilly, whilst improving the service we deliver. Consequently, we must look at every opportunity to avoid waste and seek initiatives on-island to re-use and recycle and reducing our reliance on mainland options, wherever possible. Nonetheless, we will still need to dispose of some residual waste and recyclables to the mainland. As such, future waste shipping and disposal contracts will need to be designed and managed to ensure they offer good value for money and are flexible enough to meet any changes in national guidance, legislation and the priorities of the Isles of Scilly's residents.

There have been dramatic changes in the way waste and recycling is managed. With new national policy being introduced, we know we will need to accommodate these changes, whilst remaining adaptable into the future. The Isles of Scilly has now caught up with where mainland authorities were 20 years or so ago and it is clear that in future we will need to increase our re-use of materials and significantly improve our recycling rates. In order to increase recycling rates and drive down the cost of managing waste and recycling, the Council and its partners must identify initiatives and measures that are more sustainable and affordable with greater emphasis on delivering on-island reuse and recycling schemes, whilst reducing the amount of waste produced.

Delivering the Strategy

To deliver the waste reduction strategy the Council of the Isles of Scilly needs to focus on the following actions:

ACTION 1: Reduce the overall volume of waste across the islands.

Delivery Plan 1: Collect and publish waste data to target waste reduction.

Delivery Plan 2: Improve communications with residents, visitors & businesses to help reduce waste across the islands.

Delivery Plan 3: Support initiatives that prevent and reduce waste with particular focus on key suppliers, businesses, partners and residents.

ACTION 2: Increase the amount of material that is reused.

Delivery Plan 4: Develop initiatives and measures that encourage re-use of materials, keeping them for as long as possible.

Delivery Plan 5: Ensure that all new developments on the islands minimise waste and re-use materials wherever possible.

ACTION 3: Increase the amount of waste that is recycled or composted.

Delivery Plan 6: Increase the levels of household and commercial recycling and composting to achieve targets.

Delivery Plan 7: Expand the range of materials collected for recycling, subject to them being economically viable.

Delivery Plan 8: Continue to provide residents and businesses with recycling containment and ensure materials are of a high quality.

Delivery Plan 9: Encourage business opportunities to recycle waste through, for example, the voucher scheme.

ACTION 4: Improve communications with householders, visitors and businesses regarding waste and recycling collection services.

Delivery Plan 10: Develop and communications strategy to ensure effective communication of services.

Delivery Plan 11: Develop a waste charter to set out the level of service residents can expect us to provide, which will also act as a benchmark to measure performance.

ACTION 5: Deliver initiatives that support waste reduction, re-use, recycling and composting.

Delivery Plan 12: Work with community groups and partners to increase the amount of initiatives on-island. Providing on-the-ground support and effective communication campaigns.

ACTION 6: Provide safe, efficient, cost-effective and reliable services which meets the needs of the community.

Delivery Plan 13: Monitor, review and improve existing waste collections.

Delivery Plan 14: Engage with the community to understand their aspirations for re-use and recycling.

ACTION 7: Provide services that keep the environment and public realm attractive, clean and litter-free.

Delivery Plan 15: Work with businesses and partners to reduce the volume of litter. Provide dual bins for Hugh Town and Old Town that enhance the character and appearance of the areas, enable recycling and reduce the amount of strewn litter.

Delivery Plan 16: The Council, through its own operations, will seek to be an exemplar of environmental good practice in relation to waste management.

Appendices: Appendix I

Waste Reduction Strategy Action Plan

Action 1: Reduce the overall volume of waste across the islands								
Plan	Timescale	Monitoring	Performance Indicator	2025 target	2030 target			
Collect and publish	Ongoing collection of	Annual	Publish data on Council website,	10% reduction of	20% reduction of the			
waste data and to	data with twice-		social media channels and report	the volume of	volume of waste			
develop new	annual publishing		to Full Council.	waste produced	produced			
projects that								
target the			% reduction in household waste					
reduction of waste								
To target	Ongoing	Annual	Production and delivery of annual					
communications	communications		waste and recycling					
and campaigns to	targeted to project		communication plan to tailor					
reduce waste and	delivery		communications to specific					
promote re-use			campaigns and projects					
and recycling								
across the islands								
Work with	Lifetime of the	Annual	Provide support and resources to					
businesses	strategy (10 years)		businesses and stakeholders who					
partners to			are active in the reduction of waste					
support initiatives			and improving the environment of					
that reduce waste			Scilly					
			Develop working group/forum to					
			work towards developing zero					
			waste Scilly					

Action 2: Increas	Action 2: Increase the amount of material that is re-used								
Plan	Timescale	Monitoring	Performance Indicator	2025 target	2030 target				
Scope options for developing re-use facilities such as re-use shop/repair café	Lifetime of the strategy (10 years).	Annual	Tonnage of material re-used.	Volume re-used increased by 10% by 2025	Volume re-used increased by 20% in 2030				
Work with the Council's planning department, through planning and strategy consultations, to ensure that new developments minimise waste and promise re-use of materials	Ongoing	Annual	Tonnages of material re-used	Volume re-used increased by 10% by 2025	Volume re-used increased by 20% in 2030				

Plan	Timescale	ı	is recycled or composted Performance indicator	2025 target	2030 target
Increase the levels of recycling and composting across the islands to achieve targets.	Lifetime of strategy (20 years)	Annual	Percentage of waste diverted to recycling/composting	40%	50%
Continue to assess and expand the current range of materials collected for recycling and composting (garden, food, bulky waste collections and Terracycle programmes), subject to economic viability	Lifetime of strategy (20 years)	Annual	Number of separate materials collected at the kerbside and HWRC sites	50%	65%
To improve the operation of current HWRCs on all the islands through waste/recycling materials audits and customer feedback surveys	Lifetime of the strategy (10 years)	Annual	Increase the capacity of HWRC sites	Increase volume of recycling handled at all sites by 10%	Increase volume of material handled at HWRC sites by 20%
To continue to provide residents with containers for recycling and information to ensure a high quality of recycled materials to maximise their value	Lifetime of Strategy (10 years)	Annual	Volume of rejected materials	MRF rejection rate stays at 5% or below	MRF rejection rates stays at 5% or below

Action 4: Improve communication with householders, visitors and businesses regarding waste and recycling collection services

Plan	Timescale	Monitoring	Performance indicator	2025 target	2030 target
Develop a communications strategy to ensure messages are relayed clearly to businesses and community	Lifetime of strategy (20 years)	Annual	Strategy developed	10% increase in public awareness of our services	20% increase in public awareness of our services
Develop a waste charter to clearly set out the level of service businesses and residents can expect	Lifetime of strategy (20 years)	Annual	Charter developed	10% increase in public awareness of our services	20% increase in public awareness of our services
Develop Waste Collections Guidance, outlining services	Ongoing	Annual	Bible created and updated annually	10% increase in public awareness of our services	20% increase in public awareness of our services
Deliver consultations on services through surveys & workshops to gauge business and community aspirations	Lifetime of the strategy (10 years)	Annual	Consultations delivered on improvements to services and on any new services	10% increase in public awareness of our services	20% increase in public awareness of our services
Develop online resources e.g. website, blogs, A-Z material lists. Tailoring to seasons e.g. Christmas & Gig Championships	Lifetime of Strategy (10 years)	Annual	Review website information, create Facebook groups and use social media platforms widely	10% increase in public awareness of our services	20% increase in public awareness of our services
Set-up a zero waste working group made up of partners and representatives of businesses and the community, to help support and drive action	Lifetime of the Strategy (10 years)	Annual	Zero Waste Working Group set up with clear aims, objectives and work plan	10% increase in public awareness of services	20% increase in public awareness of services

Action 5: Deliver initiatives that support waste reduction, re-use, recycling and composting							
Plan	Timescale	Monitoring	Performance indicator	2025 target	2030 target		
Deliver a bulky waste collection service	Ongoing	Annual	Number of businesses and	200 properties	600 properties		
for residents			residents subscribed	signed up	signed up.		
Deliver a food and garden waste	By 2021	Annual	Number of businesses and	200 properties	600 properties		
collection service for residents and			residents subscribed	signed up	signed up.		
businesses							
Promote home composting by providing	By 2021	Annual	Number of residents	100	300 households		
composters to residents			subscribed	households	signed up.		
				signed up			
Work with businesses and residents to	Ongoing	Annual	Number and type of projects	10% reduction	20% reduction		
develop projects (e.g. zero-waste			delivered.	in waste	in waste		
champions, 'Recycle with Michael',				volumes	volumes		
clothes swaps, community fridge/s, refill			Waste data showing an				
shop, reuse cafes, up-cycling schemes,			increase in recycling rates				
bio digesters, food waste reduction							
schemes, businesses waste-free							
schemes, community							
allotments/composting, talks and							
workshops) that reduce waste, improve							
re-use and recycling rates and							
composting through on the ground							
support							

ACTION 6: Provide safe, efficient and reliable services which meets the needs of the community.							
Plan	Timescale	Monitoring	Performance indicator	2025 target	2030 target		
Continue to offer recycling collection service on St Marys Explore alternative methods of containing & collecting material	Ongoing	Annually	Monitor amount of recycling collected and amount rejected	15% increase in recycling rates through kerbside collections	25% increase in recycling rates through the kerbside collections		
in line with changes to legislation and budgets				MRF rejection rate stays at 5% or below	MRF rejection rate stays at 5% or below.		
Continue to send waste from the islands for recovery to an 'Energy from Waste' plant to ensure we avoid disposal/landfill.	Lifetime of this strategy (10 years)	Annually	Monitor through contracts in place.	N/A	N/A		
Ensure the Porthmellon HWRC and Off Island sites continue to accept a wide range of materials that are managed in a compliant, safe efficient way	Lifetime of this strategy (10 years)	Annually	Amount of visits made to the HWRCs and amount of material recycled through them	10% increase in recycling rates through HWRCs	20% increase in recycling rates through HWRCs		

ACTION 7: Provide services that keep the public realm attractive, clean and litter-free.						
Plan	Timescale	Monitoring	Performance indicator	2025 target	2030 target	
Improve the visual impact of bring-sites by screening and ensuring regular cleaning & maintenance programme	Ongoing	Annually	Number of complaints received to the Council.	50% decrease in complaints made to the Council	80% decrease in complaints made to the Council	
Purchase new litter & recycling bins to ensure they reduce strewn litter, encourage recycling and are in keeping with the character and appearance of the street scene	Ongoing	Annually	Number of new bins purchased and installed.	20 new bins purchased for Hugh Town 10-15 new bins purchased for rest of network	All new bins in place by 2030	
Regular maintenance programme of all litter/dog waste bins by developing maintenance and cleansing programmes	Ongoing	Annually	Number of complaints received to the Council.	50% reduction in complaints made to the Council.	80% reduction in complaints made to the Council.	
The Council will work with its partners and the Environment Agency to ensure the number of fly-tipping incidents, the volume of littering and burning of waste is reduced across the islands through communication campaigns.	Ongoing	Annually	Number of fly-tipping incidences reported on public land and number of complaints of burning waste made to the Council, including reports of statutory nuisance	50% reduction in fly-tipping incidents reported to the Council	80% reduction in fly-tipping complaints made to the Council	

The Council will be an	Ongoing	Annually	Volume of Council generated	20% increase in	40% increase in the
exemplar of good practice in			material recycled/ composted.	amount of material	amount of material
relation to waste reduction				diverted through	diverted through
and management.			Development of plastic-free	reduction, re-	reduction, re-
			initiatives and strategy	use/recycling	use/recycling
Develop a waste and recycling				through Council	through Council
pledge and a single-use plastic				activities	activities
pledge.					
Install recycling bins in all					
public facing buildings and					
ensure offices have recycling					
facilities available					
Create 'food savvy lunch club'					
to reduce amount of packaging					
used at lunchtime and reduce					
'grab and go' culture					

Appendix 2

Historic & Current Performance

In 2014/2015 the Council's weighbridge at the Porthmellon Waste & Recycling Site became fully operational, allowing the authority to accurately record the tonnages sent for waste and recycling. Prior to this time the data is limited and not very accurate.

The redevelopment of the Porthmellon Waste & Recycling site, which began in 2014 and is now fully operational, has enabled the Council to collect, sort and store more materials for recycling with the space and facilities to do so. A new site permit with agreed limits on storage and waste types, ensures that the Council can sort and store materials compliantly.



Figure 1Waste Site prior to redevelopment

Over the past three years the amount of waste has been declining and the levels of recycling have been increasing over the same period. Since the introduction of the Council's dry mixed recycling scheme of plastic, paper, card and cans in December 2018, the monthly recycling rates (January, February, March 2019) reached 30% and above for the first time. The current UK national recycling rate is around 45%. The Council of the Isles of Scilly will be required to introduce a food waste collection service to achieve recycling rates of 40% and above. EU has set member states' recycling rates at 50% by 2020 and 65% by 2035.

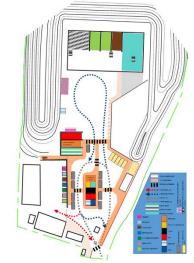
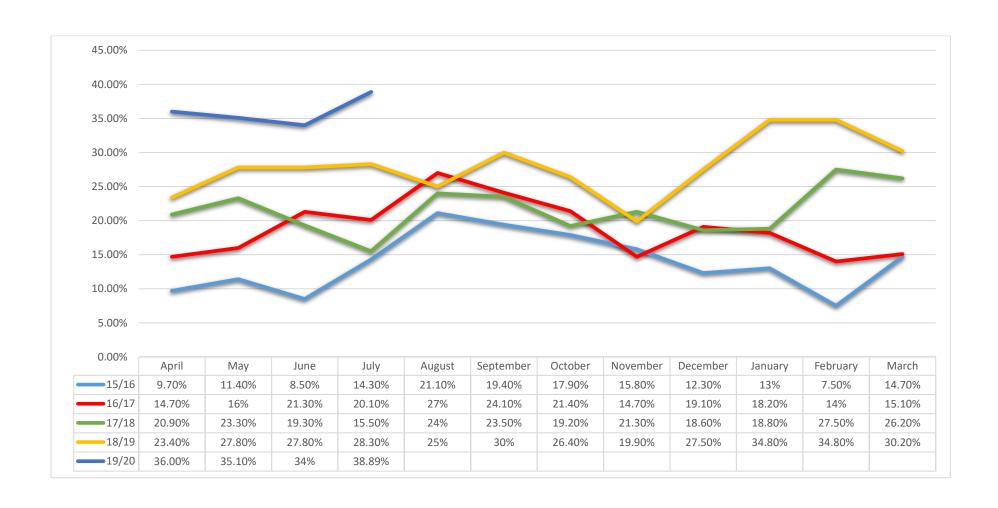


Figure 2Current Waste & Recycling Centre layout

Recycling Diversion Rates 2015-2019



Appendix 3

Waste Hierarchy and Circular Economy

Waste Hierarchy

Changing behaviour Prevention Reusing materials Reuse **Recycling & composting** Recycling **Recovering materials & energy** Recover Landfill **Disposal**

Circular Economy

WRAP (Waste and Resources Action Programme) describe the Circular Economy as:

Traditional thinking is based on linear model of making, using and disposing.

Circular Economy model is based on keeping resources in use for as long as possible, extracting the maximum value from them whilst in use, recover and regenerate products and materials at the end of their life.

Circular economy is important because:

- Reduces waste
- Drives resource productivity
- Delivers a more competitive economy
- Reduces environmental impact



Figure 3: Circular Economy: WRAP

References and Further Information

Cornwall Council: Resources and Waste Strategy https://www.cornwall.gov.uk/media/35608767/resources-and-waste-strategy-2018-web.pdf

London Borough of Redbridge: Waste Reduction Strategy http://moderngov.redbridge.gov.uk/documents/s117061/14.%201%20Waste%20Recycling%20Strategy%20-%20APPENDIX.pdf

Landfill Directive https://ec.europa.eu/environment/waste/landfill_index.htm

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A Green Future: Our 25 Year Plan to Improve the Environment https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/25-year-environment-plan

Resources and Waste Strategy for England https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/resources-and-waste-strategy-for-england

Smart Islands https://smartislands.org/ Energy Infrastructure Plan for the Isles of Scilly http://www.scilly.gov.uk/sites/default/files/IoS_Infrastructure%20Plan_FINAL_IoS.pdf

Circular Economy WRAP www.wrap.org.uk