

West Lothian Local Development Plan 2 Evidence Report	
Schedule	26. Zero Waste
Information required by the Act and NPF4 regarding the issue addressed in this section	<p>Town and Country Planning (Scotland) (Act) 1997, as amended:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> section 15(5)(a) ‘the principal physical, cultural, economic, social, built heritage and environmental characteristics of the district’ <p>National Planning Policy 4 (adopted 13 February 2023)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Policy 12 Zero Waste - LDPs should identify appropriate locations for new waste management infrastructure to support the circular economy and meet identified needs in a way that moves waste as high up the waste hierarchy as possible. <p>This schedule aims not to repeat the content of other topics covered by the LDP2 Evidence Report. Other schedules which should be read alongside this schedule on Zero Waste include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1 - Climate Change
Links to Evidence	<p>Scottish Government, Scotland’s Zero Waste Plan</p> <p>Scottish Government, Circular Economy (Scotland) Bill (the Bill)</p> <p>Zero Waste Scotland, Household Recycling Charter and Code of practice</p> <p>SEPA, Waste Management Data West Lothian</p> <p>SEPA, Landfill locations and capacity</p> <p>UK local authority and regional greenhouse gas emissions national statistics 2005-2021 (published 6 July 2023)</p>
Summary of Evidence	
<p>Purpose, scope and structure of this schedule</p> <p>This schedule focuses on zero waste in West Lothian. This schedule and its evidence are set out in the following sections:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> National waste strategies, priorities and evidence Waste in West Lothian <p>Part 1 - National waste strategies, priorities and evidence</p> <p>1.1 The Scottish Government has adopted Zero Waste as a goal and in 2010 published the Zero Waste Plan (ZWP). The Zero Waste Plan sets a target that by 2025, 70% of Scotland’s waste is to be recycled. Treatment is also required of unsorted waste materials prior to incineration or landfill and a maximum of 5% of waste is to go to landfill. The waste hierarchy establishes that the prevention of waste is the preferred option followed by reuse, recycling, recovery and disposal. A zero waste</p>	

Scotland will play an important role in helping to achieve the targets set in the Climate Change (Scotland) Act 2009 to reduce Scotland's greenhouse gas emissions.

- 1.2 The **Circular Economy (Scotland) Bill (the Bill)** and its associated Route Map are designed to create a sustainable system that eliminates waste and keeps resources in use. This in turn creates social, economic and environmental benefits. The route map sets out the Scottish Government's strategic direction for delivering their system-wide, comprehensive vision for Scotland's circular economy from now to 2030. The Route Map has 4 aims reduce and reuse, modernise recycling, decarbonise disposal and strengthen the circular economy.
- 1.3 The Scottish Government are making a number of changes to waste legislation and regulation to further reduce and tackle waste. This includes:
 - From 31 December 2025 a ban on biodegradable municipal waste going to landfill is set to be implemented by amending the Landfill (Scotland) Regulations 2003.
 - Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR) for packaging is set to be implemented from October 2025. This aims to make producers responsible for the cost of collection, management and recycling of packaging. It also incentivizes producers to make their products more recyclable by adding modulation fees, which are based on the recyclability of products.
 - Deposit Return Scheme (DRS) for drink containers which provides a financial incentive for consumers to return drinks containers for recycling is set to be implemented in October 2027.
 - The Emissions trading Scheme (ETS) is a 'cap and trade' system that covers 20% of Scottish greenhouse gas emissions. Plans on expanding the scope of this to cover waste incineration and energy from waste plants is undergoing review but implementation will potentially take place in 2026. This will impose a tax on all carbon emissions that are produced by waste that is sent for incineration with the potential for an increase in gate fee costs.
- 1.4 There is a [moratorium on new Energy from Waste \(EFW\)](#) in Scotland since 2022 which in practice put limits on planning approval of new Energy from Waste Plans.
- 1.5 This moratorium followed an independent review into incineration in the waste hierarchy which was announced by the Scottish Government in 2021. [The Review report](#) was published in 2022 and included 14 recommendations. Recommendation 4 was that, effective immediately, the Scottish Government should ensure that no further planning permissions (i.e. beyond that already in place) are granted to incineration infrastructure within the scope of the Review unless balanced by an equal or greater closure of capacity. The Levenseat facility, a fully integrated site providing recycling and waste management solutions which includes Mixed Waste Recycling, Food and Garden Waste Recycling, Energy from Waste, Aggregate Recovery and Waste Disposal is one of the operational residual waste facilities identified in the Review report.

Part 2 – Waste in West Lothian

- 2.1 The Council is responsible for the collection of all household waste and the environmentally responsible management of waste in line with the government's Zero Waste Plan.
- 2.2 The council signed the Scottish government's **Charter for Household Recycling in 2019** and has worked since towards aligning its services to its associated **Code of Practice for Household Recycling** which aims to increase recycling participation, quantity and quality and support the circular economy opportunities in Scotland. In July 2022, the council introduced Twin Stream recycling to separate paper and card stream from the plastic/cans/tins containers which improves

the quality of the materials. This also enabled the council to be aligned with the Scottish government's Charter for Household Recycling and its associated Code of Practice for Household Recycling in Scotland.

2.3 Figure on waste management for West Lothian compared to Scotland are set out below.

Local authority	Generated (tonnes)	Recycled (tonnes)	2022 Recycled (%)	2023 Recycled (%)	Other diversion from landfill (tonnes)	Other diversion from landfill (%)	Landfilled (tonnes)	Landfilled (%)
West Lothian	78,949	40,125	45.9	50.8	34,151	43.3	4,673	5.9
Scotland	2,304,850	1,001,647	43.3	43.5	893,840	38.8	408,720	17.7

2.4 The Council provides a weekly uplift to households, bulky uplifts and provision of community recycling centres. There are 5 Community Recycling Centres (CRCs) located throughout West Lothian where residents bring their own household waste for recycling. These are:

- Blackburn Community Recycling Centre
- Broxburn Community Recycling Centre
- Linlithgow Community Recycling Centre
- Oakbank (Livingston) Community Recycling Centre
- Whitburn Community Recycling Centre

2.5 In addition, West Lothian Council have around 120 glass recycling points and provide information and support to customers on how to reduce, reuse and recycle their waste.

2.6 In terms of landfill, table 1 shows the operating landfill sites in West Lothian. Source SEPA [Waste Capacity](#). There is remaining capacity at each site.

Site Name and or Address	Annual Capacity on Permit (tonnes)	Total landfill capacity (lifetime) on permit (Tonnes)	Estimated date for ceasing landfill	Remaining Capacity as at 31 December (tonnes)	Total Capacity on Permit (tonnes)	Waste Accepted	Annual Capacity landfill capacity on permit (tonnes)	Remaining Capacity
Torphin Quarry, Harburn, West Calder, EH55 8LP	75,000	1,500,000	01/12/2021	30,000	1,500,000	284	75,000	30,000
Levenseat, by Forth, Lanark, Lanarkshire, ML11 8EP	150,000	1,900,000	01/12/2045	750,000	1,900,000	22,120	150,000	750,000
Torphin Quarry, Harburn, West Calder, EH55 8LP	75,000	1,500,000	31/12/2021	20,728	1,500,000	9,272	75,000	20,728
Levenseat, by Forth, Lanark, Lanarkshire, ML11 8EP	400,000	1,900,000	31/12/2060	449,000	1,900,000	13,223	400,000	449,000
Torphin Quarry, Harburn, West Calder, EH55 8LP	75,000	1,500,000	01/12/2021	54,577	1,500,000	20,423	75,000	54,577
Levenseat, by Forth, Lanark, Lanarkshire, ML11 8EP	400,000	1,900,000	01/01/2053	492,292	1,900,000	19,732	400,000	492,292
Torphin Quarry, Harburn, West Calder, EH55 8LP	75,000	1,500,000	01/12/2021	41,787	1,500,000	12,790	75,000	41,787
Levenseat, by Forth, Lanark, Lanarkshire, ML11 8EP	400,000	1,900,000	01/01/2051	475,000	1,900,000	47,254	400,000	475,000
Torphin Quarry, Harburn, West Calder, EH55 8LP	75,000	1,500,000	01/12/2024	37,187	1,500,000	14,544	75,000	37,187
Levenseat, by Forth, Lanark, Lanarkshire, ML11 8EP	400,000	1,900,000	01/12/2040	620,000	1,900,000	65,862	400,000	620,000
Torphin Quarry, Harburn, West Calder, EH55 8LP	75,000	1,500,000	01/12/2028	93,600	1,500,000	18,576	75,000	93,600
Levenseat, by Forth, Lanark, Lanarkshire, ML11 8EP	400,000	1,900,000	31/12/2028	439,200	1,900,000	105,985	400,000	439,200
Torphin Quarry, Harburn, West Calder, EH55 8LP	75,000	1,500,000	01/03/2027	93,600	1,500,000	26,405	75,000	93,600

Levensat, by Forth, Lanark, Lanarkshire, ML11 8EP	400,000	1,900,000	01/12/2024	54,000	1,900,000	129,556	400,000	54,000
Torphin Quarry, Harburn, West Calder, EH55 8LP	75,000	1,500,000	01/03/2027	93,600	1,500,000	0	75,000	93,600
Levensat, by Forth, Lanark, Lanarkshire, ML11 8EP	400,000	1,900,000	01/12/2024	92,914	1,900,000	88,775	400,000	92,914

2.7 In terms of climate change, West Lothian Council has reduced its emissions from waste from 11% in 2005 to 6% in 2021, by significantly reducing the amount of waste going to landfill.

Calendar Year	Waste Management Total (KT-CO2-2)	Total West Lothian emissions (KT-CO2-2)	Percentage of total emissions
2005	205.0	1,835.5	11%
2021	67.0	1,150.1	6%

Summary of Stakeholder Engagement

This will summarise the steps taken by the planning authority to seek the views of all relevant stakeholders. This will also summarise the views expressed, and explain how they have been taken account of in the Evidence Report. (hyperlinks to records of engagement may be added where appropriate)

Statements of Agreement / Dispute

This will include statements from stakeholders highlighting their agreement or the areas they dispute

Summary of Implications for the Proposed Plan

This will cover what the evidence means for the plan, e.g. the spatial strategy, the Delivery Programme or plan preparation.

1. The proposed plan should identify appropriate locations for new waste management infrastructure to support the circular economy and meet identified needs in a way that moves waste as high up the waste hierarchy as possible.