



From mountain to sea

The Waste Strategy 2019-2023

Consultation Results – Householders

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1. Executive summary

A consultation was undertaken in September 2018 on a draft Waste Strategy 2019-2023 for Aberdeenshire. An opportunity to provide comments on the proposals were offered to residents, trade waste customers, Council's internal services and neighbouring local authorities.

Overall 2,520 consultation responses were received. 2,433 of the responses were from households or from other non-trade customers, such as community councils. 15 of the household responses were received as paper copies, two were submitted by email, and the rest were submitted online.

A set of 'Do you agree..?' questions were used to keep the consultation as objective as possible and to be able to determine how much support or opposition there was for the various proposals. Where respondents selected either the 'Disagree' or 'Strongly disagree' option for any of the questions, they were then asked to explain why they disagreed and were able to explain their views in full.

The main findings from householder responses were:

- For all the consultation questions, most respondents agreed with the proposals. Apart from the proposed criteria for seasonal garden waste collection points, recycling centre proposals and the proposed strategy targets and indicators, over half of the respondents indicated their support for the proposals.
- It is worth noting that in most questions a significant proportion (overall around a fifth of respondents) chose the 'Neither agree or disagree', potentially indicating that the proposals were complex or that respondents were not interested enough to form an opinion.
- **Strategy objectives:** 66% of respondents agreed with the seven strategy objectives proposed (14% disagreed and 19% neither agreed or disagreed). Most of those who disagreed raised concerns about the consultation being about Council trying to save money rather than increase recycling.
- **Waste prevention:** 57% of respondents agreed that promotion of waste prevention and efficient use of resources will help change behaviours and encourage householders to treat materials as a resource (22% disagreed and 22% neither agreed nor disagreed). Of those who disagreed most thought that some people simply will not change, emphasised the need for any recycling systems to be easy to use and highlighted the need for manufacturers to reduce packaging and / or make it more recyclable.
- **Information on recycling:** 94% of respondents agreed that it is important that residents fully understand what can be recycled if we are to maximise the quality and value of recyclable waste collected (4% disagreed and 2% neither agreed or disagreed).
- **Collecting paper & card separately:** 55% of respondents agreed that collecting paper & card separately on the kerbside will help to maximise the quality and value of recyclable waste collected (21% disagreed and 24% neither agreed nor disagreed). Most of those who

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disagreed said they did not want any more bins, felt it was too complicated or could not see the point in doing so. Respondents also said they thought it is the Council's job to segregate paper & card and some said they wasted to recycle more materials on the kerbside instead of splitting the current recyclables into two bins.

- **Kerbside collection options:** 49% of respondents preferred Option A (fortnightly collection of non-recyclable waste) whilst 39% of respondents preferred Option B (3-weekly collection cycle). 12% stated they had no opinion, although based on comments received through Facebook, some respondents chose this option only because there was no option to support the current collection service.
- **Seasonal garden waste points:** 40% of respondents agreed with the criteria set for the provision of seasonal village garden waste collection points, namely: "Settlements with 400 or more domestic properties which are 7 miles or more, as the crow flies, from a Household Waste Recycling Centre or another seasonal collection point" (31% disagreed and 29% neither agreed or disagreed). Most of those who disagreed said they would rather have a garden waste kerbside service, highlighted the need to have a car to recycle garden waste, considered the criteria proposed flawed in one way or another or were concerned about additional vehicle emissions. A postcode sector analysis was undertaken which showed that most respondents in Newtonhill and St Cyrus, where the seasonal garden waste points were proposed to be closed due to their proximity to other garden waste recycling points / centres, disagreed with the criteria. Overall out of the 73 identifiable postcode sectors recorded in the consultation, there were 11 postcode sectors (excluding postcode sectors which had less than three responses) in which respondents mainly disagreed with the criteria. Generally, the message seemed to be that residents would like to have more seasonal garden waste points.
- **Recycling centre proposals:** 45% of respondents agreed that that the package of measures put forward to improve the network of recycling centres will help householders to maximise reuse and recycling of materials not collected at the kerbside (29% disagreed and 25% neither agreed nor disagreed). Most of those who disagreed were concerned about recycling centres only being available to those who have access to transport, were against closing recycling centres or considered current arrangements at recycling centres being inadequate. A postcode sector analysis was carried out which showed that most respondents in Hatton, Portsoy and Insch, where recycling centres were proposed to be closed, disagreed with the proposals. Overall, out of the 73 identifiable postcode sectors recorded in the consultation, there were 6 postcode sectors in which respondents mainly disagreed with the proposals.
- **Energy from waste:** 73% of respondents agreed with the proposals to, as the last resort, recover energy from waste that can't be prevented, reused or recycled (5% disagreed and 21% neither agreed nor disagreed). Those who disagreed most were concerned about pollution, needed more information or thought the Council should focus its efforts to recycling more.
- **Targets and indicators:** 48% of respondents agreed that the targets and indicators set out in the waste strategy are appropriate for measuring progress towards achieving the strategy objectives (13% disagreed and 39% neither agreed nor disagreed). Most of those who disagreed considered the targets ineffective, vague or weak, not relevant to the measures proposed, not challenging enough, missed carbon impact of residents driving to recycling

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centres or points, missed fly-tipping levels, and generally challenged whether the use of targets is effective in delivering the desired outcomes.

2. Introduction

A consultation was undertaken in September 2018 on a draft Waste Strategy 2019-2023 for Aberdeenshire. An opportunity to provide comments on the proposals were offered to residents, trade waste customers, Council's internal services and neighbouring local authorities.

The consultation was advertised through local media, social media, posters at libraries, Council service points and recycling centres, and the Council's website. In addition, direct contact via email was made with trade waste customers, neighbouring local authorities and community councils.

Officers contacted Community Councils in areas affected by proposed recycling centre closures in advance of the consultation and were invited to attend some of their meetings. Officers also gave a presentation at an annual community council event.

Briefings were organised for the Council's elected members prior to the consultation starting.

Following a community council meeting attended by a Council officer, the community in Portsoy organised a public meeting to discuss the proposals. The Council also organised a public drop-off session in Inch following requests from the local community.

Consultation documentation (a consultation document, Plain English Summary and Frequently Asked Questions) was made available on the Council's website and an online survey was used to collate responses to consultation questions. Paper copies were also made available through libraries, Council's service points and recycling centres.

3. Responses received

Overall 2,520 consultation responses were received. 2,433 of the responses were from households or from other non-trade customers, such as community councils. 15 of the household responses were received as paper copies, two were submitted by email, and the rest were submitted online.

4. Structure of consultation

A set of 'Do you agree..?' questions were used to keep the consultation as objective as possible and to be able to determine how much support or opposition there was for the various proposals. Any free text answers are to some extent subject to interpretation by the consultation analysts, however objective they try to be.

Where respondents selected either the 'Disagree' or 'Strongly disagree' option for any of the questions, they were then asked to explain why they disagreed and were able to explain their views in full.

To date, one formal complaint has been received about the structure of the consultation and the way the consultation questions were worded. Some respondents to the consultation also made similar comments in the survey about the questions being biased, the Council having worded the questions to get the answers they were looking for or the lack of opportunity to comment where a respondent indicated they agreed or had no opinion.

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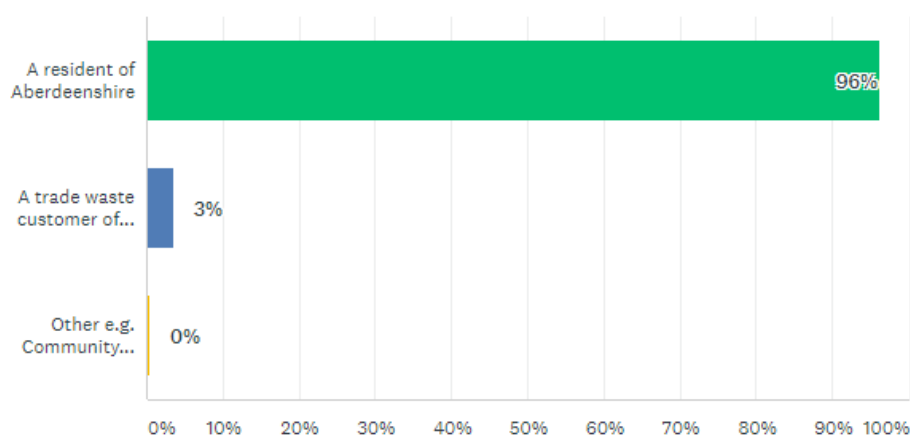
Some respondents felt they had not had the opportunity to express their views in full, due to the structure of the consultation survey.

5. Results

The percentages shown in some of the graphs below may not add up to 100% due to rounding.

Question 1. Please indicate on what basis you are responding:

This question was compulsory and answered by all respondents.

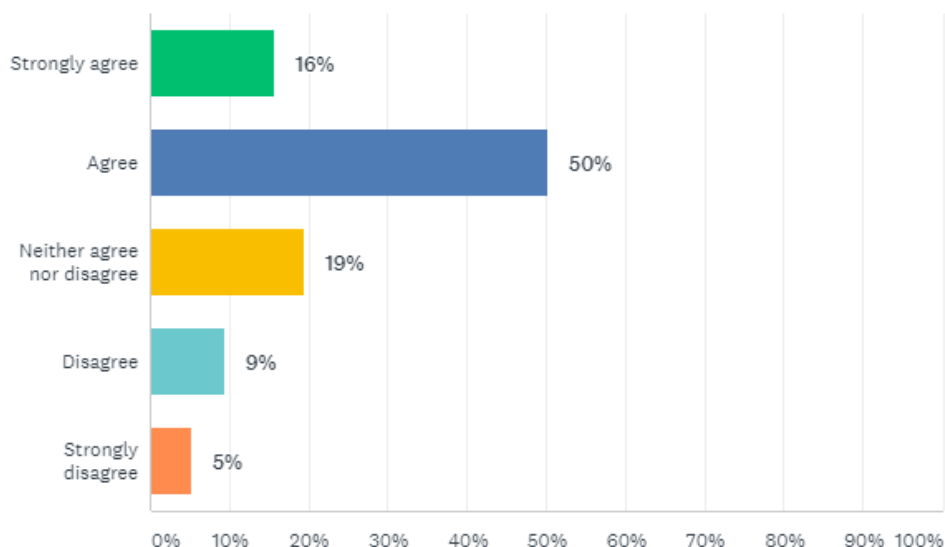


ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES
▼ A resident of Aberdeenshire	96% 2,425
▼ A trade waste customer of Aberdeenshire Council	3% 87
▼ Other e.g. Community Council (please specify) Responses	0% 8

Question 2. Do you agree that the seven objectives of the waste strategy are appropriate to ensure that Aberdeenshire reaps the environmental, community and financial benefits from the waste it produces?

The question was answered by 2,240 of the total 2,433 resident consultation respondents.

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ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Strongly agree	16%	351
Agree	50%	1,126
Neither agree nor disagree	19%	435
Disagree	9%	209
Strongly disagree	5%	119
TOTAL		2,240

Out of the 328 respondents who either disagreed or strongly disagreed, 247 provided an explanation. Around 80% of the explanations given did not refer to the objectives as such but were used to raise concerns with some other aspects of the proposals. However, the most common responses were (as percentages of those who disagreed or strongly disagreed):

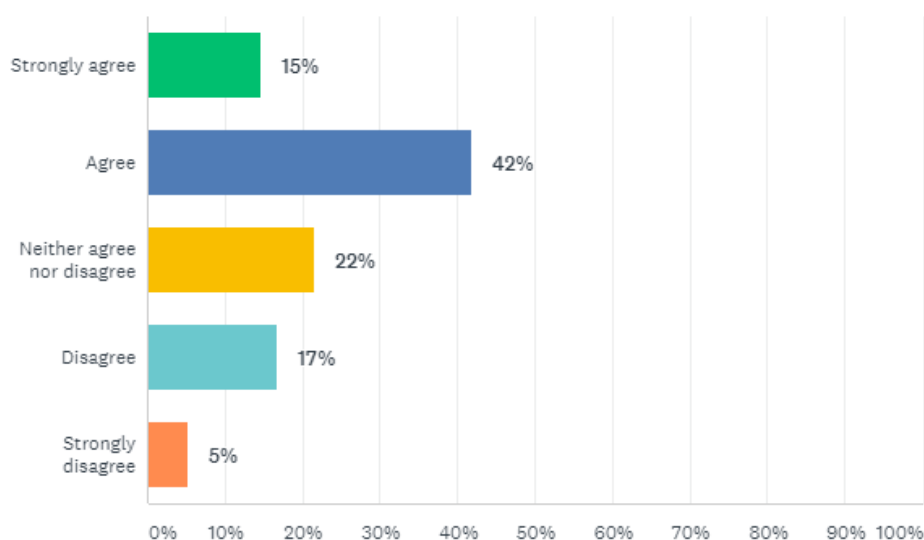
- 21% (51 respondents) raised concerns about the consultation being about Council trying to save money rather than about trying to increase recycling.
- 13% (33 respondents) raised concerns about additional environmental impacts resulting from residents having to drive to get to recycling points and / or centres, or as a result of the proposed closure of some recycling centre.
- 13% (32 respondents) raised concerns about proposed recycling centre closures.
- 12% (30 respondents) used the free text box to say they would like to have garden waste kerbside collection.
- 12% (29 respondents) raised concerns about accessibility of recycling facilities to those who do not have access to a car.
- 12% (29 respondents) emphasised the need for more frequent collections or larger bins than what they currently have.
- 11% (27 respondents) raised concerns about the requirement to have additional bins (either inside or outside bins) to allow paper & card to be collected separately from the other recyclables.
- 11% (26 respondents) used the free text box to say they wanted glass kerbside collection.

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- 9% (23 respondents) raised concerns about some of the proposals resulting in more fly-tipping.
- 7% (18 respondents) raised concerns about the consultation approach, the questions being biased or the consultation being 'a done deal'.
- 7% (17 respondents) highlighted the need for the Council to do more to ensure manufacturers to reduce packaging and / or to make it recyclable.
- 6% (15 respondents) felt the proposals accounted to a reduction in service to householders.
- 6% (15 respondents) raised concerns about the impacts of the proposals on health, hygiene and vermin levels.
- 5% (14 respondents) raised concerns about how large families would cope, either because the amount of the waste they produce generally, or specifically as a result of babies using disposal nappies.
- 5% (13 respondents) felt the Council should do more to help people recycled.
- 5% (13 respondents) said they preferred the current system.
- 5% (13 respondents) felt the residents' needs had not been considered.

Question 3. Do you agree that promotion of waste prevention and efficient use of resources will help change behaviours and encourage householders to treat materials as a resource?

The question was answered by 2,172 of the total 2,433 resident consultation respondents.



ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Strongly agree	15%	319
Agree	42%	909
Neither agree nor disagree	22%	468
Disagree	17%	363
Strongly disagree	5%	113
TOTAL		2,172

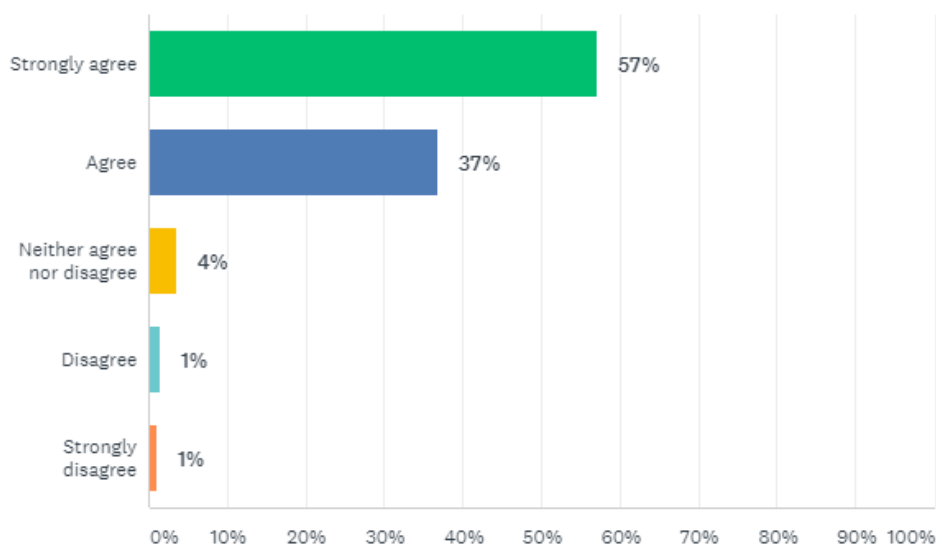
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Out of the 476 respondents who either disagreed or strongly disagreed, 390 provided an explanation. 19% of the explanations given did not refer to the question asked as such but were used to raise concerns with some other aspects of the proposals. However, the most common responses were (as percentages of those who disagreed or strongly disagreed):

- 33% (130 respondents) stated that some people simply will not change their behaviour.
- 13% (52 respondents) highlighted to the need for any recycling systems to be easy for people to use them.
- 11% (44 respondents) felt highlighted the need for the Council to do more to ensure manufacturers to reduce packaging and / or to make it recyclable.
- 8% (32 respondents) raised concern about the proposal leading to more fly tipping.
- 7% (29 respondents) highlighted the need for more education.
- 7% (26 respondents) took the opportunity to highlight the need for garden waste and/or glass kerbside collections.
- 6% (23 respondents) proposed the used of incentives, financial or non-financial to get more people to recycle.
- 5% (20 respondents) proposed the use of penalties for those who do not recycle.

Question 4. Do you agree that it is important that residents fully understand what can be recycled if we are to maximise the quality and value of recyclable waste collected?

The question was answered by 2,160 of the total 2,433 resident consultation respondents.



ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Strongly agree	57%	1,234
Agree	37%	796
Neither agree nor disagree	4%	79
Disagree	1%	30
Strongly disagree	1%	21
TOTAL		2,160

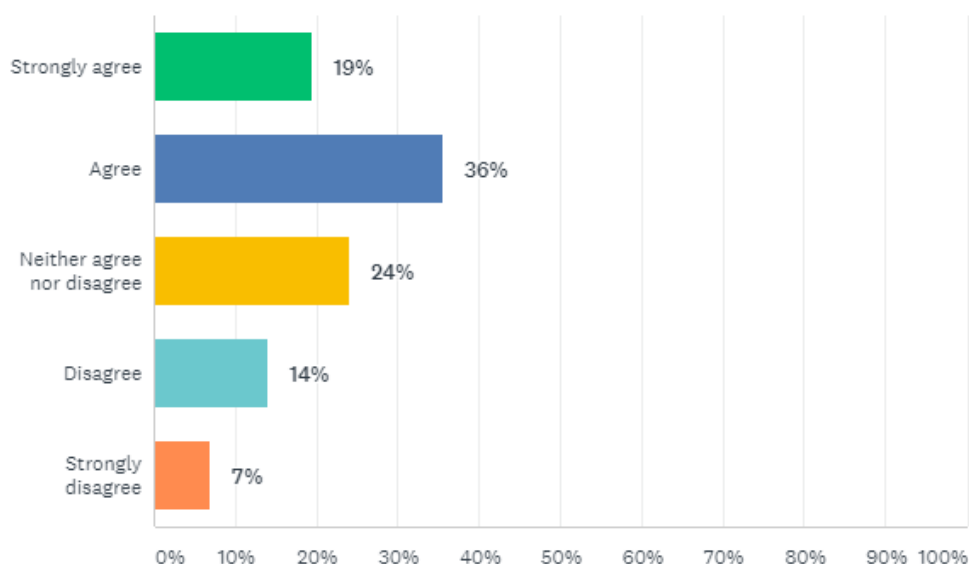
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Out of the 51 respondents who either disagreed or strongly disagreed, 44 provided an explanation. 9% of the explanations given did not refer to the question asked as such but were used to raise concerns with some other aspects of the proposals. However, the most common responses were (as percentages of those who disagreed or strongly disagreed):

- 25% (11 respondents) considered recycling generally, or the proposed changes to the recycling services to be too complicated.
- 16% (7 respondents) wanted to the Council to collect more materials for recycling or provide more services.
- 14% (6 respondents) expressed the view that some people will not recycle whatever information is given to them.
- 9% (4 respondents) felt the Councils should do more.
- 9% (4 respondents) highlighted the need for glass kerbside collection.
- 7% (3 respondents) stated they considered the question insulting.
- 7% (3 respondents) felt householders already know what can be recycled.

Question 5. Do you agree that collecting paper & card separately on the kerbside will help to maximise the quality and value of recyclable waste collected?

The question was answered by 2,144 of the total 2,433 resident consultation respondents.



ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Strongly agree	19%	416
Agree	36%	762
Neither agree nor disagree	24%	515
Disagree	14%	302
Strongly disagree	7%	149
TOTAL		2,144

Out of the 451 respondents who either disagreed or strongly disagreed, 391 provided an explanation. 6% of the explanations given did not refer to the question asked as such but were used

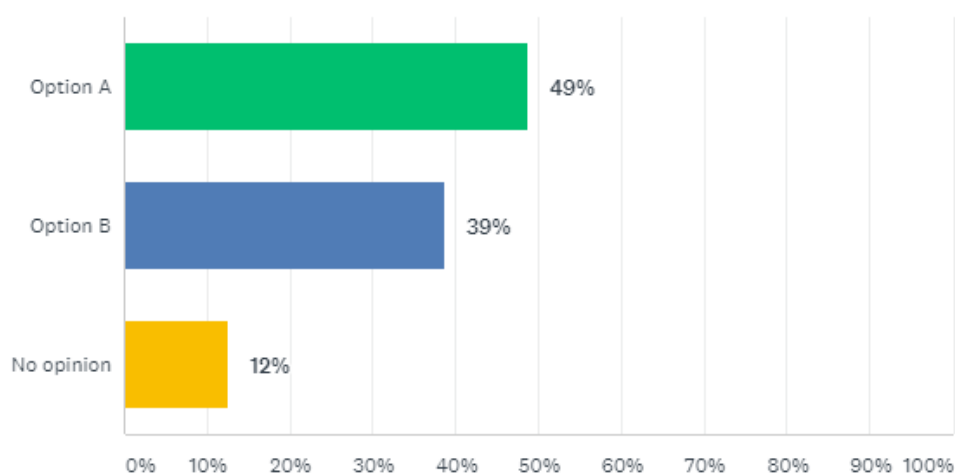
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to raise concerns with some other aspects of the proposals. The most common responses were (as percentages of those who disagreed or strongly disagreed):

- 34% (134 respondents) said they did not want any more bins.
- 34% (132 respondents) felt it was too complicated or highlighted the need for recycling systems to be easy for people to use them.
- 19% (75 respondents) could not see any logic in the proposal and what difference it would make.
- 11% (44 respondents) felt they would be doing what the Council should do.
- 8% (30 respondents) wanted to recycle other materials on the kerbside instead of segregating paper & card.
- 5% (21 respondents) raised concerns about bins blowing over as a result.

Question 6. Which of the two proposed kerbside collection services (detailed below) would you prefer?

The question was answered by 2,078 of the total 2,433 resident consultation respondents.

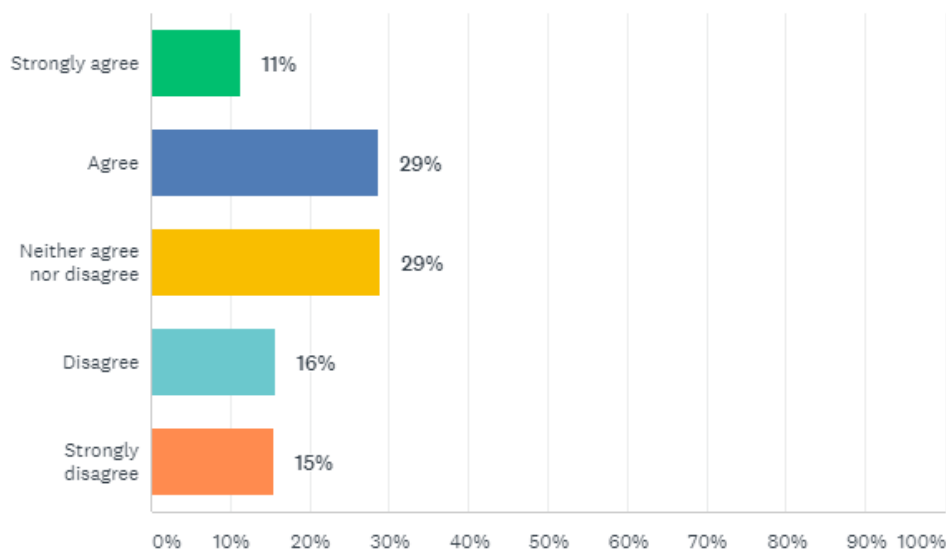


ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
▼ Option A	49%	1,013
▼ Option B	39%	806
▼ No opinion	12%	259
TOTAL		2,078

Question 7. Do you agree with the criteria set for the provision of seasonal village garden waste collection points, namely: "Settlements with 400 or more domestic properties which are 7 miles or more, as the crow flies, from a Household Waste Recycling Centre or another seasonal collection point"?

The question was answered by 2,100 of the total 2,433 resident consultation respondents.

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ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Strongly agree	11%	236
Agree	29%	603
Neither agree nor disagree	29%	606
Disagree	16%	330
Strongly disagree	15%	325
TOTAL		2,100

Out of the 655 respondents who either disagreed or strongly disagreed, 609 provided an explanation. 5% of the explanations given did not refer to the question asked as such but were used to raise concerns with some other aspects of the proposals. The most common responses were (as percentages of those who disagreed or strongly disagreed):

- 35% (212 respondents) said they wanted garden waste kerbside collections.
- 29% (174 respondents) highlighted the need to have a car to recycle garden waste.
- 23% (143 respondents) considered the proposed criteria flawed in one way or another - 7 miles to be too long, 400 properties to be too high, excluding villages that do not comply with the criteria but are focal points, 'as the crow flies' not being a logical approach as people travel by road, unfairness towards smaller communities, the lack of consideration to the needs of residents in communities, or the need for every village to have means to recycled garden waste.
- 12% (75 respondents) highlighted the additional vehicle emissions resulting from residents having to drive to take their garden waste to collection points.
- 12% (74 respondents) were unhappy about opening hours at recycling centres or seasonal garden waste points.
- 11% (69 respondents) were opposed to the proposals to close recycling centres in Inch and Portsoy, or the seasonal garden waste points in Newtonhill and St Cyrus.
- 9% (53 respondents) were concerned about increased fly-tipping as a result of the proposals.
- 6% (38 respondents) were concerned about the impact on the elderly and / or disabled.

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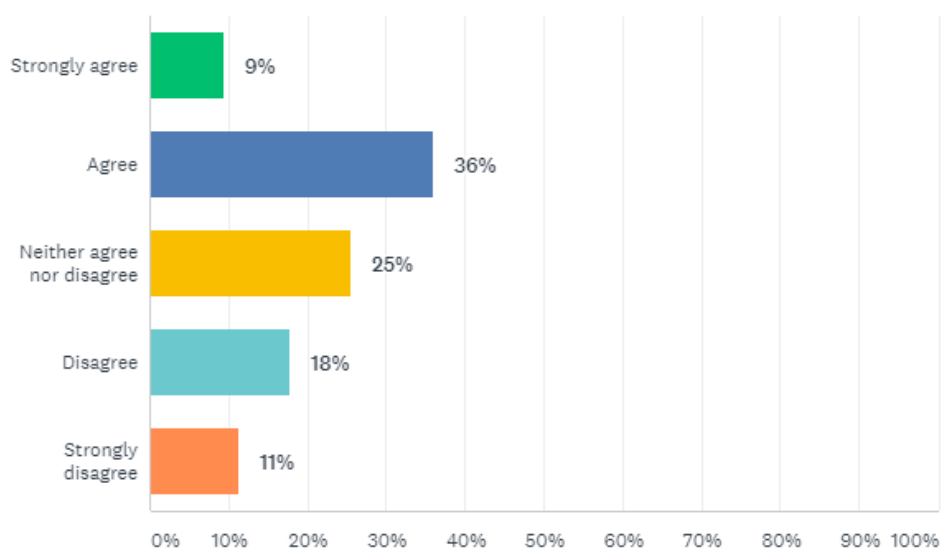
A postcode sector analysis, based on the postcode details provided by some respondents in Question 11d, was carried out to check in which areas residents agreed, disagreed or had no particular opinion on the criteria proposed. The results are enclosed as Appendix 1.

1,853 of the 2,100 of the respondents who provided an answer to Question 7 also provided their postcode sector. As shown in Appendix 1, half or more of respondents in the postcode sectors covering Newtonhill and St Cyrus, where the seasonal garden waste points are proposed to be closed due to their proximity to other garden waste recycling points / centres, disagreed with the proposals.

Overall, out of the 73 identifiable postcode sectors recorded in the consultation, and with a sample size of three or more respondents per postcode sector, there were 11 postcode sectors where most respondents disagreed with the criteria proposed.

Question 8. Recycling centres provide a valuable facility for residents to recycle materials not collected at the kerbside. Do you agree that the package of measures put forward to improve the network of recycling centres will help householders to maximise reuse and recycling of materials not collected at the kerbside?

The question was answered by 2,069 of the total 2,433 resident consultation respondents.



ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Strongly agree	9%	193
Agree	36%	746
Neither agree nor disagree	25%	527
Disagree	18%	369
Strongly disagree	11%	234
TOTAL		2,069

Out of the 603 respondents who either disagreed or strongly disagreed, 540 provided an explanation. 9% of the explanations given did not refer to the question asked as such but were used

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to raise concerns with some other aspects of the proposals. The most common responses were (as percentages of those who disagreed or strongly disagreed):

- 32% (175 respondents) raised concerns about recycling centres only available to those who have access to transport.
- 29% (157 respondents) were opposed to closing recycling centres. 10% (56 respondents) were specifically against closing Inch and 5% (27 respondents) closing Portsoy.
- 21% (111 respondents) raised concerns about issues with current arrangements, such as centres being open when people are at work, evening openings limited to summer months, congestion at recycling centres at busy times, not enough information being available, and not enough recycling centres being available.
- 10% (53 respondents) had concerns about increased fly-tipping resulting from the closure of recycling centres.
- 8% (45 respondents) would like to see the kerbside collection service improved with additional materials. 9% (46 respondents) would specifically like glass to be collected on the kerbside and 5% (29 respondents) said they would like to have garden waste kerbside collections.
- 7% (40 respondents) raised concerns about additional traffic emissions resulting from closing recycling centres.
- 7% (37 of respondents) raised concerns about residents just ending up using their non-recyclable waste bin for recyclable items.
- 6% (33 respondents) had concerns about costs, in terms of the Council transferring costs to residents through the proposals.
- 6% (32 respondents) raised concerns about the elderly, disabled and those with no access to transport being able to take materials to recycling centres.

A postcode sector analysis, based on the postcode details provided by some respondents in Question 11d, was carried out to check in which areas residents agreed, disagreed or had no particular opinion on the criteria proposed. The results are enclosed as Appendix 2.

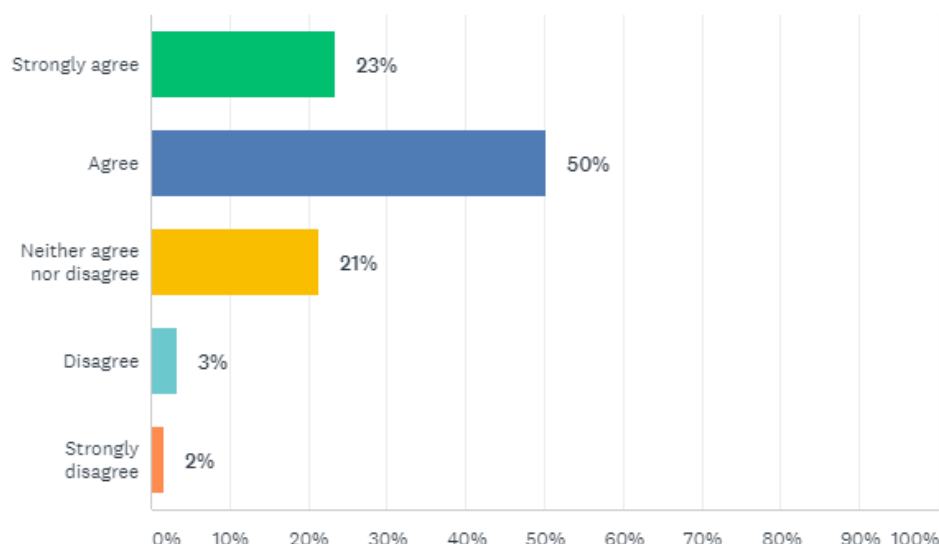
1,844 of the 2,069 respondents who provided an answer for Question 8 also provided their postcode sector. As shown in Appendix 2, half or more of respondents in the postcode sectors covering Hatton, Portsoy and Inch, where recycling centres are proposed to be closed, disagreed with the proposals.

Overall, out of the 73 postcode sectors recorded in the consultation, and with a sample size of three or more residents per postcode sector, there were six postcode sectors in which most respondents disagreed with the criteria proposed.

Question 9. Unfortunately, in the medium term at least, there will continue to be some waste that cannot be prevented, reused or recycled. However, that does not mean it is without value and extracting energy from this waste is one way to recover that value. Do you agree with the proposals to, as the last resort, recover energy from waste that can't be prevented, reused or recycled?

The question was answered by 2,046 of the total 2,433 resident consultation respondents.

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ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Strongly agree	23%	479
Agree	50%	1,028
Neither agree nor disagree	21%	438
Disagree	3%	67
Strongly disagree	2%	34
TOTAL		2,046

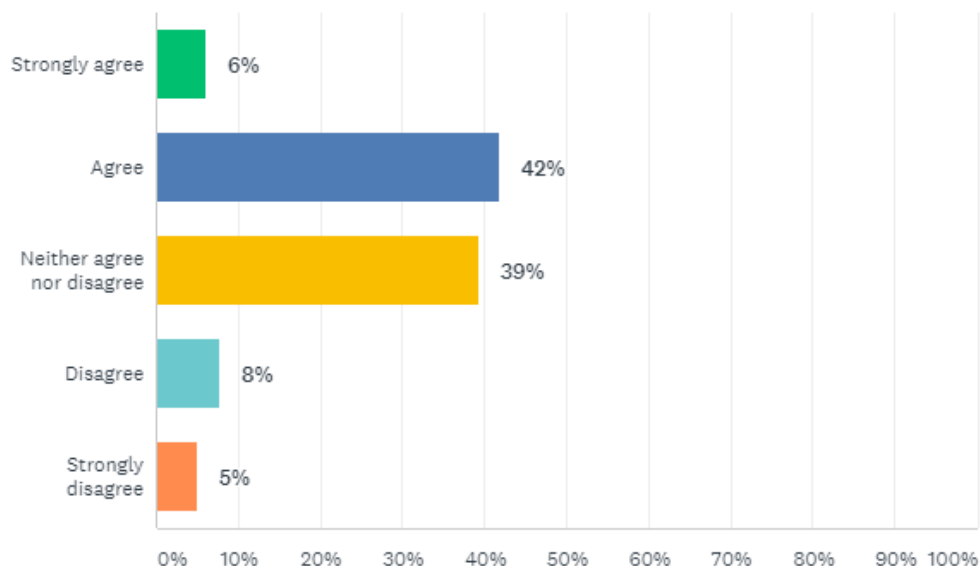
Out of the 101 respondents who either disagreed or strongly disagreed, 87 provided an explanation. 20% of the explanations given did not refer to the question asked as such but were used to raise concerns with some other aspects of the proposals. The most common responses were (as percentages of those who disagreed or strongly disagreed):

- 39% (34 respondents) were concerned about environmental impact in terms of pollution resulting from burning waste.
- 12% (11 respondents) felt they needed more information to determine whether they agreed or disagreed with the proposal.
- 11% (10 respondents) thought the Council should focus on recycling more instead of burning waste or were concerned about incineration taking away the initiative to recycle more.
- 10% (9 respondents) were concerned about impacts on people's health.
- 6% (5 respondents) considered manufacturers should do more to reduce waste and/or make it more recyclable.
- 6% (5 respondents) raised concerns about the costs, in terms of the cost of building an energy from waste facility, the cost of energy from waste compared to landfill and how any income generated will be used.

Question 10. Do you agree that the targets and indicators set out in the waste strategy are appropriate for measuring progress towards achieving the strategy objectives?

The question was answered by 2,028 of the total 2,433 resident consultation respondents.

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ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Strongly agree	6%	125
Agree	42%	847
Neither agree nor disagree	39%	796
Disagree	8%	157
Strongly disagree	5%	103
TOTAL		2,028

Out of the 260 respondents who either disagreed or strongly disagreed, 211 provided an explanation. 29% of the explanations given did not refer to the question asked as such but were used to raise concerns with some other aspects of the proposals. The most common responses were (as percentages of those who disagreed or strongly disagreed):

- 20% (43 respondents) disagreed with the targets on the grounds of the targets being ineffective, vague or weak, not relevant to the measures proposed, not challenging enough, missing carbon impact of residents driving to recycling centres or points, fly-tipping levels missing as a target, and generally whether the use of targets is effective in delivering the desired outcomes and the lack of baselines in the strategy.
- 17% (35 residents) had concerns about costs, either as inclusion of all costs into the targets, the consultation being a smokescreen for the Council to cut costs, the cost of collecting and disposing of old bins, the cost of buying new bins, the increased cost to residents from having to travel further to recycle items or any savings made not being passed to the householders.
- 8% (16 respondents) had concerns about increased fly-tipping resulting from the proposals.
- 7% (15 respondents) would like to see more material collected for recycling by the Council.
- 6% (13 respondents) felt more education was required to get residents to recycle more.
- 6% (13 respondents) felt customer satisfaction and residents' needs were missing.
- 5% (11 respondents) felt manufacturers should do more to reduce packaging or make it more recyclable.

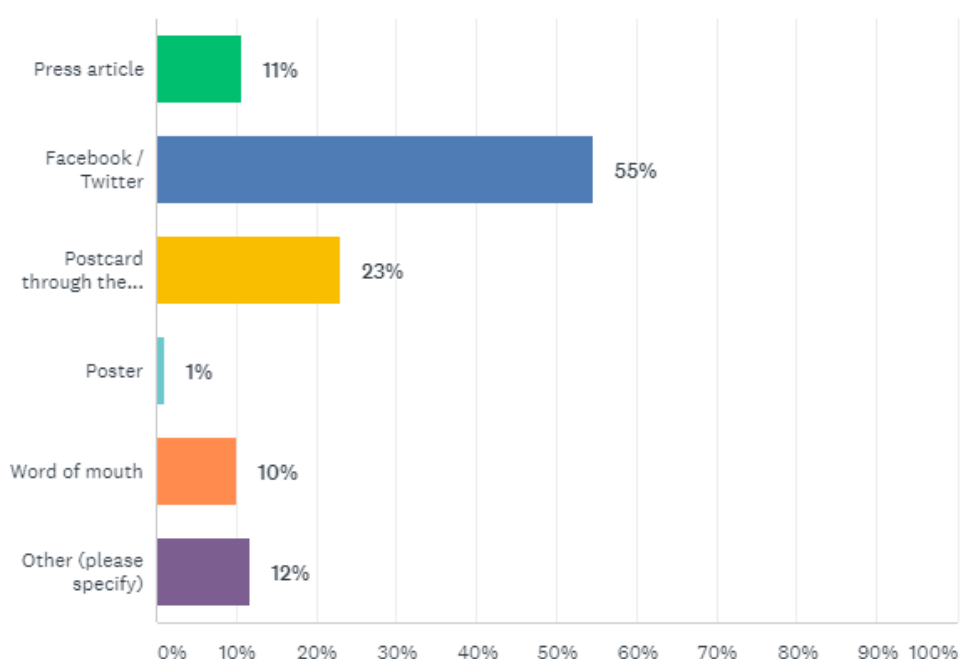
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- 5% (11 respondents) felt the consultation or questions were biased and leading to responses the Council wants to have.

Question 11. Finally, please tell us a little bit about yourself so we can better understand your views.

11a. How did you hear about this consultation? (select all that apply)

The question was answered by 2,006 of the total 2,433 resident consultation respondents.



ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES
▼ Press article	11% 215
▼ Facebook / Twitter	55% 1,094
▼ Postcard through the door	23% 461
▼ Poster	1% 20
▼ Word of mouth	10% 202
▼ Other (please specify) Responses	12% 233

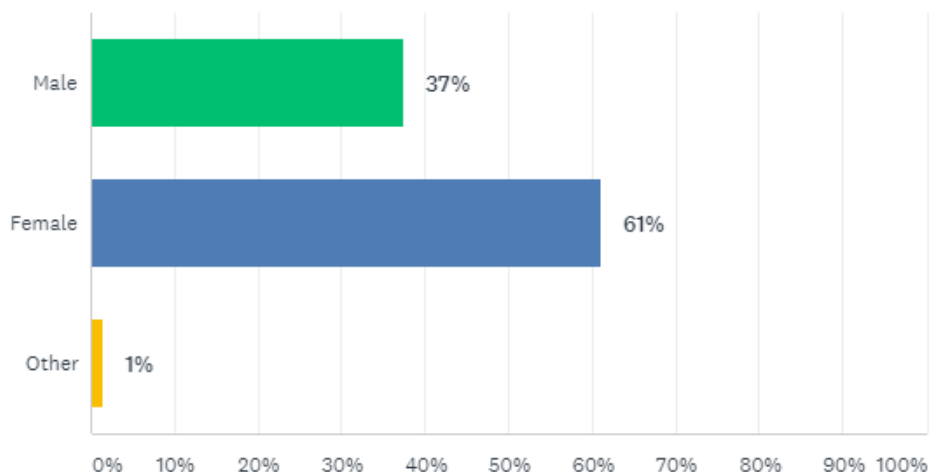
The most common 'Other' responses were:

- 20% (47 respondents) had received an email about the consultation.
- 16% (38 respondents) had received information through their Community Council.
- 13% (20 respondents) had received a letter from a councillor.
- 8% (19 respondents) had seen a poster at a local library or recycling centre.
- 6% (13 respondents) had seen it on the Council's website.

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11b. Your gender?

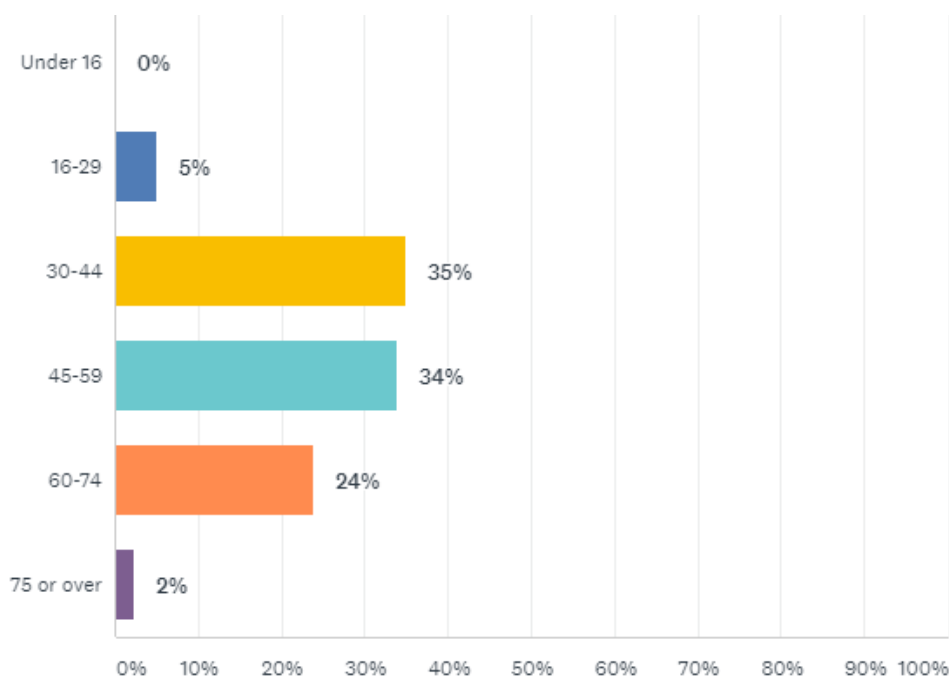
The question was answered by 1,986 of the total 2,433 resident consultation respondents.



ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Male	37%	743
Female	61%	1,215
Other	Responses 1%	28
TOTAL		1,986

11c. Which of the age groups do you fit in?

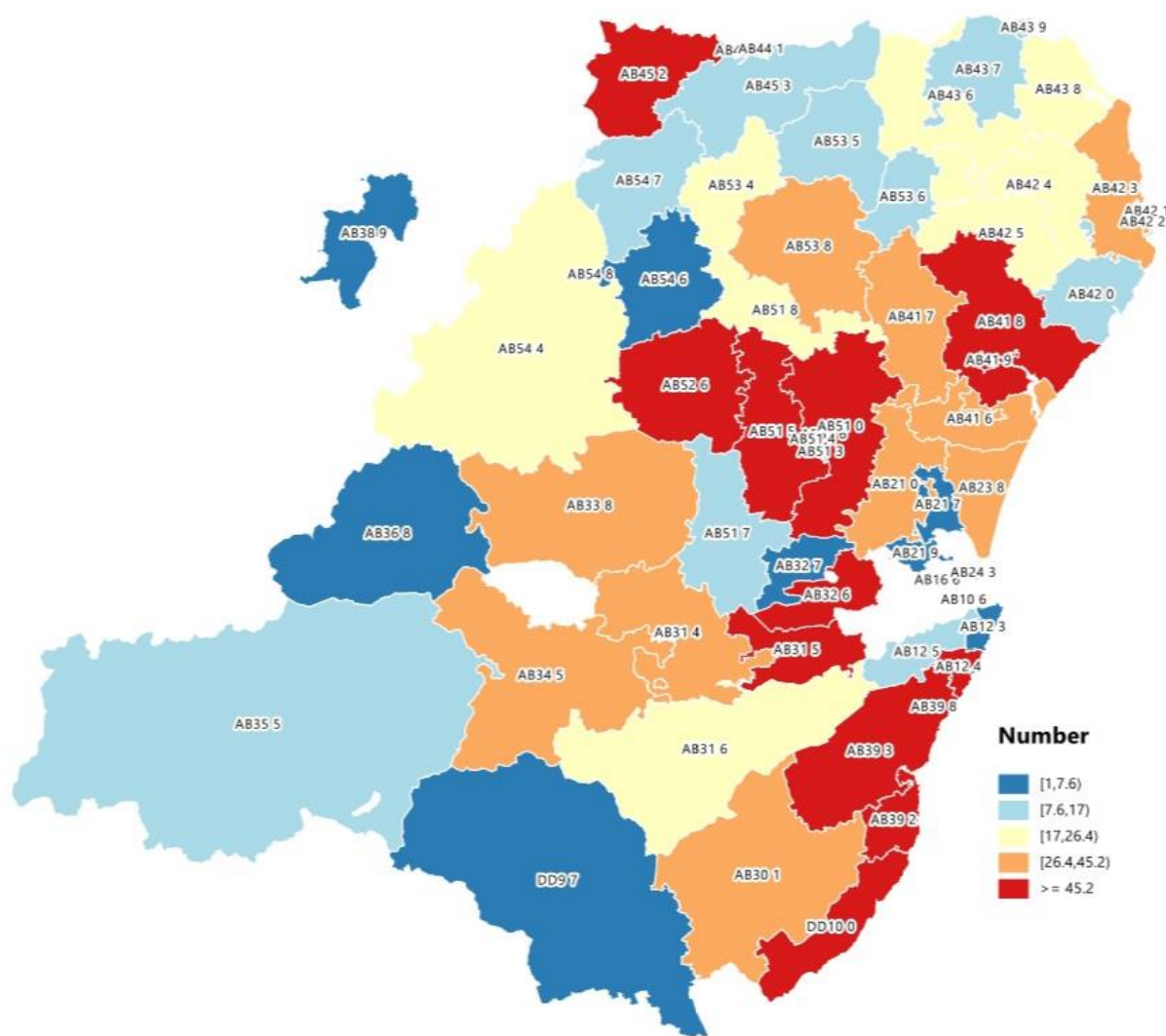
The question was answered by 1,980 of the total 2,433 resident consultation respondents.



ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES
Under 16	0%
16-29	5%
30-44	35%
45-59	34%
60-74	24%
75 or over	2%
TOTAL	1,980

11d. Please enter the first 5 digits of your postcode

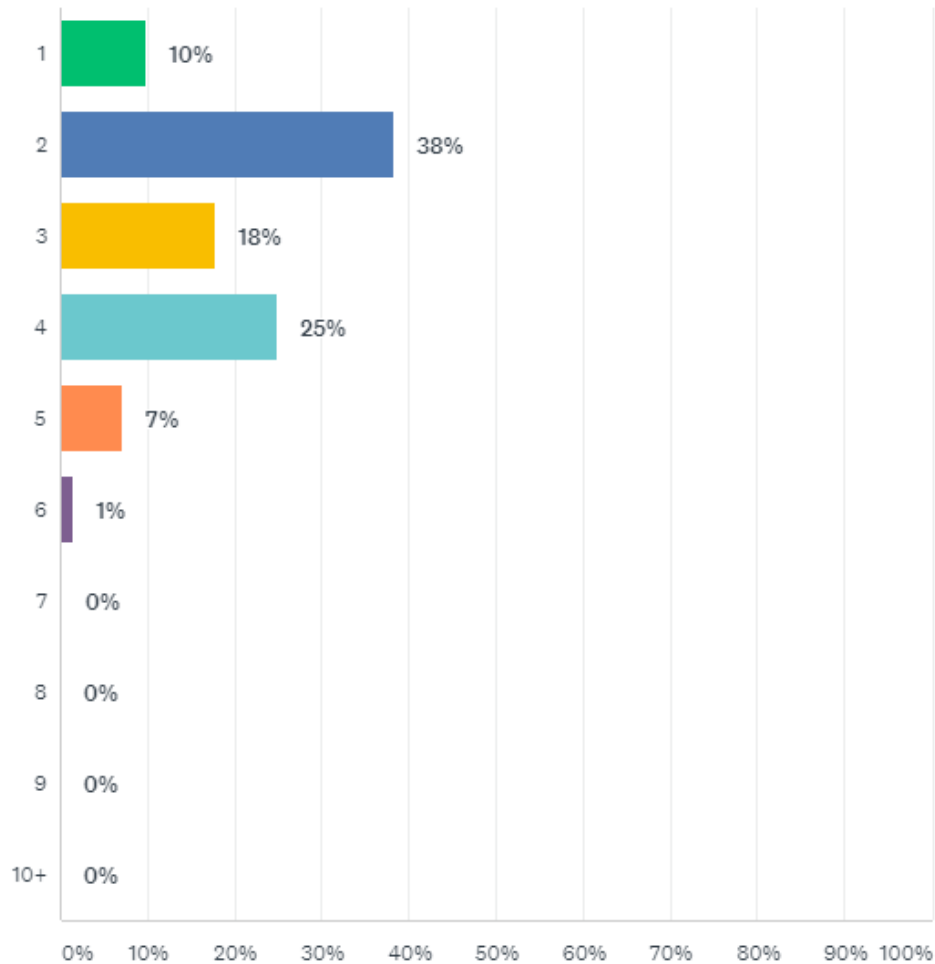
The question was answered by 1,889 of the total 2,433 resident consultation respondents. 1,867 of the responses provided a recognisable postcode sector. The graph below shows the level of responses received by postcode sector. The colours refer to the number of responses received by postcode sector.



From mountain to sea

11e. Number of people in your household?

The question was answered by 1,952 of the total 2,433 resident consultation respondents.



ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
▼ 1	10%	193
▼ 2	38%	749
▼ 3	18%	347
▼ 4	25%	487
▼ 5	7%	139
▼ 6	1%	28
▼ 7	0%	3
▼ 8	0%	2
▼ 9	0%	2
▼ 10+	0%	2
TOTAL		1,952



From mountain to sea

6. Additional comments

In addition to providing comments in the consultation response, some additional comments from residents were submitted through MPs and MSPs, area managers, feedback team, Facebook private message, website content feedback and Council's Yammer pages. The comments received have been summarised in Appendix 3. Bennachie Community Council and Portsoy and District Community Council also provided separate consultation responses which have been enclosed as Appendix 4.

The comments did not provide any additional aspects to the formal consultation responses received.

From mountain to sea

Appendix 1 – Postcode sector analysis of Question 7 re garden waste criteria

Table below highlights the answer preferred by most respondents within the postcode sector. 1,853 of the 2,100 respondents who provided an answer to Question 7 also provided their postcode sector. The geographical location of postcode sectors is shown in a graph for [Question 11d](#). **Please note the number of responses received – in some cases only 1 response received per postcode sector.** The analysis excludes those responses where postcode details were not provided.

Postcode sector	No. of responses	Agree	Disagree	No opinion
AB10 6	1	100%	0%	0%
AB11 4	1	0%	100%	0%
AB12	10	30%	30%	40%
AB12 3	1	100%	0%	0%
AB12 4	85	52%	24%	24%
AB12 5	9	22%	44%	33%
AB13 3	1	100%	0%	0%
AB13 5	1	0%	100%	0%
AB16 6	1	0%	100%	0%
AB21	3	67%	0%	33%
AB21 0	44	64%	23%	14%
AB21 7	1	0%	100%	0%
AB21 9	1	0%	0%	100%
AB23	2	0%	100%	0%
AB23 4	1	0%	0%	100%
AB23 8	27	37%	44%	19%
AB24 3	1	0%	0%	100%
AB25	1	100%	0%	0%
AB30	3	33%	67%	0%
AB30 1	39	49%	23%	28%
AB31	15	33%	33%	33%
AB31 4	40	40%	33%	28%
AB31 5	57	40%	25%	35%
AB31 6	17	35%	24%	41%
AB32	5	0%	40%	60%
AB32 5	1	100%	0%	0%
AB32 6	69	46%	16%	38%
AB32 7	4	25%	25%	50%
AB33	2	0%	0%	100%
AB33 8	43	40%	26%	35%
AB34	4	50%	25%	25%
AB34 4	4	50%	25%	25%

From mountain to sea

Postcode sector	No. of responses	Agree	Disagree	No opinion
AB34 5	40	65%	13%	23%
AB35	4	25%	50%	25%
AB35 5	14	57%	29%	14%
AB36 8	2	50%	0%	50%
AB38 9	1	100%	0%	0%
AB39	13	15%	62%	23%
AB39 2	57	33%	26%	40%
AB39 3	80	14%	79%	8%
AB39 8	5	40%	60%	0%
AB41	12	58%	33%	8%
AB41 6	35	43%	29%	29%
AB41 7	38	26%	50%	24%
AB41 8	46	39%	24%	37%
AB41 9	66	36%	27%	38%
AB42	10	50%	40%	10%
AB42 0	16	25%	50%	25%
AB42 1	25	40%	16%	44%
AB42 2	39	47%	21%	32%
AB42 3	37	32%	32%	35%
AB42 4	19	58%	21%	21%
AB42 5	26	65%	27%	8%
Ab42 6	1	100%	0%	0%
AB42 9	1	100%	0%	0%
AB43	7	43%	14%	43%
AB43 5	3	33%	67%	0%
AB43 6	25	79%	8%	13%
AB43 7	12	8%	25%	67%
AB43 8	19	44%	17%	39%
AB43 9	15	29%	14%	57%
AB44	2	50%	50%	0%
AB44 1	15	47%	13%	40%
AB44 3	1	0%	100%	0%
AB45	10	50%	20%	30%
AB45 1	21	38%	19%	43%
AB45 2	48	27%	35%	38%
AB45 3	13	54%	15%	31%
AB45 5	1	0%	100%	0%
AB51	24	42%	25%	33%
AB51 0	74	33%	42%	25%
AB51 3	16	56%	13%	31%

From mountain to sea

Postcode sector	No. of responses	Agree	Disagree	No opinion
AB51 4	34	29%	26%	44%
AB51 5	46	29%	33%	38%
AB51 6	19	32%	16%	53%
AB51 7	14	50%	36%	14%
AB51 8	17	82%	6%	12%
AB52	16	38%	50%	13%
AB52 6	127	42%	38%	20%
AB53	6	83%	17%	0%
AB53 4	17	47%	12%	41%
AB53 5	13	62%	15%	23%
AB53 6	15	43%	29%	29%
AB53 8	27	33%	22%	44%
AB54	7	14%	29%	57%
AB54 4	23	52%	22%	26%
AB54 6	6	17%	67%	17%
AB54 7	8	63%	25%	13%
AB54 8	21	29%	24%	48%
DD10	6	17%	50%	33%
DD10 0	55	29%	51%	20%
DD9 7	3	33%	67%	0%

From mountain to sea

Appendix 2 - Postcode sector analysis of Question 8 re recycling centre proposals

Table below highlights the answer preferred by most respondents within the postcode sector. 1,844 of the 2,069 respondents who provided an answer for Question 8 also provided their postcode sector. The geographical location of postcode sectors is shown in a graph for [Question 11d](#). **Please note the number of responses received – in some cases only 1 response received per postcode sector.** The analysis excludes those responses where postcode details were not provided.

Postcode sector	No. of responses	Agree	Disagree	No opinion
AB10 6	1	100%	0%	0%
AB11 4	1	0%	100%	0%
AB12	10	40%	40%	20%
AB12 3	1	100%	0%	0%
AB12 4	85	55%	22%	23%
AB12 5	9	56%	44%	0%
AB13 3	1	100%	0%	0%
AB13 5	1	0%	100%	0%
AB16 6	1	100%	0%	0%
AB21	3	33%	33%	33%
AB21 0	44	55%	20%	25%
AB21 7	1	0%	100%	0%
AB21 9	1	0%	0%	100%
AB23	2	0%	50%	50%
AB23 4	1	100%	0%	0%
AB23 8	27	56%	19%	26%
AB24 3	1	100%	0%	0%
AB25	1	0%	0%	100%
AB30	3	50%	0%	50%
AB30 1	39	56%	26%	18%
AB31	15	47%	27%	27%
AB31 4	40	48%	25%	28%
AB31 5	57	61%	21%	18%
AB31 6	17	40%	20%	40%
AB32	5	40%	20%	40%
AB32 5	1	100%	0%	0%
AB32 6	69	54%	16%	30%
AB32 7	4	75%	0%	25%
AB33	2	50%	50%	0%
AB33 8	43	51%	26%	23%
AB34	4	100%	0%	0%
AB34 4	4	100%	0%	0%

From mountain to sea

Postcode sector	No. of responses	Agree	Disagree	No opinion
AB34 5	40	58%	18%	25%
AB35	4	0%	50%	50%
AB35 5	14	43%	36%	21%
AB36 8	2	100%	0%	0%
AB38 9	1	100%	0%	0%
AB39	13	38%	23%	38%
AB39 2	57	40%	19%	40%
AB39 3	80	49%	31%	21%
AB39 8	5	40%	40%	20%
AB41	12	50%	25%	25%
AB41 6	35	50%	15%	35%
AB41 7	38	49%	32%	19%
AB41 8	46	48%	28%	24%
AB41 9	66	55%	11%	34%
AB42	10	40%	40%	20%
AB42 0	16	31%	44%	25%
AB42 1	25	32%	48%	20%
AB42 2	39	50%	18%	32%
AB42 3	37	54%	19%	27%
AB42 4	19	42%	26%	32%
AB42 5	26	54%	15%	31%
Ab42 6	1	100%	0%	0%
AB42 9	1	0%	100%	0%
AB43	7	43%	43%	14%
AB43 5	3	0%	67%	33%
AB43 6	25	72%	16%	12%
AB43 7	12	33%	25%	42%
AB43 8	19	50%	22%	28%
AB43 9	15	47%	27%	27%
AB44	2	50%	50%	0%
AB44 1	15	60%	13%	27%
AB44 3	1	100%	0%	0%
AB45	10	0%	78%	22%
AB45 1	21	55%	35%	10%
AB45 2	48	13%	75%	13%
AB45 3	13	54%	23%	23%
AB45 5	1	0%	100%	0%
AB51	24	46%	33%	21%
AB51 0	74	44%	26%	30%
AB51 3	16	56%	13%	31%

From mountain to sea

Postcode sector	No. of responses	Agree	Disagree	No opinion
AB51 4	34	41%	26%	32%
AB51 5	46	54%	15%	30%
AB51 6	19	53%	26%	21%
AB51 7	14	50%	29%	21%
AB51 8	17	75%	6%	19%
AB52	16	13%	75%	13%
AB52 6	127	21%	64%	15%
AB53	6	50%	0%	50%
AB53 4	17	76%	18%	6%
AB53 5	13	54%	31%	15%
AB53 6	15	40%	27%	33%
AB53 8	27	50%	19%	31%
AB54	7	29%	14%	57%
AB54 4	23	61%	13%	26%
AB54 6	6	50%	50%	0%
AB54 7	8	50%	13%	38%
AB54 8	21	33%	29%	38%
DD10	6	17%	17%	67%
DD10 0	55	40%	32%	28%
DD9 7	3	33%	67%	0%



From mountain to sea

Appendix 3 – Summary of additional comments

Through MP/MSPs (5 comments):

- Concerns raised about the proposed closure of Inch, Portsoy and Whitehills recycling centres.

Through an area manager (1 comment):

- Newtonhill seasonal garden waste point promotes health and wellbeing in the community. The site is always busy and is a meeting point for residents. As a result, closing the site will result in health and wellbeing of the community suffering and elderly and inform being discriminated. Proposal ecologically unsound, trips to the recycling centre cannot be combined with other journeys and garden waste will be put into non-recyclable waste bins. Not all garden waste is compostable. Removal of the seasonal garden waste point in Newtonhill should only be done if garden waste kerbside collection is provided.

Through feedback team (6 comments):

- No space in kitchen for additional bins, would like to see advice and help on how to manage with additional recycling bins inside the house. Would like the Council to promote the use of reusable nappies.
- Issue with link from consultation document to the questionnaire. Would prefer to keep the fortnightly collections and encourage a glass and packaging recycling scheme with a charge/reward system with retail and manufacturing sectors.
- Would have liked to have an option to provide additional comments in the survey. Support should be provided for using cloth nappies in the form of advice, free samples and/or vouchers.
- Public information event at Inch was not well organised with no records kept of what was said. Each household should have received a notification, been provided with all the consultation documentation and given more time to complete the questionnaire. Consultation questionnaire irrelevant to the closure of Inch recycling centre. Taking waste to Huntly or Inverurie will have an impact on local shops too. No consideration given to those without access to cars. New recycling centre at Inch should be built, given that another 500 houses due to be built there.
- Prefer Option B.
- The Council should investigate a scheme in Cumbria where black plastic is mixed with bitumen and used for repairing potholes.

Facebook private message (1 comment):

- Disappointed no option to leave additional comments. Consideration should be given to size of family when non-recyclable bin size / collection frequency reduced. Both bins full/overflowing already and will have to make even more visits to recycling centre in future.

From mountain to sea

Website content feedback (12 comments):

- Shocked to hear Inch recycling centre might close, it is well used, closure will impact those who no longer drive.
- Do not want more bins, not all households have a car to take garden waste and glass to recycling points. Garden waste heavy to handle.
- Bins difficult for the elderly to handle, especially when required to be taken to road-end for collection. Would like glass kerbside collection.
- Provision of plain English summary a good idea. Would like a garden waste kerbside collection. Putting garden waste in the car is messy. Council should consider offering HotBins (home composting bins for food and garden waste) and remove food waste bins.
- Would like garden waste and glass kerbside collection. Taking garden waste to recycling centres by car is not environmentally friendly.
- Would prefer Option B, would like the option of having extra bins, not everyone has transport to take garden waste to a recycling centre, no need for a composting bin when only grass produced as garden waste.
- Issue with link from consultation document to the questionnaire.
- Nowhere on the form to provide additional comments.
- No options offered for dog dirt, cat litter, dead birds etc. How can they be disposed of? These need to be collected fortnightly, otherwise smell.
- Concerned about impact on those receiving assisted collections. Would like garden waste kerbside collection.
- Issue with link in consultation document.
- Issues with cardboard getting stuck in the blue recycling bin.

Council employees through Yammer (1 comment):

- Incentives for using cloth nappies should be provided by the Council, e.g. vouchers. Good support network in place through National Childcare Trust and Facebook support groups.



From mountain to sea

Appendix 4 – Responses from Bennachie Community Council and
Portsoy and District Community Council

Bennachie Community Council (BCC) Response to the Proposed Closure of Insch Household Waste Recycling Centre

The environment is the No 1 issue that affects us all. Aberdeenshire Council has produced a new Waste Management strategy with the intention to increase recycling and decrease costs. While the overall objectives cannot be faulted, BCC requests that the proposed implementation is revisited.

The online public consultation, which closed on 28 September 2018 focused on strategic aspects of the proposed policy. Other than kerbside collections, there was no opportunity to comment on the local impact of proposed changes, specifically, for example, the closure of local Household Waste facilities. The online consultation did not give the opportunity for people to comment effectively on the proposed Waste Management Strategy.

Of equal concern is that the Garioch Area Committee (GAC) made final comment on the new Waste Management Strategy on 18 September 2018, 10 days prior to the conclusion of the online public consultation. The Scottish Government preaches Local Empowerment and tells us Democracy Matters yet the actions of Aberdeenshire Council are not consistent with this.

The proposed Aberdeenshire Waste Management Strategy recommends the closure of Insch Household Waste Recycling Centre [HWRC]. Insch is located within the Aberdeen to Inverness Strategic Transport Corridor (Scottish Government), and the Aberdeen to Huntly Strategic Growth Area (Aberdeen City and Shire Strategic Development Plan). Insch HWRC services a large area with an expanding population. BCC had been informed that a new recycling centre was planned for Insch, with monies set aside and land allocation in Insch. This is supported by the Aberdeenshire Local Development Plan 2022 Main Issues Report which states on Page 74 with reference to Insch *"A site for a new household waste and recycling centre is required. The Council is in the process of identifying a site suitable for a new centre."*

Residents of Insch are shocked to hear of the potential closure of the HWRC and angry at the lack of consultation/publicity around what many consider to be a "fait accompli".

For the following reasons, the Insch HWRC must remain open: supporting data is included in Appendix 1:

1. **Local Opinion** - In preparation for its response to Aberdeenshire Council BCC has canvassed local opinion and **99.42% of respondents object to the closure of this facility** (1).
2. **Closure Will Reduce Recycling** - The Household Waste Recycling Centre Guide in 2012 (updated 2016) published by the Waste and Resources Action Programme (WRAP) is "A guide for local authorities on managing efficient and effective household waste and recycling centre services. " This document recommends that HWRCs should have ***"Maximum catchment radii for a large proportion of the population" of 3 to 5 miles in urban areas and 7 miles in "very rural areas"***. It also demonstrates evidence for a statistically significant relationship between HWRC provision and recycling rates, stating (page 14): ***"...areas with lower HWRC provision, are associated with lower HWRC recycling rates"*** (2).

Bennachie Community Council (BCC) Response to the Proposed Closure of Insch Household Waste Recycling Centre

3. **Closure Will Increase Carbon Emissions** – Objective 6 of the proposed Waste Management Strategy concerns reducing carbon emissions, however, this only applies to waste emissions within the waste operation. No account has been taken of the additional carbon emissions that will be produced as a result of the proposed changes. BCC believes that the strategy will cause a substantial increase in emissions simply because of the number of car journeys that will be required to transport the waste carried by a lorry in a single skip (3).
4. **Other Sites Are Not Within 10 Miles** - One of the criteria for closure of the smaller sites is that they should be “*within 10 miles or 20 minutes car travel from another Household Waste Recycling Centre*”. Using the Google maps search tool it is possible to obtain distance and estimated time for journeys between two postcodes. Realistic possible routes have been tabulated and all realistic routes exceed 10 miles distance. Times calculated are for average traffic and good road conditions. These would regularly be exceeded by drivers encountering traffic, farm vehicles, heavy rain, fog, ice and/or snow (4).
5. **Fly Tipping Will Increase** – Many of the people attending the information event in the Bennachie Leisure Centre, particularly local farmers, said closure of Insch HWRC would cause an upsurge in fly tipping. A recent report by Zero Waste Scotland (ZWS) supports this view (5).
6. **The Strategy Supports Discrimination** - This strategy discriminates against those living in rural areas and particularly targets the poor, the elderly and anyone who does not own their own car. It is a further erosion of basic local services for which everyone pays Council Tax.
7. **Is Not Good for The Planet** – When we are fighting for the future of the planet anything that may discourage recycling and increase carbon emissions is the wrong thing to do. It sends out the wrong message!

Denying the people of Insch and surrounding areas a waste management centre and expecting them to travel over 10 miles to recycle waste will not contribute to the step change required to bring about a more sustainable future. The closure of Insch HWRC will divert waste to Inverurie and Huntly. There is no evidence provided that Inverurie or Huntly can accommodate this additional waste. Furthermore, queues of traffic trying to enter Inverurie Recycling Centre are already posing a threat to health and safety. The cost of making road access safe and expanding the Inverurie facility will far exceed the current operational costs of Insch HWRC.

Bennachie Community Council calls on Aberdeenshire Council to:

- ✓ Listen to and have meaningful engagement with the local community; work together to deliver sustainable solutions to the challenges of waste management;
- ✓ “make it easy” for everyone to play their part in managing their waste.
- ✓ **Retain the Insch Household Waste Recycling Centre.**

Bennachie Community Council (BCC) Response to the Proposed Closure of Insch Household Waste Recycling Centre

Appendix 1 – Supporting Data

(1) Local Opinion

Aberdeenshire Council conducted an information session was held at the Bennachie Leisure Centre on Monday 1 October 2018 between 4-8pm. Bennachie Community Council conducted an Exit Poll to understand the views of residents following the Information Session. **98.5% opposed the closure.**

Recurring themes in verbal comments were:

- that the event had been poorly publicised;
- closure would lead to an increase in fly tipping; and
- it would reduce the amount of recycling due to the need to travel to Inverurie, Huntly or Alford to dispose of waste.

Following the event wider canvassing took place. This data combined with the earlier Exit Poll data shows that **99.42% of respondents object to the closure.**

(2) Closure Will Reduce Recycling

The Waste and Resources Action Programme (WRAP) is a highly respected registered charity and business that works with governments, local government, businesses and communities to “deliver practical solutions to improve resource efficiency”.

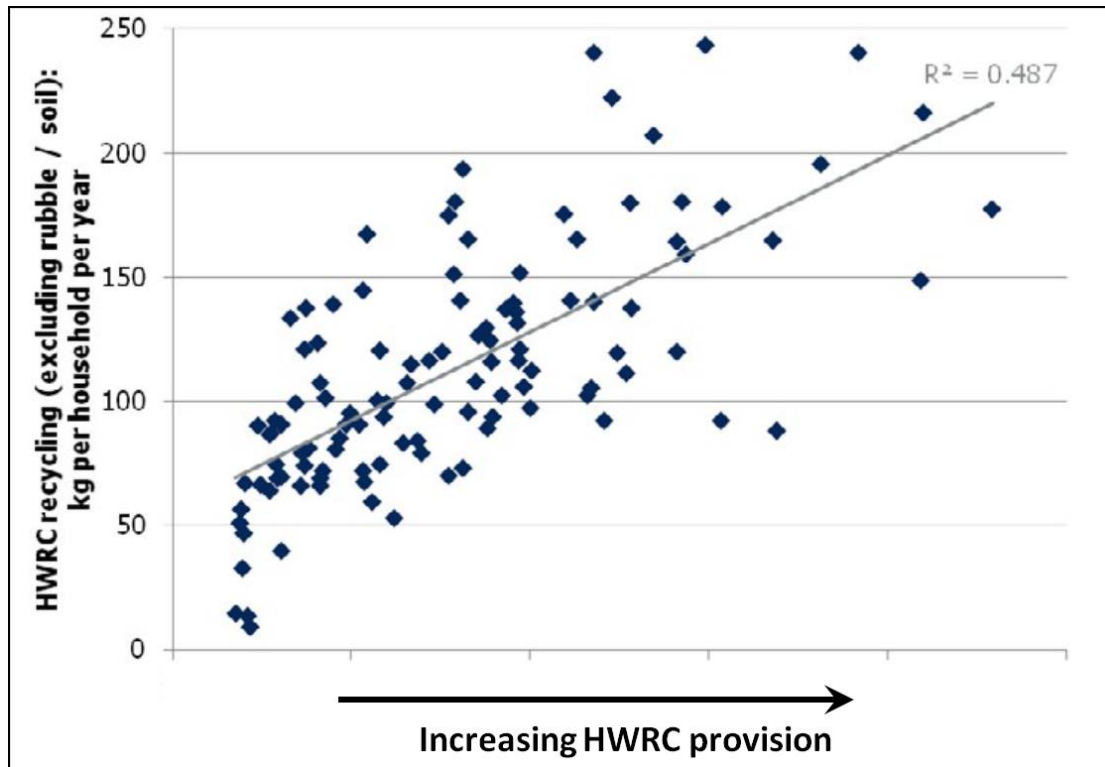
WRAP has carried out extensive research into waste disposal and recycling, and published the Household Waste Recycling Centre Guide in 2012 (updated 2016). This document, described as “A guide for local authorities on managing efficient and effective household waste and recycling centre services” recommends that HWRCs should have “*Maximum catchment radii for a large proportion of the population of 3 to 5 miles in urban areas and 7 miles in “very rural areas”.*

It also contains evidence for a statistically significant relationship between HWRC provision and recycling rates, stating (page 14): “*...areas with lower HWRC provision, are associated with lower HWRC recycling rates”.*

The relationship between recycling rate (kg/household) and HWRC provision is shown in the chart on the following page (page 15 of the guide).

Bennachie Community Council (BCC) Response to the Proposed Closure of Insch Household Waste Recycling Centre

(2) Closure Will Reduce Recycling (Cont'd)



(3) Closure Will Increase Carbon Emissions

Objective 6 of the proposed Waste Management Strategy is:

“We will ensure the services we provide are resource efficient in terms of the vehicles and fuel we use, and the reuse, recycling and recovery options we procure to reduce carbon emissions.”

However, Council officers present at the BLC event stated that this objective applies only to carbon emissions within the waste operation, i.e. from waste collection vehicles delivering and collecting skips to/from the HWRC. This means that additional journeys made to transport waste by car to Inverurie, Huntly or Alford are not taken into account.

BCC believes the changes must cause a substantial increase in emissions simply because of the number of car journeys that would be required to transport the waste carried by a lorry in a single skip.

Bennachie Community Council (BCC) Response to the Proposed Closure of Insch Household Waste Recycling Centre

(4) Other Sites Are Not Within 10 Miles

One of the criteria for closure of the smaller sites is that they should be “*within 10 miles or 20 minutes car travel from another Household Waste Recycling Centre*”.

Using the Google maps search tool it is possible to obtain distance and estimated time for journeys between two postcodes. Different options may also be checked, e.g. AB52 6LA (Insch HWRC) to AB54 8SX (Huntly HWRC) via either Denwell Road and the A96 or Western Road, Gartly Moor forest and the A96. See table below for results using realistic possible routes.

Journey from Insch AB52 6LA to...	Routes	Route details (via)	Miles	Minutes
Alford AB33 8BZ	2	Montgarrie	11.0	20.0
		Whitehouse	12.2	20.0
Huntly AB54 8SX	2	Denwell Road & A96	14.2	18.0
		Gartly Moor & A96	12.2	19.0
Inverurie AB51 0TP	2	Denwell Road & A96	12.8	19.0
		Oyne & A96	11.7	20.0

All possible realistic routes exceed 10 miles distance. Times are for average traffic and good road conditions. They could regularly be exceeded by drivers encountering commuter traffic, farm vehicles, heavy rain, fog, ice and snow.

(5) Fly Tipping Will Increase

The ZWS report ‘*Evidence Review of Flytipping Behaviour*’ (2017) summarises the findings of several investigations and research projects into all aspects of the problem. On the relationship between fly tipping and local waste services, the report states:

“Local waste service provisions directly impact household’s and small businesses’ convenience to dispose of their waste and the cost related to it. It is generally accepted that where the local waste services in place impose a barrier to ease of access or affordability this might motivate flytipping. Examples of such barriers include:

- *A low number of household waste recycling centres in a local authority*
- *A long distance to the nearest household waste recycling centre*
- *A lack of transport options to reach the household waste recycling centre (e.g. where access necessitates car ownership)*
- *Inconvenient opening hours of household waste recycling centres.”*

Bennachie Community Council (BCC) Response to the Proposed Closure of Insch Household Waste Recycling Centre

The report also refers to a 2016 survey by Keep Britain Tidy, which found:

“53% of local authorities who said fly-tipping was a major problem think that changes – including the increase of bulky waste charges and closing recycling centres - have contributed to the problem”

Bennachie Community Council

11 October 2018

Portsoy Recycling Centre - *Key Findings*

Criteria: Portsoy recycling centre does not meet the criteria for closure

- Portsoy has plenty of space to extend its recycling facilities
- Portsoy site is NOT within 10 miles of another recycling centre
- There is no correlation between site size and recycling rate



Impact: What will the impact of closing Portsoy recycling centre be?

- Closing Portsoy will release 117 tonnes of CO² per year
- Transporting waste to Macduff would cost residents £100,000 per year
- Greater impact of flytipping as Portsoy is a tourist site
- Loss of a local job and reason for outlying community to visit Portsoy



Alternatives: What other actions could the council and community take?

- Signpost the recycling centre
- Increase opening hours
- Engage the community to encourage recycling in Portsoy



Retain the Portsoy Recycling Centre

A Report from Portsoy & District Community Council



Picture: Google Maps

Introduction

The Aberdeenshire Council Draft Waste Strategy 2019-2023 includes a proposal to close the popular and well used recycling centre in Portsoy. At short notice, the community of Portsoy have asked the Portsoy and District Community Council to intervene on their behalf and ask that the recycling centre be retained.

This report shows that the criteria set by the strategy on which recycling centres are set to close are not met in the case of the Portsoy centre and so it should remain open. We also highlight the increase in CO₂ emissions which will occur as a result of this policy, our concerns over the way the consultation has been handled, and various other aspects raised by the community.

Report Criteria

The strategy seeks to close Recycling Centres which meet the following criteria:

1. only have space for limited recycling facilities,
2. handle less than 1,000 tonnes of waste per year, and
3. are within 10 miles or 20 minutes car travel from another Household Waste Recycling Centre.

We contend that the Portsoy centre does not meet criteria 1 & 3 and that criteria 2 is invalid.

1. Portsoy DOES have space for extending its recycling facilities - The details on the Aberdeenshire council website advertising which materials can be recycled at the portsoy site is incorrect. The website states that the site recycles *glass, mixed recycling, cardboard, textiles, garden waste, household batteries, lead acid batteries, electrical appliances (apart from gas discharge lamps), pressurised containers, hardcore and rubble, tyres*. However, in addition to this it also recycles *scrap metal, wood and paper*. This means that the only additional items that can be recycled in Macduff are: *engine oil, gas discharge lamps, and cooking oil* (it also has a furniture and household goods re-use section but this is specialist and only available at 5 sites in Aberdeenshire). This casts doubt on the validity of stating that Portsoy currently has limited recycling facilities.



The site at Portsoy has plenty space to expand

Picture: Google Maps

If space is the issue that is stopping the Portsoy site expanding, then as tyre recycling and commercial waste are to be diverted from recycling centres this would free up space for engine oil, gas discharge lamps, and cooking oil. This would mean Portsoy would have a similar level of recycling facilities as Macduff.

To accommodate additional types of recyclable material there is plenty space owned by the Council round the Portsoy site if a physical expansion was required. This has been accepted by officials of Aberdeenshire Council.

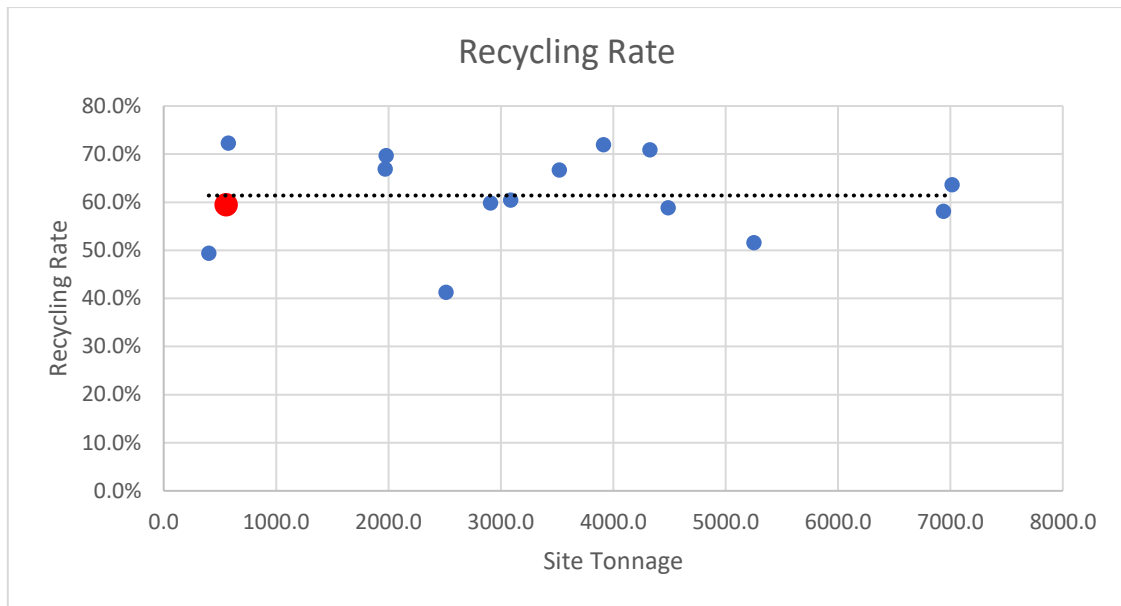
It has been stated that there is no funding to enlarge the facilities in Portsoy. However, the report states that there is the intention to *"Improve the infrastructure and layout of Household Waste Recycling Centres gradually by applying funding from the Capital Plan"*. It seems perverse that the Portsoy site will be closed because it MAY need to be improved in the future when the report accepts that ALL centres will be improved in the future anyway. Indeed, it obviously could be improved to give a similar service to other small centres in Aberdeenshire as they are gradually improved.

2. Portsoy only handles less than 1,000 tonnes of waste per year - There is no explanation why having only large recycling centres is a desirable outcome in the strategy. It is not part of the Scottish Household Recycling Charter which underpins this strategy.

The implication of this approach is that larger sites are able to recycle higher rates of waste - but this is not proven by the available evidence.

The figures for recycling rates and site tonnage in the Aberdeenshire Recycling Centres for 2017 are shown over the page (Hatton, Whitehills and Gardenstown are removed as they are waste sites rather than recycling sites) the other recycling sites are in blue with Portsoy in red.

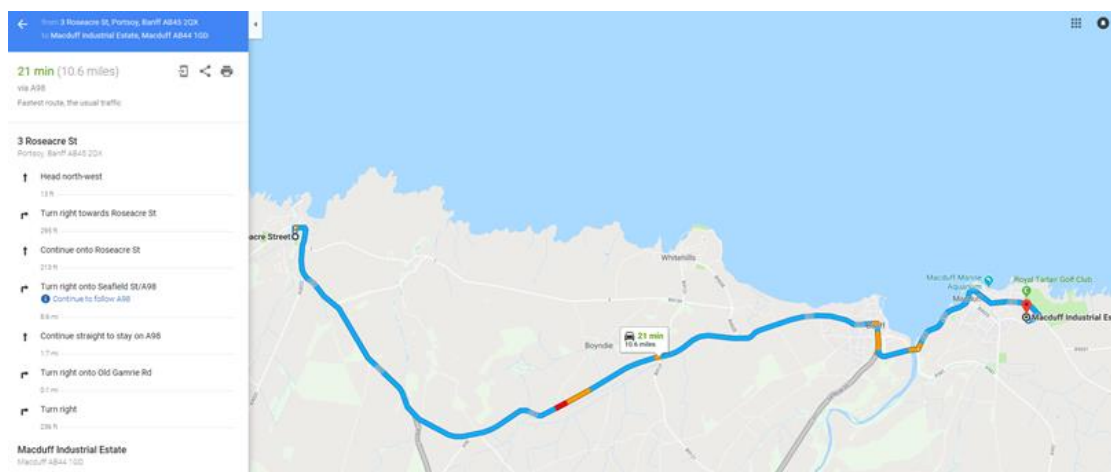
The current recycling rate for Portsoy is 59.5%. This figure includes cardboard (this is missing from other Aberdeenshire figures of Portsoy) but along with other recycling centres the figure does not include the glass, paper, tin, plastic or clothes left at the centre for recycling.



Data Source: Aberdeenshire Council

As can be seen Portsoy is not the lowest in tonnage or recycling rate. But what is more interesting is that the trend line (dashed) shows there is no correlation between site size and recycling rate. If there had been a correlation then you would expect the data points to be scattered round a trend line going from bottom left (low tonnage & low recycling rate) to top right (high tonnage & high recycling rate). The lack of any positive correlation means there is no proof that larger sites will recycle a higher %age of goods or that smaller sites will recycle a lower %age of goods. So you do not get any more 'bangs for your bucks' by putting limited finances in larger sites. As Portsoy remains in the ballpark figure of current recycling rates the proposal to close it based merely on its size is illogical and will not lead to a higher recycling rate overall.

3. The Portsoy site is NOT within 10 miles or 20 minutes car travel from another Household Waste Recycling Centre - While Portsoy is 9.5 miles by road from Macduff, because the Macduff recycling centre is located at the opposite outskirts of Macduff it is actually 10.6 miles from the Portsoy Recycling Centre - a time of 21 minutes (source Google maps). This criteria also does not consider that the Portsoy centre covers an area further away from Macduff which could mean some residents facing a much larger trip.



Picture: Google Maps

Carbon Emissions and Cost

Objective 6 of the proposed Waste Strategy is to reduce carbon emissions, *"We will ensure the services we provide are resource-efficient in terms of the vehicles we use, the fuel we need and the reuse, recycling and recovery options we procure to reduce carbon emissions."* Closing the site is counter to this and will be a very inefficient use of vehicles. Moving the carbon emissions of transporting the waste from the council trucks and on to many more private citizens cars is not a reduction in carbon emissions. It is morally corrupt for the Council to claim a reduction in carbon emissions as a benefit to the organisation when their actions in fact represent an increase in carbon emissions for Aberdeenshire and its residents. Because although the council appears to be making carbon savings they are actually causing more carbon to be emitted.

Based on current tonnage through the centre, we estimate it would take 18,553 car trips to move 556.6 tonnes of waste to Macduff. As there is a distance of 21.2 miles for the round trip from portsoy tip to Macduff this would be 393,331 miles additional travel per annum for residents. **This would cost residents over £100,000 and mean they are releasing 117.53 tonnes of CO₂ into the atmosphere.**



Closing Portsoy will release
117.53 tonnes
of CO₂ into the atmosphere

Aberdeenshire Council Environmental and Climate Change Policy states that the Council will reduce greenhouse gas emissions by *"working constructively with partners and by ensuring that in reaching properly balanced decisions, the full range of environmental, social, and economic aspects are taken into account over the short and long term."* The decision to close the recycling centre appears contrary to this policy.

Consultation

This strategy is intended to meet Aberdeenshire Councils obligations under the Scottish Household Recycling Charter which states that - "This charter is a clear statement of local government's intent to encourage high-levels of citizen participation in waste prevention, recycling and reuse". We would argue the way this strategy has been developed, and the consultation process as regards waste site closures, is against the very charter that it is supposed to advance.

The first the people of Portsoy heard about this proposal was three weeks prior to the Local Area Committee meeting when an employee of the council came to meet the community council to explain the changes. The consultation started on Mon 3rd September and over 115 residents of Portsoy gathered at a hastily arranged meeting on Wed 5th September to gather in residents' views before the Banff and Buchan Area Committee on Tue 11th September.



Packed community meeting at Portsoy Town Hall *Picture: Portsoy & District Com Cll*

Concern had been expressed that the entire process was a done deal and there was an ulterior motive for the council to sell off the site. This combined with the lack of consultation has led to a feeling that Aberdeenshire Council are not interested in the views or interests of local residents. The consultation appears to be more centred round the 2 options of amending the kerbside collection services.

There has been no attempt to truly consult the community or look at specific issues round the Portsoy recycling centre. We are concerned that the process Aberdeenshire is undertaking to remove a local service is against the spirit if not the letter of the community empowerment act.


5. The same opening hours at all Household Waste Recycling Centres and at times convenient to households to make reuse and recycling as easy and convenient as possible to householders.

Household Waste Recycling Centres will therefore be open seven days a week from 9am until 5pm. During the summer (April-October), the sites will also be open on Tuesday evenings 5-8pm.

The only exceptions are the Household Waste Recycling Centres at Alford and Portlethen which will be open five days a week from Thursday to Monday from 9.30am until 4.30pm. These opening hours will be implemented at Alford once the recycling centre has been extended. 7-day service provision is currently not justified at Alford due to the size of the population served nor at Portlethen due to other 7-day Household Waste Recycling Centres located nearby.

We will continue monitoring the use of recycling centres through visitor numbers, and may amend the above opening hours to better fit with customer and operational demand.

The above measures together as a package provide a cost-neutral basis for improving the network of Household Waste Recycling Centres.



Q8: Do you agree that the package of measures put forward to improve the network of recycling centres will help householders to maximise reuse and recycling of materials that are not collected at the kerbside?

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The question in the consultation is misleading and loaded *Picture: Aberdeenshire Cll Website*

Additional Issues Raised at the Public Meeting and Other Discussions

Impact on Local Businesses

Removal of services has knock on impact to struggling businesses in the town – people coming from outwith Portsoy would go to Buckie or Macduff to drop off their waste and are likely to do shopping there rather than using local businesses if coming in to use the centre in Portsoy. There is concern from local businesses that there may be an increase in flytipping in their trade waste bins.

Increase in Flytipping

There are fears that flytipping will increase with the closure of the recycling centre. This is based on bitter experience from the days before the skip was there and a real concern locally. As Portsoy is a town which is marketing itself as a tourist destination it is vital that it appears clean and waste free. The community council has been successful in getting a grant to start a community litter picking squad and an increase in flytipping will undo the community effort.

A recent report *Evidence Review of Flytipping Behaviour* by Zero Waste Scotland (2017) includes change in amenities as one reason why flytipping occurs and recognises that the effects on tourist attractions are greater than other areas.

Standardisation of Recycling Centres

There is a commitment in the strategy to have universal opening hours for recycling centres but the report admits that Alford and Portlethen will not adopt these same opening hours. This is due to the size of the population and closeness of other recycling services. If 2 of the 13 sites are different then this is not a universal commitment - it recognises the unique circumstances of Alford and Portlethen.

Therefore, there is no reason why the same could not be extended to Portsoy. The standardisation of kerbside collection is called for by the Scottish Household Recycling Charter - NOT standardisation of recycling centres.

Cost

Closing the Portsoy site is described as cost neutral so it stands to reason that retaining it is cost neutral as well.

Use of Waste facilities in Moray

For many communities who use the Portsoy site it will be easier, cheaper and more convenient to take their waste to Buckie in Moray (rather than having to drive through Banff and Macduff town centres). Have Moray Council been consulted on the impact to the services they provide? Will Aberdeenshire Council subsidise Moray Council for this additional expense?

Inconsistencies in the Strategy

Appendix 2 of the strategy contains the survey carried out earlier this year and the results of this do not appear to correspond with the strategy as the survey does not give feedback on closures or how the centres should be run. The questions are about use from which no conclusions can be drawn, and preferred opening times. Surely the closure of sites should have been included in the survey.

Similarly, appendix 3 of the strategy contains results from the Citizens Panel. They did not look at closing recycling centres but wanted more access to services. Indeed, the Panel report asked for the following to be considered:

- Improving access to village collection points, and exploring community garden waste collection and composting.
- Making recycling centres more accessible.

Centre is Well Used

For a town with the population of Portsoy the centre is well used with some people using it weekly if they do not have storage space for their additional recycling. Sometimes the mixed recycling bins are overflowing.

The centre in Macduff sometimes has cars queued out into the street – can it cope with the additional volume of cars?

Community and Social Aspects

The closure of the site will mean another job gone in Portsoy. Aberdeenshire Council should be distributing jobs round the shire, not centralising in larger communities.

The centre has been described as a social hub for the village where people can meet and interact. It is well used for a reason – because Andy goes above and beyond to help the users.

The nursery visits the centre and learns about recycling in an attempt to encourage them to do more.

Constructive Change Required

Aberdeenshire Council should be proactive and increase the hours and size of the centre and work with the community to try to increase the recycling rate at the centre. Volunteers from the community could help encourage recycling and as a location to educate the public in recycling.

The community has recently started a recycling page on Facebook where residents give away or look for things others will be throwing out. This is all in an attempt to reuse rather than dispose of items.

Conclusions

- Portsoy Waste Recycling Centre does not meet the criteria Aberdeenshire Council has set for closure;
- Closure would increase carbon emissions in contravention of Aberdeenshire Climate Change Policy and impose extra expense on residents;
- Impacts on local businesses and fears of fly tipping at a tourism destination have not been taken into consideration;
- The consultation for closing a valued community asset does not meet the Community Empowerment Act and has angered the local community. Instead of closure, Aberdeenshire Council could harness the local strength of feeling by involving the community in encouraging the centres use and educating the wider public about recycling.