



Dyngor Bwrdeistref Siroi  
**Blaenau Gwent**  
County Borough Council

# Blaenau Gwent Resource and Waste Strategy 2026 - 2031



# Foreword

**I'm proud to introduce the Blaenau Gwent Resource and Waste Strategy 2026-2031 - a shared vision shaped through close collaboration between Elected Members, Council Officers, our waste technical experts, and partner organisations. Most importantly, it reflects the voices of our residents, whose feedback has been central to its development.**



**Councillor  
Tommy Smith**  
Cabinet Member for  
Neighbourhoods and  
Environment Services

A sustainable approach to managing waste is a key priority for the Council. We are committed to reducing the amount of waste we produce and maximising recycling and reuse. By building on our well-established services, we aim to become even more efficient and responsive to the needs of our communities.

This strategy is guided by a clear vision and five key objectives that outline how we plan to evolve our waste and recycling services to meet future challenges - particularly the urgent climate challenge. Managing our resources responsibly, both now and in the years ahead, is one of the most significant tasks we face.

While we've consistently met Welsh Government targets, we recognise that more ambitious action is needed as expectations continue to rise. This strategy will support informed decision-making and help us deliver services that meet the needs of our residents and align with national requirements.

Progress is only possible when we work together. We're deeply grateful to our communities for their ongoing commitment to recycling and reducing waste. Their efforts have been vital to our success so far. Looking ahead, we're excited to expand our reuse initiatives — from repair cafés to reuse shops - helping household items find new life and new homes.

By placing engagement at the heart of this strategy, we look forward to delivering on our shared ambitions and making a lasting difference for Blaenau Gwent.

**Cllr Tommy Smith**  
Cabinet Member for Neighbourhoods and Environment Services



Dyngor Bwrdeistref Sirol

**Blaenau Gwent**

County Borough Council

# Vision

*Our vision is to promote the local circular economy through waste prevention and reuse activity and provide an efficient and effective waste and recycling service to support the development of healthy and sustainable places and communities.*

## Our overall strategic objectives

- 1. Engagement first*
- 2. Increase waste reduction reuse and repair*
- 3. Reach and go beyond 70% recycling target*
- 4. Decarbonise our waste service*
- 5. Invest in waste infrastructure so that it is fit for the future.*

# Introduction

In Blaenau Gwent we have made considerable progress in recent years to increase the amount we recycle whilst reducing the amount of material we throw away.

Between 2017/18 and 2023/24 our recycling rate has risen from 56.0% to 66.2%.

This is a great achievement, and we would like to thank our residents, businesses and community for their engagement, contribution and commitment to this progress.

We want to continue to build on this success and manage our waste in line with the principles of the waste hierarchy enabling residents and business to reduce, repair and reuse items and materials, supporting a move towards a circular economy for Blaenau Gwent.

As we look ahead there are number of global, national and local challenges that we must respond to. Together, we must reduce our impact on the environment, climate and resources, by supporting a move towards a circular economy where materials are kept in use for as long as possible.

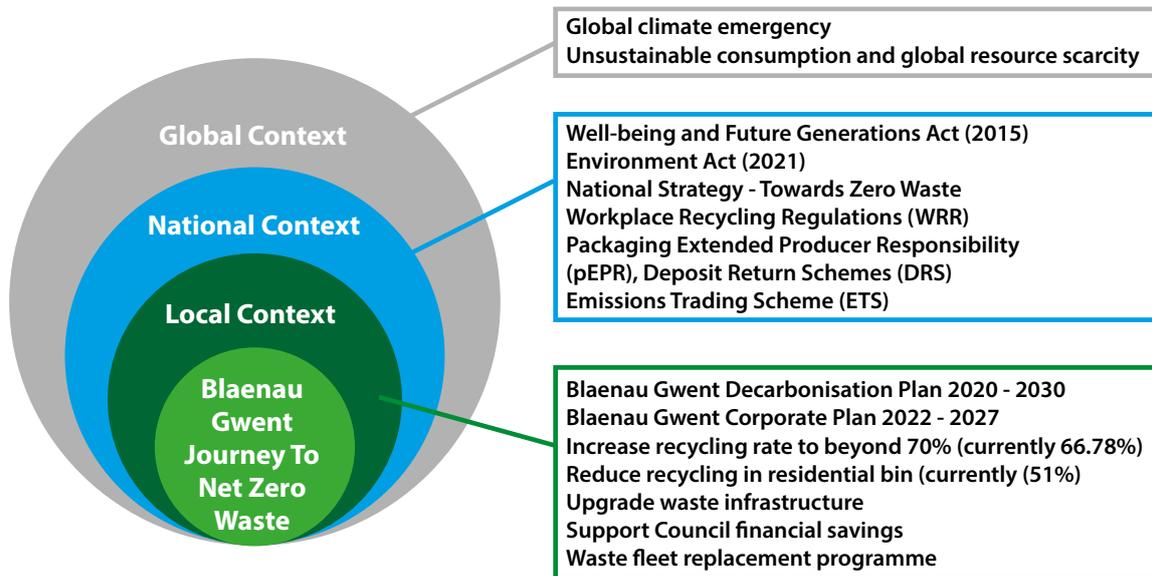


This strategy sets out the individual challenges we face and the strategic actions we will need to take to achieve our overall objectives of:

- **reducing our overall waste**
- **increasing reuse and repair**
- **increasing our recycling rate to 70% and beyond**
- **decarbonising our waste activities**
- **ensuring our waste infrastructure is fit for the future service.**

# The case and drivers for change

The strategic objectives of this resource and waste strategy are influenced by global, national, and local contexts which are summarised below.



## Global context

### Climate change

The world is facing a climate crisis with human activity contributing to the release of harmful greenhouse gas emissions. We must collectively take action to limit global temperatures by 1.5 degrees above pre-industrialised levels to help protect the planet's ecosystems.

During 2020 Blaenau Gwent County Borough Council, declared a climate emergency. This is our commitment to reduce carbon emissions to net zero by 2030, in line with Welsh Government ambitions for the Welsh public sector to be carbon neutral by 2030.

This strategy aims to support Blaenau Gwent County Borough Council's commitment to this wider global challenge by taking steps at a local level to support the reduction in greenhouse gas emissions from the services we provide and enable residents, business, and communities to do their bit in reducing their impact for both current and future generations.

### Global resources

With growing demand for the planet's natural resources, we must reduce unsustainable resource consumption by moving towards a circular economy where we prevent waste and ensure materials and items are kept in use for as long as possible, thereby preserving resources and limiting carbon emissions.

As part of the Welsh Governments Beyond Recycling strategy there is a goal that by 2050 Wales will be 'one planet living' and become zero waste nation, maximising resource efficiency and keeping resources in use for as long as possible.

# National context

## Beyond Recycling

Welsh Government aims to make a circular economy in Wales a reality and to become zero waste by 2050 "to support current and future generations to live in safety and prosperity whilst reducing the impact on and working with the natural systems on which we depend" (Beyond Recycling Strategy, Welsh Government).

They aim to achieve this through a range of measures including developing infrastructure for materials that are not widely recycled, supporting businesses to encourage higher recycling and to work with local authorities and key partners to develop recycling targets in line with pathway to zero waste by 2050.

Our aim in this strategy is to support residents, businesses, and the community by helping to manage waste in line with the aims of our national strategy for sustainable principles and moving towards a circular economy.

## Towards Zero Waste

Toward Zero Waste sets out a series of goals to increase recycling rates, reduce avoidable food waste, avoid landfilling of waste and includes statutory recycling targets for local authorities in Wales. By 2024-25 Welsh local authorities must achieve a 70% recycling rate or face financial penalties for every tonne under this target.

Our current (2023/24) recycling rate of 66.2% puts us at risk of a fine if it does not increase to 70% by 2024/25. This fine equates to around £235,000 every year based on 2023/34 tonnages.

**70%**  
RECYCLING  
RATE BY  
2024/25

## Workplace Recycling Regulations (WRR)

It is a legal requirement for all business, charities, and public sector organisations to sort their waste for recycling, improving the quality and quantity of materials collected from workplaces including food, paper, card, glass, metals, plastic, cartons, unsold textiles and unsold small electrical equipment. The regulations also impose a ban on food waste to sewers.

We already provide a compliant commercial waste service to businesses in Blaenau Gwent, but we need to ensure this service is sustainable, examine whether it has potential to grow and is ready for future additional materials to be added this service including textiles and small electrical items.

## Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR) for packaging

Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR) moves the full cost of dealing with household packaging waste on to the packaging producers. This will drive manufacturers towards designing and producing packaging with waste minimisation and recyclability in mind. Money paid by packaging producers through the EPR framework is then redistributed to councils. Blaenau Gwent County Borough Council will receive approximately £1.5m through EPR in 2025-26. This, and any future payments, will be used to support the delivery of this waste strategy.

The composition of the packaging we collect in the future may change as manufacturers adapt and create packaging that is more readily recyclable. Blaenau Gwent may see an increase in the types of packaging that can be recycled and in turn see a rise in material volumes through our kerbside recycling collections and household waste and recycling centres. We need to ensure that our collection fleet and waste infrastructure can cope with an increase in new materials and volumes in future years.

## Deposit Return Scheme (DRS)

Welsh Government will introduce a Deposit Return Scheme (DRS) targeting both single use and reusable drinks containers with a small deposit, which is refunded upon the return of the container.

DRS will help to reduce litter in Blaenau Gwent as the in-scope drinks containers will have a monetary value and therefore are less likely to be discarded. Including reusable drinks containers within Wales's DRS will support our society to move away from a "take, make, waste" linear economy, to a circular economy in which we keep drinks containers in use for as long as possible before we then recycle them into new drinks containers at the end of their life.

DRS may divert drinks containers away from kerbside recycling streams to return points located at retailers. We need to understand the impacts which may include reduced income for recycling due to lower tonnages collected for recycling, avoided disposal costs for any containers that are currently not recycled, the impact on the council's recycling rate and our ability to achieve the statutory recycling target set by the Welsh Government.

## Emissions Trading Scheme (ETS)

The UK ETS will be expanded to include the burning of fossil-based materials by waste incinerators in 2028 and will set a national cap on the total emissions that will reduce over time. The intentions of the trading scheme are to reduce emissions and carbon footprint, encourage movement away from fossil-based fuels and promote cleaner and renewable technologies.

If current recycling levels are maintained with no waste minimisation the modelled cost for Blaenau Gwent would be £431,000 per annum increasing up to £625,000 per annum by 2035. However, there is an opportunity to reduce this to £192,000 by 2035 if we meet recycling and waste minimisation targets. Reducing the amounts of fossil-based materials in residual waste sent for disposal, such as plastics through prevention and recycling will also help to limit the impact of ETS on Blaenau Gwent.

## Well-Being and Future Generations Act (2015)

The aim of the Wellbeing and Future generations Act (2015) is to ensure that future generations in Wales have at least the same quality of life as we do now.

This strategy supports the acts through its aim to bring waste management more in line with the highest principles of the waste hierarchy (prevention, reuse and recycling) and moving materials towards a circular approach rather than linear. Keeping materials in use for longer will help preserve natural resources, reduce or eliminate the harmful release of greenhouse gases and protect the environment and nature for future generations.



**LLESANT  
CENEDLAETHAU'R DYFODOL  
WELL-BEING OF  
FUTURE GENERATIONS**

# Blaenau Gwent County Borough Council

## Corporate Plan

Our Corporate Plan sets out the council's ambitious programme of activity for five years between 2022 and 2027. The plan sets out support for communities to thrive and encompasses a commitment to the communities of Blaenau Gwent to provide modern and high-quality services which support economic growth and wellbeing. One of the key priorities within the Corporate Plan that links to this strategy, and the objective of decarbonising waste services is to respond to the nature and climate crisis by reducing carbon emissions.

The priorities from the council's Corporate Plan are outlined below.

Priority	Outcome
Maximise learning and skills for all to create a prosperous, thriving, resilient Blaenau Gwent	An increase in resilience of the community providing high quality educational skills opportunities to create a thriving economy from both onwards, minimising dependence and maximising independence
Respond to the nature and climate crisis and enable connected communities	Blaenau Gwent Council greatly reduces its carbon emissions, provides an environment which supports growth and well-being and connects communities
An ambitious and innovative Council delivering quality services at the right time and in the right place	Blaenau Gwent Council works in partnership to provide high quality services to meet local need and improve the quality of life and well-being within the community
Empowering and supporting communities to be safe, independent and resilient	An increase in the resilience of Communities, where everyone is welcome and safe and which minimises dependency and maximises independence

## Local context

### Marmot Review and Principles

Blaenau Gwent County Borough Council corporate priorities have also been developed in alignment with the Marmot Principles.

The Marmot Principles are set out in the Marmot Review, published in 2010, which proposed the most effective strategies to reduce health inequalities.

The report concluded that reducing health inequalities would require action on six policy objectives:

- 1. giving every child the best start in life**
- 2. enabling all people to maximise their capabilities and have control over their lives**
- 3. ensuring a healthy standard of living for all**
- 4. creating fair employment and good work for all**
- 5. creating and developing healthy and sustainable places and communities**
- 6. strengthen the role and impact of ill-health prevention.**

Blaenau Gwent County Borough Council is working towards becoming a region that aims to tackle and reduce inequalities based on the Marmot Principles. We want to work to ensure that our policies, approaches and resources are all designed and used to create a fairer, more equal society for our residents.

By taking action to reduce carbon emissions, consumption and reduce waste and protect and enhance the natural environment, we are using our resources to improve social conditions in the community.

## Decarbonisation Plan 2020 – 2030

Blaenau Gwent County Borough Council has set out a 10-year strategy in support of Welsh Government's ambition for the Welsh public sector to be carbon neutral by 2030.

Our waste and recycling service plays a key part in reducing carbon emissions to net zero.

As part of our waste strategy, we will seek ways in which residents and businesses can reduce their carbon footprint through waste reduction, reuse, repair and increased recycling and support a move towards a circular economy that will help limit the release of greenhouse gas emissions associated with resource consumption.

We are also committed to reducing the environmental impact of our operations by transitioning our collection fleet to ultra-low emission vehicles (ULEV) and seeking ways in which our waste infrastructure can be more energy efficient.

## Council finances

As a council, like many homes and businesses we are experiencing the effects of soaring inflation, increased energy prices and higher fuel costs. At the same time, the cost-of-living crisis means we are seeing increased demand for support and services, ranging from additional learning needs provision in our schools, to homelessness, to social services and some of the frontline services that our communities depend on every day.

We currently face a budget deficit of £13.7m over the next five years and therefore need to look at how we can deliver services for less whilst also seeking out opportunities to increase income.

As part of this strategy, we will explore our options for delivering effective waste services whilst also supporting the council's savings plans.

## Fleet and infrastructure

The council's waste collection fleet currently consists of 21 diesel vehicles which need to be replaced. Ideally, we need a fully electric fleet of collection vehicles to support our plans to be carbon neutral by 2030. However, our current vehicle depot which has limited space, and an aging structure is not suitable for future operations that use ULEVs. Therefore, the first phase of the fleet replacement, needs to be EU Cat6 diesel vehicles, which are more energy efficient and have lower emissions than the current fleet, until we have suitable infrastructure for ULEVs in place. In 2024/25 we started to procure our next fleet of vehicles. The future recycling fleet will also need to be capable of collecting increased recycling volumes and new materials as part of future packaging reforms outlined above.

Similarly, our waste transfer stations require investment to modernise them, so they comply with permitting requirements and have enough capacity for the collections of new materials and increased volumes.



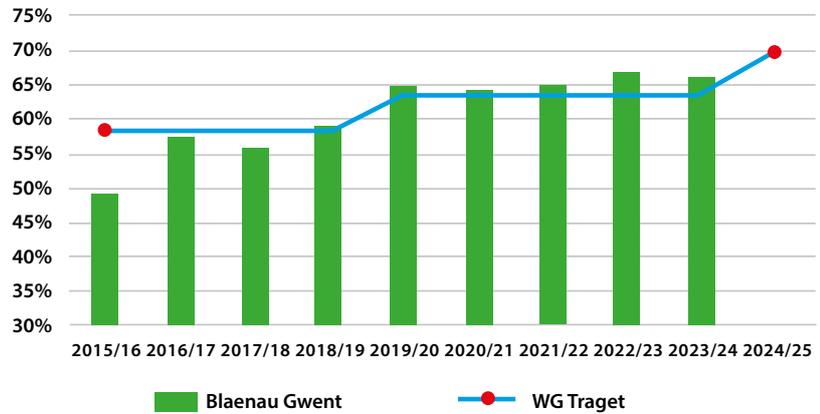
# Drivers for change

## Recycling performance

Our recycling rate for 2023/24 is 66.2% and has remained steady since 2019/20.

Whilst the current rate meets the previous Welsh Government recycling target of 64% by 2019/20, it will not meet the increased target of 70% for 2024/25. Failure to meet the 70% target can result in infringement fines of £200 for every tonne of material below this rate. Based on our 2023/24 recycling levels, the fine would around be around £235,000. It is therefore imperative that we take action to meet the 70% recycling target and avoid the infringement fines.

Blaenau Gwent Recycling Performance



## Waste composition

In 2022 an analysis of non-recyclable waste in Blaenau Gwent was carried out to understand what materials were being thrown away.

The results show that despite a comprehensive weekly recycling service, 51% of materials that are placed into the non-recycling bin could have been recycled using the councils existing services, with 23% of this material being food waste alone.

This equates to around 4,811 tonnes of recycling being unnecessarily disposed of, costing Blaenau Gwent County Borough Council around £554,000 per year in disposal fees and preventing these materials from being recycled.

Furthermore, some of these recyclable materials including paper, card, plastic, clothing, glass, steel, and aluminium have a value and can be sold to generate an income. The value of the recycling materials being disposed of in the non-recyclable bin is approximately £246,000 per year. By preventing unnecessary disposal of recyclable materials in the non-recyclable bin we can:

## Waste Analysis

At least **40%** of the average **black bin** can be recycled at home.



- reach the 70% recycling rate and avoid being fined
- a void unnecessary disposal costs and contribute to reducing the budget deficit
- increase income to help offset the cost of waste disposal
- benefit the environment by keeping resources and materials in use for longer.

# Our progress so far

## YOUR RECYCLING AND WHAT HAPPENED TO IT... in 2023/24

 Blaenau Gwent ailgylchu  
Blaenau Gwent recycles



**66%** of waste  
was recycled.



**21,000 tonnes** of waste  
were recycled.



**£2m** saved by recycling  
instead of disposal.



**8,000 tonnes** of CO2  
emissions were avoided.

### Where did your recycling go?

**60% stayed  
in Wales**

**37% went  
elsewhere  
in the UK**

**3% went  
overseas**

### You recycled...

							
<b>Food waste</b>	<b>Glass</b>	<b>Metal</b>	<b>Plastic</b>	<b>Cardboard and paper</b>	<b>Textiles</b>	<b>Garden waste</b>	<b>Other recyclables</b>
<b>3,536 tonnes</b>	<b>1,624 tonnes</b>	<b>1,270 tonnes</b>	<b>1,027 tonnes</b>	<b>2,535 tonnes</b>	<b>101 tonnes</b>	<b>2,069 tonnes</b>	<b>Everything else</b>



**Your recycling is making a BIG difference.**

Thank you for continuing to do the right thing by sorting your waste and recycling, doing your bit for the environment.



# Key objective 1: Engagement first

As we work collectively towards reducing our waste, increasing our recycling, and a circular economy, we want to proactively engage with residents, businesses and the wider community with clear and consistent messages, advice and guidance on how we can all reduce our waste and increase recycling. This will be key to encouraging long term change where reducing, reusing, repairing and recycling is the norm, moving us towards a more sustainable, circular economy.

Engaging with residents and business in ways that meet their needs and encourages greater opportunities for people to share their own knowledge, experience and advice will support our shared approach to active engagement with our services to achieve our overall objectives.

## What we currently do to communicate and engage

Promote services, provide advice and guidance to residents and business through daily service delivery contacts, council website, social media, and community hubs.

Deliver engagement campaigns including recycling batteries, food waste and increasing recycling through the 'Keeping up with the Joneses' initiative.

Work with community hubs to support delivery of messages.



# Key objective 1 actions

## AIM: Engagement First

Action	Purpose	How we will deliver this
Set out an annual communications and engagement plan.	Outline key activities, promotions, and campaigns on reduction, reuse, repair and recycling. Increase engagement and participation with residents and businesses.	We will develop a communications and engagement plan for the year outlining key activities, promotional themes and how they will be delivered to residents and businesses.
Conduct customer satisfaction surveys on the waste and recycling services.	Gather feedback on service satisfaction and areas for improvement to support future service delivery in line with customer needs.	Conduct a customer satisfaction survey at key points in our strategy timeline and promote the feedback and response.
Carry out targeted communication and engagement campaigns to low participation areas.	To improve participation and capture of recyclable materials in low participating areas.	Use data to identify low participation areas and provide targeted support through communication materials and door knocking/site visits
Deliver a continuous communication and engagement campaign on reducing, reusing, repair and recycling waste with a specific focus on food waste.	To reduce overall waste including food waste. Support behavioural shift towards higher principles of the waste hierarchy. Reduce waste and disposal costs of non-recyclable waste.	Outline campaign in a communications and engagement plan. Continue to promote Love Food Hate Waste across Blaenau Gwent.
Increase public face to face engagement across Blaenau Gwent focusing on waste reduction, reuse, repair, and recycling.	To increase our engagement with residents and businesses in a more accessible way. Allow people to discuss issues with their service and provide support.	We will conduct more door knocking and roadshows in high footfall areas. We will set up a network of recycling ambassadors to promote waste reduction, reuse, repair, and recycling.
Continue to promote national campaigns such as 'Love Food Hate Waste' and local campaign 'Keeping up with the Joneses' and publish the number of Fixed Penalty Notices issued.	To increase the reach of messages that support waste reduction, reuse, repair, and recycling. Maximise residents participating with the recycling services.	Continue to promote the 'Keeping up with the Joneses' campaign and 'Love Food Hate Waste' Promote the number of Fixed Penalty Notices that are issued due to non-compliance with the 'Keeping up with the Joneses' campaign.
Introduce a network of community recycling ambassadors in local businesses, local schools and council buildings.	Provide additional resource to support an increase in engagement and reach of promotional messages with residents and business.	Set up and train recycling ambassadors within Blaenau Gwent.
Promote where materials are sent for recycling and how they are recycled.	To promote transparency of recycling.	Provide up to date information on our website and through communication campaigns. We will highlight where our materials are recycled and explain the recycling process.
Increase school sessions at Roseheyworth educational centre.	To inform and promote waste reduction, reuse, repair, recycling and the circular economy.	Review our current delivery of sessions and increase number provided per year.

## Key objective 2: Reduce, reuse and repair

Reducing our overall waste by reusing or repairing items is the most effective way to reduce demand for raw materials, preserve natural resources, save energy and limit the release of harmful greenhouse gases linked to climate change.

As a society we need to shift our behaviours and attitudes towards a sustainable approach that values resources and reduces consumption and disposal. We want to enable residents and businesses to make informed choices on how to reduce their overall waste and keep items in use for as long as possible by reusing and repairing them, rather than simply disposing of them.

This strategy builds on the successful reuse and repair actions we have already delivered to make them accessible to more people in Blaenau Gwent and make it even easier to donate or purchase a reusable item and, where possible, get them repaired.

As well as environment benefits, increasing reuse and repair opportunities has social and economic benefits for residents, businesses and communities in Blaenau Gwent.

## What we currently do to support waste reduction, reuse and repair

### Waste reduction

Provide a nappy library and emergency nappy library to allow residents to try before they buy and promote reusable over disposable nappies.

Promote the national Love Food Hate Waste campaign to encourage people to reduce food waste.

### Reuse

Opened The Den Reuse shop at Roseheyworth household recycling centre.

### Repair

Operate two repair cafés in the Ebbw Vale area.



## Key objective 2 actions

### AIM: Increase waste reduction reuse and repair

Action	Purpose	How we will deliver this
<b>Waste reduction – preventing waste in the first place</b>		
Prevent food waste being put in the residual waste bin, which currently accounts for 23%.	To reduce waste in the residual bin. To prevent avoidable food waste in the first place.	Promote how residents can reduce avoidable food waste through targeted campaigns, roadshows and door knocking
Reduce overall food waste from homes and businesses		Continued promotion of Love Food Hate Waste, and support to limit food waste through advice on practical steps.
Promote how residents and business can reduce their waste.	To reduce overall waste for households and businesses. To reduce disposal of waste and associated costs.	Specific communication and engagement campaigns throughout Blaenau Gwent including targeted approaches where necessary.
Reduce the use of single use items and promote reusable alternatives.	Reduce non-recyclable waste and disposal of single use items. To normalise the use of reusable and refillable products over single-use products	Promote reusable alternatives to plastic bags, wet wipes, drink bottles, coffee cups, straws, sanitary/period products.
Increase opportunities and access to refillable items.		Encourage communities and suitable businesses to provide water refill points and promote them. Promote locations of refill stores and refill water points throughout Blaenau Gwent
Set up a library of things.	Make it easier for residents to borrow items, rather than buying new.	Set up a library of things with the support of local community groups and third sector partners.
Continue to promote reusable nappies.	To reduce the disposal of nappy waste.	Continue to promote through communications, targeted promotion at high street events and engaging with nurseries and community groups.
Adopt a digital first approach to our services.	To reduce waste paper in the delivery of the waste service.	Utilise in cab devices across the waste and recycling fleet. Investigate options to introduce a digital Trade Waste service.

## Key objective 2 actions

### AIM: Increase waste reduction reuse and repair

Action	Purpose	How we will deliver this
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#### Reuse – keeping items in use for longer

Open New Vale Reuse Shop at the recycling centre.	<p>Improve access to reuse in Blaenau Gwent.</p> <p>Support and promote the value of re-use.</p>	Open and promote New Vale Reuse Shop in collaboration with Waste Savers.
Introduce paint reuse.	<p>To avoid the disposal of paint.</p> <p>To provide a cost-effective alternative to buying new</p>	Work with partners who already provide this service to ensure Blaenau Gwent has a robust paint reuse facility.

#### Repair – keeping items in use for longer

Set up network of repair cafes.	<p>To make it easier to repair items.</p> <p>Increase repair in Blaenau Gwent.</p> <p>Encourage further reduction of waste within the community.</p>	Facilitate the setup of repair cafes and support with funding, materials, and volunteers by developing links with community groups and town centre regeneration.
Promote bike repair and reuse.	<p>To reduce bikes from being disposed of as waste.</p> <p>Support greener, active forms of travel.</p>	<p>Collaborate with Gwent police, local community groups and third sector partners to promote bike repair and reuse.</p> <p>Create popup events through Blaenau Gwent offering free repair services.</p>
Increase segregation of bulky items for reuse and repair.	<p>Increase reuse opportunities for residents and businesses locally</p> <p>Promote a circular economy and sustainability in Blaenau Gwent</p>	Collaborate with third sector to separate bulky items for reuse and repair.
Increase awareness of reuse centres, repair cafes and annual bike repair events.	Reduce items from being disposed of as waste.	<p>Widely promote how residents can donate items for reuse and where they can get items repaired.</p> <p>Promotion through a network of recycling ambassadors to share their experiences and best practice.</p>
Provide a delivery option for large reusable goods.		Utilise support from local community groups and third sector partners to deliver the service.
Introduce a network of community recycling ambassadors in local businesses, local schools, and council buildings.	<p>To promote best practices in reducing, reuse and repair.</p> <p>Increase engagement with residents, business, and the community.</p>	Set up and train recycling ambassadors within Blaenau Gwent.

## Key objective 3: Recycling

Currently 51% of the materials in the non-recyclable bin could be recycled through existing council services. in disposal costs, additional income and by avoiding fines for not meeting our recycling targets.

Diverting recyclable materials from the non-recyclable bin and seeking to collect new recyclable materials will support our objectives to reach and go beyond the 70% recycling rate and reduce the cost of waste for Blaenau Gwent County Borough Council through reduced disposal costs, increased income and avoiding fines for missing the recycling target.

## What we currently do to support recycling

Comprehensive weekly recycling service in line with Welsh collections Blueprint for food, glass bottles/jars, cans, cardboard, plastic, paper, textiles, small electricals, and batteries

Summer garden waste collection service from households

Three weekly residual collections to encourage greater recycling.

Deliver the 'Keeping up with the Joneses' campaign to assist residents to recycle as much as possible.

Proactive monitoring and support for residents that may struggle to recycle their waste.

**Green Waste Collections**  
Blaenau Gwent

Collections will be made on a fortnightly basis, in line with last year's collection schedules.

Details of your collection dates can be found here: <https://www.blaenau-gwent.gov.uk/en/resident/waste-recycling/seasonal-collections/garden-waste/>

Please present your green waste out for collection before 7am on collection day.

There is a £2.10 charge for any new or replacement green waste sacks and these will be available to order from Monday 24th March. If you require green waste sacks please visit My Services or call 01495 311556.

**FORTNIGHTLY COLLECTIONS START MONDAY 31 March 2025**

Green Waste must be presented for collection in council provided Green Sacks. Any other coloured sacks/bags will not be collected.

PLEASE NOTE WE WILL ONLY COLLECT

Grass	Woods	Flowers	Leaves	Hedge Cuttings
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WE WILL NOT ACCEPT

Soil	Tree Trunks	Animal Bedding	Rhododendrons, Yew, Ragwort and Hemlock	Japanese Knotweed & Himalayan Balsam	Animal Faeces	Food Waste
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## Key objective 3 actions

### AIM: Reach and go beyond 70% recycling target

Action	Purpose	How we will deliver this
Reduce the amount of food waste disposed of in residual waste bins and divert it to recycling containers.	<p>Increase recycling rate to 70% and above to reach statutory recycling targets and avoid financial penalties.</p> <p>Strengthen our position against potential impacts of a DRS scheme which may reduce recycling rate as in-scope materials are returned for their deposits rather than being recycled at the kerbside.</p> <p>Increase capture of recyclables in the non-recyclable bin (currently accounting for <b>51%</b> of recyclables including <b>23%</b> food waste).</p> <p>Reduce unnecessary disposal of food waste and recycling in the non-recyclable bin.</p>	<p>Regularly promote and engage with residents on recycling food waste.</p> <p>Work with residents to overcome barriers to recycling through proactive engagement and campaigns such as roadshows and door knocking.</p> <p>Support residents that may struggle to manage their waste.</p> <p>Introduce kerbside flexible plastic collections in Blaenau Gwent.</p> <p>Conduct a limited trial to boost recycling and gather feedback. Use the trial results to decide if these measures can be implemented district-wide to improve recycling rates and reduce the unnecessary disposal of recyclable waste. We will continue to support households needing extra capacity.</p>
Increase the capture of recycling materials from households.	<p>To reduce the amount of fossil-based materials being discarded in the non-recyclable bins to avoid future fines with ETS.</p> <p>Increase income of recyclable materials and lower disposal costs to support council savings.</p>	<p>Promote best practices through recycling ambassadors.</p> <p>Continue to promote 'Keeping up with the Joneses' and Love Food Hate Waste campaigns.</p>
Recycle new materials such as flexible plastics from households.	<p>To increase the variety of materials that we recycle and make recycling easier for residents.</p>	<p>Increase promotion of prosecutions that the council have secured in relation to waste offences and non-compliance with the 'Keeping up with the Joneses' campaign.</p>
Prevent recyclables from being placed into the non-recyclable bin.	<p>may reduce recycling rate as in-scope materials are returned for their deposits rather than being recycled at the kerbside.</p> <p>Increase capture of recyclables in the non-recyclable bin (currently accounting for 51% of recyclables including 23% food waste).</p> <p>Reduce unnecessary disposal of food waste and recycling in the non-recyclable bin. To reduce the amount of fossil-based materials being discarded in the non-recyclable bins to avoid future fines with ETS.</p> <p>Increase income of recyclable materials and lower disposal costs to support council savings. To increase the variety of materials that we recycle and make recycling easier for residents.</p>	<p>Use data to identify low participation areas and providing targeted support through messages and site visits.</p> <p>Continue to promote the 'Keeping up with the Joneses' campaign.</p>

## Key objective 3 actions continued

### AIM: Reach and go beyond 70% recycling target

Action	Purpose	How we will deliver this
Increase recycling rates in low participating areas.	To support residents in low participating areas to recycle more. Remove barriers to recycling. Ensure all residents participate with the services provided.	Use data to identify low participation areas and providing targeted support through messages and site visits. Continue to promote the 'Keeping up with the Joneses' campaign.
Reject unsorted bags of waste at the household waste and recycling centres (HWRCs).	To promote recycling over waste. To increase recycling rates. To avoid unnecessary disposal of recyclable materials.	Residents encouraged to only bring pre-sorted waste to HWRCs.
Investigate viability to operate Roseheyworth HWRC as a recycling only facility.	To promote and increase recycling over waste.	Residents encouraged to only bring recycling to the site.
Increase commercial waste and recycling collections.	Increase the amount of business that we collect recycling from. Increase the amount of recycling collected from existing customers. Increase income from commercial customers to support council financial savings.	Initial business plan to examine the opportunities to expand the service with costs, to sit alongside a market testing document.
Analyse customer feedback on recycling services to identify and resolve issues with the service.	Proactively resolve service issues, prevent issues from escalating and enhance customer service experience.	Analyse customer feedback through day-to-day customer and feedback responses from annual customer satisfaction surveys.
Continue to seek new markets for difficult to recycle items such as carpets at our Household Waste Recycling Centres.	To reduce disposal of materials. Increase recycling rates at sites.	We will conduct ongoing reviews of market availability of materials.
Promote and support residents to compost their garden waste at home.	Reduce recyclable garden waste in residual bins. Raise awareness of benefits of composting. Alternative to garden waste collections or HRC for residents who only have small quantities of garden waste.	Include information about how to compost at home. Work in partnership with local organisations to deliver composting workshops. Encourage residents to compost at home if possible

## Key objective 4: Decarbonisation

We have committed to be a net carbon zero council in line with Welsh Government's ambition for the Welsh public sector to be carbon neutral by 2030.

The council has set out plans to achieve net zero targets as part of its decarbonisation plan and the waste service plays a pivotal role in supporting the reduction in emissions associated with its operations.

Not only do we need to reduce our own emissions but also support residents in enabling them to reduce their emissions through the provision of effective waste and recycling services. This will allow residents and business to reduce their waste, increase reuse and repair as part of material circularity and avoid unnecessary disposal of materials that can be recycled.

## What we currently do to support decarbonisation

Significant progress has been made in waste services and is the result of actions at the lower levels of the waste hierarchy which correspond to 'traditional' local authority municipal waste activities around the point of disposal.

Continued activity to increase the range of materials that can be recycled and, behaviour change to ensure that residents recycle all the materials they can, and contamination of waste is minimised.

However, the volume of waste entering the system has remained essentially unchanged. Achieving zero waste will require actions at the top levels of the waste hierarchy. Current activity in the community is now focussed on maximising reuse and repair, linking with the community and town centre development and engaging with local businesses about reducing waste.

## Key objective 4 actions

### AIM: Decarbonise our waste service

Action	Purpose	How we will deliver this
Transition to ultra-low emission collections vehicles (ULEVs) for waste.	To decarbonise waste operations and support the council in meeting net zero by 2030.	A phased approach to replace our current waste and recycling fleet with ultra-low emission vehicles (ULEVs) when the market and infrastructure allow.
Develop waste infrastructure that supports net zero targets.		Adapt and invest in our current waste infrastructure to support greener buildings and our operations. Increase promotion of waste reduction, reuse, repair, and recycling to support changes in behavioural change. Provide and facilitate more opportunities for reuse and repair within the area.
Support residents in reducing their carbon footprint	To support and enable more residents to reduce their own carbon footprint.	Increase promotion of waste reduction, reuse, repair, and recycling to support changes in behavioural change. Provide and facilitate more opportunities for reuse and repair within the area.

## Key objective 5: Infrastructure

Our current waste infrastructure has in recent years enabled us to deliver significant changes to our waste services, allowing us to collect a wide range of recyclable materials in line with the Welsh collections Blueprint.

As part of this strategy, we want to increase the type and amount of materials we recycle from households whilst also meeting our net zero targets.

Our current waste infrastructure needs modernisation to meet future capacity and permitting requirements.

To support the strategic objectives of this strategy we will seek to invest in our infrastructure to make sure it can deliver an effective compliant service for future years.

## Current infrastructure

We are responsible for the operation of two recycling centres, a waste collection vehicle depot and waste transfer station. Outlined below is a summary of each of these facilities.

### Household Waste Recycling Centres

Roseheyworth Recycling Centre, Abertillery – Household Waste Recycling Centre, reuse shop and education centre.

New Vale Recycling Centre, Ebbw Vale – Household Waste Recycling Centre. Site in need of modernisation and current on-site building to be operated as a new reuse shop.

### Waste collection vehicle depot

Barley field industrial estate, Brynmawr - Vehicle depot where the council's waste and recycling collection vehicles are parked when not in use. The site also has a vehicle maintenance workshop and collection staff welfare facilities. The site has limited space to expand and redevelop and is not equipped to charge electric waste and recycling collection vehicles. We need to review our options for the continued use of this site or seek to relocate it to an alternative location within the borough to enable us to meet our future objectives.

### Waste transfer station

Silent Valley waste transfer facility – site refuse and recycling from the kerbside collections are off loaded. The recyclable materials are processed through sorting lines at this before they can be sent on to the recycling re-processors.

The site needs to be upgraded to comply with modern fire prevention mitigation plans and requires additional capacity for new materials and increased recycling volumes.

## Key objective 5 actions

### Aim: Invest in waste infrastructure so that it is fit for the future

Action	Purpose	How we will deliver this
Ensure our infrastructure supports our net zero objectives.	To decarbonise waste operations and support the council in meeting net zero by 2030.	We will invest in the redevelopment of our waste transfer station at Silent Valley to increase the longer-term capacity of the site. This will allow us to collect increased recycling volumes and new materials such as flexible plastics and include energy saving measures for buildings.
Ensure our waste sites have suitable capacity for increased recycling volumes and new recyclable materials.	To provide sufficient capacity for future growth in material volumes and types. Support our strategic ambitions to expand the recycling services.	
We will review our options for the continued use of our vehicle depot at Barley Field industrial estate, Brynmawr and seek out alternative options that will meet our needs to deliver the future service.	To ensure the depot has sufficient capacity for the future fleet and staff Enable us to decarbonise our collection fleet.	Carry out a review of Brynmawr against our strategic objectives and limitations of the site to determine our long-term options including relocation if necessary. Invest in the redevelopment or relocation of the vehicle depot.
Ensure waste sites in Blaenau Gwent meet modern permitting requirements.	To ensure compliance with permitting requirements.	We will refurbish our waste transfer station at Silent Valley and New Vale Recycling Centre to meet modern fire prevention plans.
Improve operational efficiencies of the collection and transfer of waste.	To ensure our operations are carried out efficiently.	Introduce new bailing machinery at Silent Valley waste transfer station to improve throughput and efficiency.
Explore opportunities with neighbouring local authorities to support waste and recycling transfer of waste.	To provide contingency to our operations.	Collaborate with neighbouring local authorities to explore contingency opportunities.

# Monitoring and evaluation

Strategic aim	Measurement	Unit	Review Cycle
Key objective 1: Engagement first			
Key objective 2: Increase waste reduction, reuse and repair	Reduction in overall waste. Residual waste reduction. Municipal waste collected for reuse or repair. Increase in reuse tonnages.	Tonnes	
Key objective 3: Reach and go beyond 70% recycling target	Increase in recycling tonnages.	%	Quarterly
Key objective 4: Decarbonise our waste service	Track emissions from fleet vehicles.	%	Annually
Key objective 5: Invest in infrastructure so that it is fit for the future	Permit compliance. Increased capacity for new materials and volumes. Development of infrastructure to support transition to ULEV fleet.		