



21 November 2023

Convener Edward Mountain MSP

Letter to the Net Zero, Energy and Transport Committee

Dear Mr Mountain,

Thank you for the opportunity to give evidence to the Net Zero, Energy and Transport Committee on 14th November to discuss the Circular Economy Bill. On behalf of Circular Communities Scotland and our members we were grateful for the opportunity to share how we felt the Bill could be strengthened and improved.

Textiles

I mentioned in my evidence that textiles were a problematic material and offered to provide a backup link for this. According to the IPCC, the [clothing sector accounts for 10% of global greenhouse gas emissions](#).

Additional Improvements to Bill

Towards the end of the evidence session, the Convener asked if there was anything else we felt would be helpful for the Committee to consider as part of their scrutiny (12:04 timestamp).

You will note from my evidence to the committee that currently this bill is largely a waste, recycling, and litter bill. From my evidence you will already have noted that we would like to see more action at the top of the waste hierarchy particular around **Reuse, Repair and Sharing Behaviours**.

As well as putting the **Code of Practice for Recycling** on a statutory footing, we would like to see this expanded to include prioritising reuse over recycling, standardised reuse facilities across local authority facilities, prioritising partnerships with charities/social enterprises and renaming the Code of Practice for Recycling *and Reuse*.

Whilst it may not be a matter for primary legislation, we see an **urgent need for investment** at the top of the waste hierarchy for example Repair Vouchers ([see similar initiative in Austria](#) and France), prioritisation of charities and social enterprises in waste contracts ([see Spain](#)), circular procurement and reuse credits ([for further information](#)). These initiatives could all be funded out of **Extended Producer Responsibility fees**.

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Marine Waste

In addition, the Deputy Convener asked if we had any further information in relation to waste at sea particularly the issue of plastic pollution and nurdles (12:03). Alas this is not our area of expertise and I wonder whether evidence should be sought from the Marine Conservation Society UK.

As I said at the start of my evidence, we strongly support the Circular Economy Bill. If we can be of any further assistance as the Bill progresses through Parliament please do not hesitate to be in touch.

Kind Regards

Michael Cook
CEO, Circular Communities Scotland