

T: 0300 244 4000  
E: scottish.ministers@gov.scot

Edward Mountain MSP  
Convener, NZET Committee  
The Scottish Parliament  
Edinburgh  
EH99 1SP  
Email: netzero.committee@parliament.scot

24 March 2026

Dear Edward,

### **Publication of A Circular Economy Strategy for Scotland**

I am writing to inform you that I have published the Scottish Government's Circular Economy Strategy for Scotland and related impact assessments today. The strategy is available here: <https://www.gov.scot/ISBN/9781807751081>. This strategy has been developed under section 1 of the Circular Economy (Scotland) Act 2024, which places a statutory duty on the Scottish Ministers to prepare a Circular Economy Strategy. The Circular Economy Strategy must be prepared, published and laid in the Scottish Parliament by 1 August 2027 and thereafter revised and republished at least every five years.

In line with section 3 of the Circular Economy (Scotland) Act 2024, a copy of the Strategy has also been laid in Parliament together with a report setting out the consultation process undertaken in relation to the Strategy, a summary of any views expressed in response to the consultation, and detail of how those views have been taken into account by the Scottish Ministers in preparing the Strategy. This report has also been published and is available online here: <https://www.gov.scot/ISBN/9781807751142>.

The Strategy provides a high-level framework for Scotland's transition to a more circular economy and delivers against the Scottish Government's priorities. It sets out our strategic direction for the future, focusing on how circularity will be embedded across the economy by setting out priorities across sectors, systems and products. It also describes how we will measure progress towards our outcomes.

The priorities aim to support the Strategy's "Vision" set out below:

*"By 2045 Scotland will be a net zero and nature positive nation helped directly by the significant progress in transitioning towards a circular economy with sustainable levels of material use.*

*Scotland will have a thriving economy that meets societal needs and is based on circular economy principles, and we will have reduced the negative global impact of our production and consumption.*

Scottish Ministers, special advisers and the Permanent Secretary are covered by the terms of the Lobbying (Scotland) Act 2016. See [www.lobbying.scot](http://www.lobbying.scot)

*People, businesses and the public sector will have the skills and knowledge to benefit from opportunities arising from a circular economy and these will be fairly distributed across society.”*

The Strategy builds on Scotland’s Circular Economy and Waste Route Map to 2030 and has been published alongside our new Climate Change Plan (<https://www.gov.scot/isbn/9781807750718>) and Environment Strategy (<https://www.gov.scot/isbn/9781806438457>). Together these set out our approach to building a more sustainable Scotland.

I have also today laid an amended Duty of Care Code of Practice for managing controlled waste (<https://www.gov.scot/isbn/9781807751012>). The Code provides practical guidance on how to discharge the duties in section 34 of the Environmental Protection Act 1990, including those relating to recycling. It has been updated to account for changes since it was last published in 2012, and to introduce a requirement for plastic film to be separated and collected for recycling from businesses from 31 March 2027. This implements a four-nations commitment made under Extended Producer Responsibility for packaging. Household plastic film collections are not introduced through this update and are being taken forward separately with local authorities through the co-design process for the new Household Recycling Code of Practice.

Copies of this letter go to the Presiding Officer, the Minister for Parliamentary Business and Veterans, Tim Eagle MSP, Willie Rennie MSP, Lorna Slater MSP and Martin Whitfield MSP.

Yours sincerely,



**GILLIAN MARTIN**

Scottish Ministers, special advisers and the Permanent Secretary are covered by the terms of the Lobbying (Scotland) Act 2016. See [www.lobbying.scot](http://www.lobbying.scot)

St Andrew’s House, Regent Road, Edinburgh EH1 3DG  
[www.gov.scot](http://www.gov.scot)

**INVESTORS IN PEOPLE™**  
We invest in people Silver

