



Llywodraeth Cymru  
Welsh Government



# Beyond Recycling

A strategy to make the circular economy in  
Wales a reality: **Easy Read version**

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**This document was made by the Welsh Government.**

**For more information go to:**

**Websites:**

[gov.wales/circular-economy-strategy](https://gov.wales/circular-economy-strategy)

[myrecyclingwales.org.uk](https://myrecyclingwales.org.uk)

[Walesrecycles.org.uk](https://Walesrecycles.org.uk)

**Twitter: @WalesRecycles**

Mae'r ddogfen yma hefyd ar gael yn Gymraeg / This document is also available in Welsh

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<https://www.photosymbols.com/>

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# Why we are taking action



All over the world people buy things like food, clothes, furniture and mobile phones.

After we have used these items, we often throw them away.

Making these things uses energy and materials.



To get energy, we often need to burn coal, oil or gas, this makes carbon dioxide.

Carbon dioxide is a gas which heats up the Earth.

As the Earth gets warmer, more storms and floods are happening.



This is called climate change.

Using new materials, like wood or stone, can also damage forests and mountains where animals live and plants grow.

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# What is a Circular Economy?

Instead of throwing our things away, we could:

**REUSE  
REPAIR  
RECYCLE**

- Give them to somebody else. This is known as re-use.
- Fix them. This is known as repair.
- Take them apart to make something new. This is known as recycling.

This way we keep materials in use and avoid wasting things.

This is called a Circular Economy.

In Wales, we want to take action now so by 2050 we will:

**ZERO  
WASTE**



1. Re-use, repair or recycle everything. This is called 'zero waste'.
2. Think carefully about the materials we use.
3. Reduce how much carbon dioxide we put in the air.



Across Wales we have worked hard to recycle more.

Twenty years ago, we did not recycle much. Today, we recycle almost two-thirds of our waste.

This means Wales is first in the UK, second in Europe and third in the world when it comes to recycling.



We have now got more recycling bins, lorries, sorting machines and factories helping us to recycle.

## What actions can we take?

We will all need to continue to work together to develop a circular economy.

These are some of the things the Welsh Government is going to do:



- Help communities to share items we don't use every day, like tools.
- Support businesses and charities which work to reduce waste, such as a refill shop.



- Buy things which have been made from recycled materials.
- Support businesses to use more recycled material when they make things we need, like desks.
- Support the design of products which are more easily repaired and recycled.
- Work with people and businesses to encourage the re-use of things, like furniture.
- Ask people to think carefully about the food they buy and waste less.
- Make new rules so materials which can be recycled are collected from all buildings in Wales, like shops and schools.
- Support people to recycle as much as we can and not litter.
- Recycle more things like mattresses and carpets.
- Use electric lorries to collect waste which do not put carbon dioxide in the air.
- Give the people of Wales more information about recycling to help us all recycle more.

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## What happens next?

**REUSE  
REPAIR  
RECYCLE**



We want Wales to become a country where we think about the materials we use and where we re-use, repair and recycle much more.

We have spoken to lots of people across Wales about this and have listened to their ideas.

We will share with you how we are doing. You can find more information on our website or you can email us:

[Beyondrecycling@gov.wales](mailto:Beyondrecycling@gov.wales)

[www.wales.gov.uk/circulareconomy](http://www.wales.gov.uk/circulareconomy)