

Resource and Waste Management Strategy for Devon and Torbay – Consultation

Carbon Impact

Dealing with waste inevitably leads to the release of greenhouse gases. However, with little landfill of domestic waste occurring in Devon now this is much reduced. Nevertheless, there are impacts from transporting waste, creating energy from waste and even from recycling waste. The impacts are different depending on the material and the method of processing. The Devon and Torbay Carbon Plans are proposing a target of net zero carbon by 2050 and the management of waste plays an important part in this. See Strategy section 5.1 (Climate Change and Carbon Impact) and Appendix 4.

1. Do you agree that in order to contribute to net zero carbon for Devon and Torbay by 2050 at the latest the focus should be on:

	Yes	No	Don't know
a. Reducing, reusing and recycling more textiles, plastics, metals/Waste Electronic and Electrical Equipment, food and paper/card?	98.6%	1.4%	0
b. Looking specifically at how to reduce the plastics in the residual waste stream?	95.2%	3.8%	1.0%
c. Considering options for utilising heat for the Energy Recovery Facilities which will need to be commercially viable?	83.1%	5.8%	11.1%
d. Reviewing carbon capture technology as it develops further?	82.4%	6.8%	10.7%

2. Please make any comments you have on your responses to Q1 a - d in the box provided.

The 84 comments focussed on

- The need to work with businesses to reduce packaging waste, particularly plastic
- The need to reduce, reuse, recycle and repair
- To reduce use of plastic and to recycle all sorts of plastic
- To reduce co2 at source, and plant trees rather than CC by engineering
- 2050 is too late
- ERF not the solution, needs to be efficient if we do use it and needs to be wound down eventually
- Government lead required

3. Do you agree the local authorities should increase the use of carbon friendly fuelled vehicles for transporting waste e.g. electric, hydrogen, over the period of the Strategy?

Yes 89%

No 7%

Don't know 4%

4. Please make any comments you have on Q3 in the box provided.

The 68 comments focussed on

- Creating another problem in terms of battery disposal, the use of rare metals and minerals in battery production and the need for whole life carbon analysis
- There was concern about the potential costs and the need for an economic solution only replacing as vehicles come to end of life
- Hydrogen, LPG and HVO were mooted as alternative fuels
- Need to reduce waste miles
- Need to lead the way, before 2050
- Question of whether electric vehicles would cope with rurality

5. Do you agree that local authorities should develop opportunities for local reprocessing with stakeholders by 2030?

Yes 74%

No 3%

Don't know 23%

6. Please make any comments you have on Q5 in the box provided.

The 61 comments focussed on:

- Unfortunately, a number of people did not understand the phrase local reprocessing and who the stakeholders might be
- Only to be developed if this is more economic and efficient and has a reduced carbon impact
- Can this be implemented sooner than 2030
- Essential to have community hubs in rural areas for jobs and to retain value locally

Reducing, reusing and recycling waste

The focus of this strategy is on reducing, reusing and recycling waste. The less waste there is to manage the less the carbon and environmental impact, and the lower the costs. The waste collected figure for Devon includes the district council collections and the waste brought to the County Council's Household Waste Recycling Centres. The councils encourage and help residents to reduce their waste through community engagement using social media, leaflets, roadshows for example, but service design and consistency can also assist residents to use the correct bins. See Strategy sections 7.0 (Waste Prevention) and 9.1 (Recycling).

7. Do you agree with the target for reducing the waste collected per head to 416kg per year by 2030 (from 444kg/head in 2019/20 for Devon, and 433kg/head for Torbay);

Yes	67%
No	19%
Don't know	14%

8. Please make any comments you have on Q7 in the box provided.

The 98 comments focussed on:

- The overwhelming majority of responses suggested that this target was not low enough
- Need to focus on packaging, at manufacture and retail levels
- Make recycling easier, particularly providing good lids
- Reduced collections could result in fly tipping
- Focus on holiday accommodation and tourists

9. If you agree with the target for reducing the waste collected per head to 416kg per year by 2030 (from 444kg/head in 2019/20 for Devon and 433kg/head for Torbay), do you agree that this should be achieved through the following means?

	Yes	No	Don't know
Community engagement	89.5%	2.1%	8.4 %
Operational service policies e.g. reducing residual waste collection capacity?	52.2%	34.1%	13.7%
Other (please specify)	62.7%	4.5%	32.8 %

10. Please make any comments you have on Q9 in the box provided;

The 95 comments focussed on:

- Reducing packaging throughout the supply chain, working with businesses and government
- The potential for reduced collections resulting in fly tipping and vermin issues
- Education and community engagement are essential, including working in schools
- Enforcement and penalties are important measures to reduce waste
- A small number didn't understand what operational service policies means

11. Do you agree with the target to achieve a 20% reduction in food waste by 2025 from a 2015 baseline?

Food waste currently makes up 30% (Devon) and 23% (Torbay) of the residual (black bag/bin) rubbish, even with the majority of councils offering a food waste collection service. The councils will continue to work with residents to help them to reduce their food waste. See Strategy section 7.2.1 (Food Waste).

Yes	85%
No	10%
Don't know	4%

12. Please make any comments you have on Q11 in the box provided.

The 95 comments focussed on:

- The target needing to be higher
- Working with supermarkets, retailers and the whole supply chain to reduce promotions such as Bogofs which increase food waste
- Work with householders to educate on reducing food waste
- Promote composting and offer subsidised bins
- Encourage food redistribution

13. Do you agree with the target to increase the amount of waste reused (from 0.75% in 2019/20) to 2% by 2025 and 5% by 2030?

Reuse happens in many ways, for example via charity shops, on-line and between friends and family. Preventing items from becoming waste by reusing them reduces carbon impact, reduces the use of finite resources, and offers job and skills sharing opportunities in upcycling and repair, not to mention encouraging community cohesion. The councils have no measure of the majority of reuse that happens in communities but can influence reuse through the Household Waste Recycling Centre shops, community engagement and by offering support to repair cafes and other reuse activities. See Strategy section 8.0 (Reuse).

	Yes	No	Don't know
(a) 2% by 2025	85.4%	7%	7.5%

(b) 5% by 2030

88%

6%

6%

14. Please make any comments you have on Q13 in the box provided.

The 74 comments focussed on:

- The need for higher targets
- The need to promote reuse services, repair shops, community hubs
- More reuse at HWRCs and more accessible centres

15. Do you agree with the target to recycle at least 60% of household waste by 2025 and 65% by 2035?

Devon has a high recycling rate of 56.6% which includes the district councils. Torbay's is lower at 40.4%. The average recycling rate across England is 44.4% with the highest being 58.5% in Oxfordshire. Recycling rates have been relatively stagnant for some time despite the best efforts of local authorities. The EU Circular Economy Package target of 65% by 2035 is supported by the Government hence the proposed target at Q8 and the interim target at Q7. A key to higher recycling rates is consistency across authorities and expanding the range of materials collected where economically and operationally viable. See Strategy section 9.0 (Recycling).

	Yes	No	Don't know
60% by 2025	88.4%	6.3%	5.3%
65% by 2035	84.8%	8.2%	7.0%

16. Please make any comments you have on Q15 in the box provided.

The 82 comments focussed on:

- The need for the targets to be higher – up to 90%
- The need to reduce waste first
- To reduce the amount of plastic and recycle plastic film

17. Do you agree with the proposal to collect a consistent range of recyclable materials by 2023 in line with Government policy with the addition of a broader range by 2030?

The Government is proposing to make it mandatory for local councils to collect paper, card, food, metal, glass, and mixed plastics by 2023. The more consistent collections are the better the quality and quantity of recyclate and the more effective communications can be across Devon and Torbay. The Devon authorities will also consider which other materials they could all collect, and how else they could be more consistent across the county. See Strategy section 9.0 (Recycling).

Yes	96%
No	2%

18. Please make any comments you have on Q17 in the box provided.

The 69 comments focussed on:

- Aiming to achieve these targets sooner
- Including cardboard, textiles, cartons metals, plastic film
- Only if economic, markets are available and capacity allows
- More education and incentives

19. Do you have any further comments on any aspect of the Strategy?

The 73 comments were wide ranging but included:

- Good to have a strategy but doesn't go far enough
- Need to be bold, assertive
- More community engagement, schools work and education
- More working with supermarkets and reducing packaging at source
- Make things easy
- More on the go recycling
- Don't charge at HWRCs