

Towards a Circular Economy: Scotland's Bioresource Flows

Annex B: Stakeholder Letter and Questionnaire

21 September 2022

Dear colleague

Scientific Evidence for Scotland's aspirations towards a Circular Economy

The Scottish Science Advisory Council (SSAC) – Scotland's national independent scientific advisory body has convened a Short-Life Working Group (SLWG) to engage with key stakeholders across Scotland to gather insights into technical and governance issues around economic circularity in Scotland's bioresources sector. The Group is working with the Circular Economy Unit in the Scottish Government's (SG) Directorate Environment and Forestry Directorate, Zero Waste Scotland and Industrial Biotechnology Innovation Centre.

The methodology we are adopting is to seek responses from a broad range of stakeholders to the attached questionnaire and then to invite those who respond to a virtual Roundtable to be held on 20 October 2022. The Roundtable will last from 14:00 – 16:00 and will provide background to SG thinking, current state of recovery of biowaste and potential issues around future monitoring of waste, coupling of demand with supply and metrics to evidence progress. Further details on the roundtable will be issued to those completing the questionnaire in due course.

As someone with expertise and interest in the circular economy, we would greatly value your input into this important Scotland-wide initiative by answering the open-ended questions in the attached questionnaire. In completing the questionnaire, please do feel free to engage with colleagues in your institution/department who may have relevant insights to share. You may not feel in a position to answer all questions, which is fine – if so, please just respond to whichever questions you feel comfortable answering. Please note that questionnaire responses may be shared with the relevant policy team within the Scottish Government. However, if you would rather submit your answers anonymously then please let us know in your reply and your response will be treated confidentially.

Please send your questionnaire responses, and confirmation that you would like to attend the Roundtable, to Alasdair.maclean@gov.scot by no later than Tuesday 4 October. Views gleaned from the Roundtable will be fed into the consultation response process on the Circular Economy, and a formal report will be published on our website in January 2023 and shared with all those responding to the questionnaire.

Thank you for engaging with us.

Yours sincerely,

Professor Mark Inall
SSAC Project Lead

Professor Maggie Gill
SSAC Chair

SSAC Circular Economy

Scotland's Materials and Resource Flows towards a Circular Economy

Questionnaire

We have provisionally identified quality and uncertainties of current data on waste, recovery, and circularity as one of the key challenges which may jeopardise aspirations to dramatically increase the commercial recovery of biowaste in Scotland.

We suggest priority actions to resolve this are:

- I. Implementation and methodology of digital waste tracking.
- II. Connectivity across the produce-use-reuse/recycle circular supply chain.
- III. Infrastructure / planning models for a circular supply loop.

We would like to hear your views on this assessment by answers to the following question:

Questions

1. Do you agree with this analysis and the suggested priority areas for action? Please explain in as much detail as you wish. Are there other areas for action which you feel should be added to this list? If so, please explain.
2. Are hard targets on circularity evidentially measurable? If not, what are the main obstacles?
3. How should Scotland implement digital waste tracking? Please suggest methods and responsible agents (local government to UK-reserved), and comment on assessment of targets.
4. How do we connect "producers" and "recyclers" of biowaste materials?
5. Are civil planning methods fit for a circular purpose? If not, what should be done to improve them?