

Angus Mitchell: CEC; Technical Coordinator, Place Directorate: 27 April 2023  
Leading the city's recycling ambitions.



## Recap

### 2021 Calendar Year

Recycling rate	38.3%	(Scotland 42.7)
Waste arising	0.39tonnespp	(Scotland 0.45)
Carbon emission	0.94kgCO2e	(Scotland 1.08)

Edinburgh an urban authority, so lower Recycling Rate than Scot-wide average (less 'garden ground')  
But Edinburgh in bottom 2 or 3 for Waste Arisings and bottom 4 or 5 for Carbon Emissions.

## The Perils of Recycling Rates...

- Sweden "90%"
- San Francisco "78%"
- Ljubljana "70%"
- Wales "65%"
- Scotland only captures household waste recycled at the local authority level, and only looks at weight

Headline 'Recycling Rates' are a blunt instrument – often highlighted for 'media purposes' – bases and metrics will differ across different locations and countries – different definitions of 'household waste'.

## What IS household waste?

Glass waste	10%
Paper	9%
Cardboard	5%
Metal	3%
Dense plastic	6%
Plastic films and flexibles	5%
Garden waste	13%
Food wastes	22%
Wood	2%
Electrical and electronic items	1%
Textiles	4%
Absorbent hygiene products	4%
Other	0%
Unclassified	3%

Measured as total kerbside household waste – recyclable and non-recyclable – measured by weight – wide diversity of materials.

## What's in the general waste?

Glass waste	5%
Paper	9%
Cardboard	5%
Metal	5%
Dense plastic	6%
Plastic films and flexibles	8%
Garden waste	2%
Food wastes	27%
Wood	2%
Electrical and electronic items	1%
Textiles	6%
Absorbent hygiene products	6%
Other	13%
Unclassified	4%

General waste – non-recycled – green points to what (probably) could have been recycled, if put in the green bin, 'but wasn't'.

## Capture Rates 1

Material	Category	
Glass waste	Drinks bottles	77%
Glass waste	Other glass packaging	64%
Food wastes	Food and drink (avoidable) - loose	24%
Food wastes	inedible parts of food	45%
Textiles	Clothing	3%
Textiles	Shoes, bags, hats and other textile accessories	6%
Garden waste	Mowing, cutting and pruning garden waste	88%*

Individual recycle rates for each material, at kerbside.

## Capture rates 2

Material	Category	
Paper	Newspaper, magazines and directories	75%
Paper	Other recyclable paper	55%
Paper	Recyclable paper packaging	42%
Cardboard	Thin (Grey) Card Packaging	54%
Cardboard	Thick (Brown) corrugated cardboard packaging	81%
Cardboard	Cartons and other card/plastic laminate packaging	47%
Cardboard	Other card	44%
Metal	Other ferrous packaging	56%
Metal	Aluminium drink cans	43%
Metal	Aluminium packaging	8%
Metal	Aerosols	30%
Dense plastic	HDPE drink bottles	62%
Dense plastic	PET drink bottles	43%
Dense plastic	Other non-drinks plastic bottles	40%
Dense plastic	Pots, tubs and trays	32%

% recyclable materials captured in green bin against all recyclable materials collected.  
Metals and plastics generally disappointing.

## Recycling is easy!

- Contamination and confusion- labelling
- Clean paper and card (shredded paper? Pizza boxes?)
- Clean plastic bottles, pots, tubs and trays
- Clean metal cans, tins, EMPTY aerosols and foil
- Clean “tetrapaks”
- **NOTHING ELSE**
- Don’t worry about lids and labels and keep it loose- generally!

Easy guidelines – but big warning: Don’t put batteries in the bin – remove from (old) appliances and take to a retail collection unit.

## Where does it all go?

Mixed recycling	Biffa, Broxburn	23,000 te
Glass	Sibelco, Lanarkshire	12,000 te
Food	Biogen, Millerhill	10,000 te
Garden waste	FRM, East Craigs	21,000 te
Electricals	REPIC, Perth	1,200 te
Non-recyclable	FCC, Millerhill	100,000 te

## What's Next and What are the Challenges?

- DRS (Deposit Return Scheme drinks containers in Scotland)
- EPR (Extended Producer Responsibility) for packaging (UK wide- plastic films)
- Circular Economy Bill (Scotland)
- Retail takeback (electricals, batteries, etc)
- Markets and budgets



## Thank you

- Useful contacts
  - Initial contacts
  - [www.edinburgh.gov.uk](http://www.edinburgh.gov.uk)
  - [waste@edinburgh.gov.uk](mailto:waste@edinburgh.gov.uk)
  - [streetsenforcement@edinburgh.gov.uk](mailto:streetsenforcement@edinburgh.gov.uk)
  - 0131 608 1100
- Escalation and complaints
  - [customer.care@edinburgh.gov.uk](mailto:customer.care@edinburgh.gov.uk)
  - 0131 200 2300



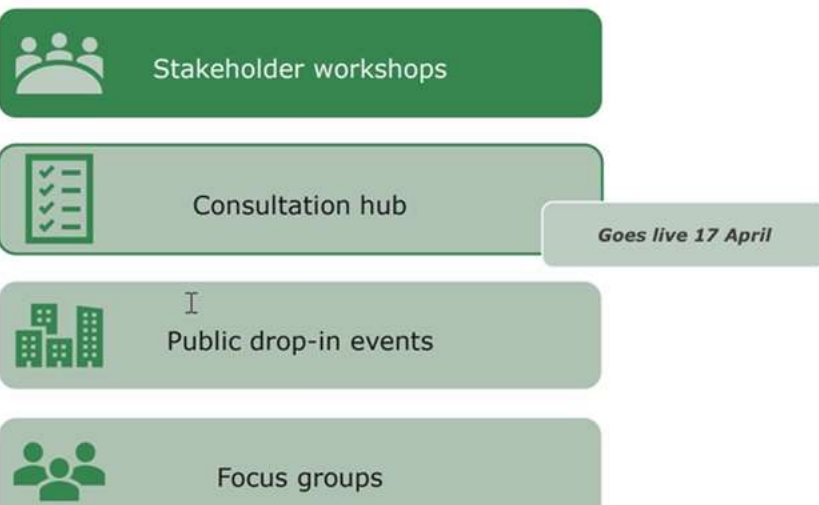
## Introduction



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## Consultation Process



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## Purpose of this is discussion

The challenges of limited street space



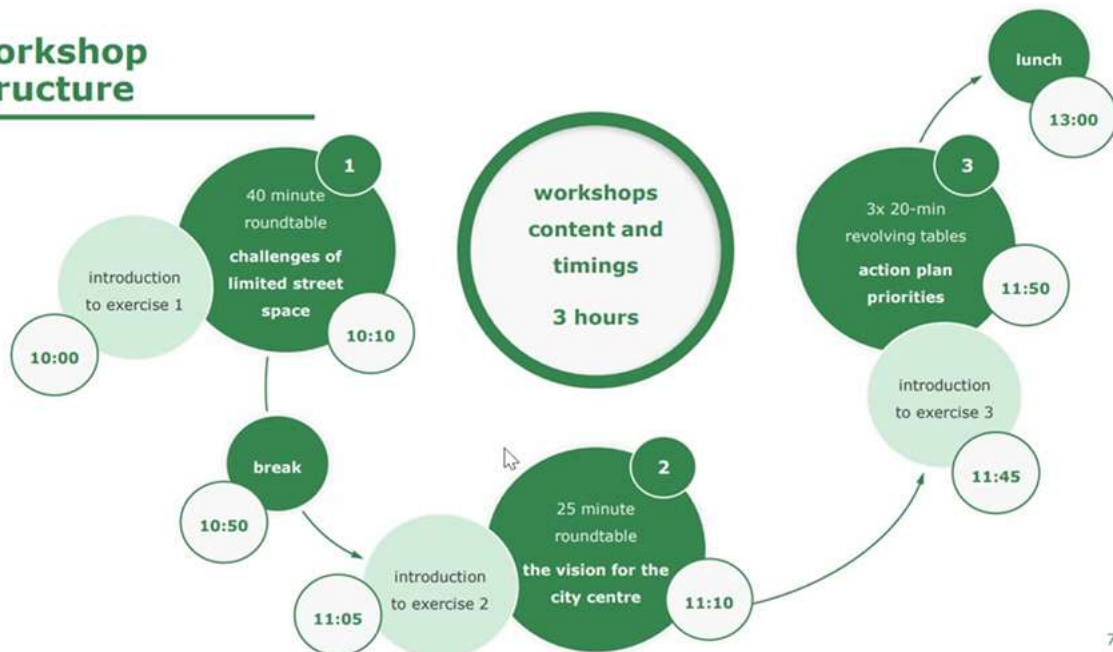
The vision for the city centre



Action plan priorities

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## Workshop Structure



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## The vision for the city centre

Where do you think the future priorities should be in transforming the city centre?

Should we be looking at additional streets or more transformational change?



Should we focus on wider operational change including future loading and servicing and public transport provision?