

**Minutes of Meeting of Environment Committee of Mid Ulster District Council
held on Tuesday 10 September 2024 in Council Offices, Burn Road, Cookstown**

Members Present	Councillor McAleer, Chair Councillors J Buchanan, Cahoon, Cuthbertson, Johnston, Kelly, Groogan, Martin, McGuigan, McElvogue, McNamee, Milne, Mullin, Robinson, Varsani
Officers in Attendance	Mrs Campbell, Strategic Director of Environment (SD: Env) Mr Conlon, Head of Technical Services (HoTS) Mr Fox, Building Control Development Manager (BCDM) Ms Linney, Assistant Director of Development (AD: Dev) Mr McAdoo, Assistant Director of Environmental Services (AD: ES) Mr Scullion, Assistant Director of Property Services (AD: PS) Miss Thompson, Committee and Member Services Officer
Others in Attendance	Deputation – Keep Recycling Local Ms Carruthers

The meeting commenced at 7.00 pm.

The Chair, Councillor McAleer welcomed everyone to the meeting and those watching the meeting through the Live Broadcast. Councillor McAleer in introducing the meeting detailed the operational arrangements for transacting the business of the committee by referring to Annex A to this minute.

E175/24 Notice of Recording

Members noted that the meeting would be webcast for live and subsequent broadcast on the Council's You Tube site.

E176/24 Apologies

Councillor J Burton.

E177/24 Declarations of Interest

The Chair reminded Members of their responsibility with regard to declarations of interest.

E178/24 Chair's Business

The Chair, Councillor McAleer welcomed Councillor Mullin to her first environment meeting.

E179/24 Deputation – Keep Recycling Local

The Chair, Councillor McAleer welcomed Ms Carruthers to the meeting and invited her to make her presentation.

Ms Carruthers thanked Members for the opportunity to speak to them tonight in relation to the way recyclables are collected in Northern Ireland (appendix 1). Ms Carruthers stated that she was not a technical expert but a spokesperson for the Keep Recycling Local Campaign established by businesses and other organisations. Ms Carruthers highlighted in the presentation the benefits of separating recycling materials before collection instead of co-mingled collection as this helps to ensure recyclable materials collected in Northern Ireland can be reprocessed in Northern Ireland.

Councillor Cuthbertson stated that Mid Ulster Council has led the way in terms of recycling and that he believed the three bin system used is easy to understand and has proven to be working. The Councillor felt that the introduction of more bins to separate materials could become more onerous for the public with the result that recycling levels could decrease. Councillor Cuthbertson stated that, in relation to collecting glass separately, Council could investigate siting more bottle banks throughout the District again as these had been scaled back due to glass being collected in the blue bin.

Ms Carruthers stated she took on board the comments in relation to Mid Ulster's recycling rates and agreed that a number of other Councils have also scaled back on bottle banks. Ms Carruthers stated that additional bins is just one way for separating materials but that there are others such as separators in a bin. Ms Carruthers highlighted that the evidence from Wales shows that if people understand what it required from them they will do it.

Councillor McGuigan referred to Community Wealthbuilding which has been adopted by Council and that separating materials before collection is something that could be looked at in terms of a test and learn project in which a separate collection could be introduced in a small area to see what the results are.

The Chair, Councillor McAleer thanked Ms Carruthers for the presentation.

Ms Carruthers stated that if any Councillor is interested in visiting Enva or Encirc then this could be arranged as it can help understanding as to why materials should be collected separately.

Ms Carruthers left the meeting at 7.20 pm.

Matters for Decision

E180/24 DfI Roads Proposal to Mid Ulster District Council – Disabled Persons Parking Bay at Clare Terrace on Beechway, Dungannon

Members considered previously circulated report which sought agreement in relation to proposal from DfI Roads to introduce a Disabled Persons Parking Bay at Clare Terrace on Beechway, Dungannon.

Proposed by Councillor Cuthbertson
Seconded by Councillor Varsani and

Resolved That it be recommended to Council to endorse the proposal submitted by Department for Infrastructure Roads in relation to proposal to introduce a Disabled Persons Parking Bay at Clare Terrace on Beechway, Dungannon.

E181/24 Bus Shelters Update

The Head of Technical Services (HoTS) presented previously circulated report which provided update on current bus shelter status.

Councillor Milne asked if there was an update in relation to installation of bus shelter at McErlean Villas, Bellaghy.

The HoTS advised that this has been passed to Property Services for installation and he would seek update. The HoTS stated he would also seek update from manufacturer in relation to delay in delivering bus shelters.

Proposed by Councillor Robinson
Seconded by Councillor McGuigan and

Resolved That it be recommended to Council -

- That bus shelter applications listed under 3.7 of report be recommended for approval to installation this month: 1NR
3.7.1 – Findermore Road, Clogher
- That bus shelter applications listed under 3.8 of report be recommended for rejection this month: 2NR
3.8.1 – Coagh Road, Stewartstown
3.8.2 - Dungannon, Cloverhill, Moy
- That bus shelter applications listed under 3.9 of report be recommended for withdrawal this month: 2NR
3.9.1 – Crew Road / Cloneen Manor, Maghera
3.9.2 - Moore Street, Aughnacloy

Matters for Information

E182/24 Environment Committee minutes of meeting held on 8 July 2024

Members noted minutes of Environment Committee held on 8 July 2024.

E183/24 Building Control Workload

Members noted previously circulated report which provided update on the workload analysis for Building Control.

E184/24 Entertainment Licensing Applications

Members noted previously circulated report which provided update on Entertainment Licensing Applications across the Mid Ulster District.

E185/24 Dual Language Signage Surveys

Members noted previously circulated report which advised of the result of surveys undertaken on all applicable residents on the streets/roads in response to Dual Language Signage Nameplate requests.

E186/24 Dual Language Signage Requests

Members noted previously circulated report which advised of requests for Dual Language Signage from residents on the streets/roads in question.

E187/24 NI Audit Report on Review of Waste Management

Members noted previously circulated report which outlined the NI Audit Office Review of Waste Management.

E188/24 Eco- Schools Programme 30th Anniversary Awards

Members noted previously circulated report which provided update on the Eco-Schools Programme 30th Anniversary Awards.

E189/24 Green Flag Awards 2024/25

Members noted previously circulated report which outlined successful entries at the KNIB Green Flag Awards 2024/25.

E190/24 Northern Ireland Local Authority Collected Municipal Waste Management (LACMW) Report for January to March 2024

Members noted previously circulated report which provided update on Council's performance in relation to recycling and landfill diversion targets as outlined in the NIEA Northern Ireland Local Authority Waste Management Statistics Report for Quarter 4 of 2023/24 from January to March 2024.

Live broadcast ended at 7.23 pm.

Local Government (NI) Act 2014 - Confidential Business

Proposed by Councillor McNamee
Seconded by Councillor Groogan and

Resolved In accordance with Section 42, Part 1 of Schedule 6 of the Local Government Act (NI) 2014 that Members of the public be asked to withdraw from the meeting whilst Members consider items E191/24 to E200/24.

Matters for Decision

- E191/24 Dual Language Nameplate Survey Report
- E192/24 Tender report for the appointment of Vehicle Suppliers
- E193/24 Extension of 3rd Party Contracts
- E194/24 Capital Projects – Small Settlements – Claudy / Castledawson
- E195/24 Contracts for Waste Related Services

Matters for Information

- E196/24 Environment Committee Confidential Minutes of meeting held on 8 July 2024
- E197/24 Bonfires on Council Land
- E198/24 Maghera Regeneration Programme Update
- E199/24 Capital Framework – ICT Contracts Update
- E200/24 Capital Framework – IST Contracts Update

E201/24 Duration of Meeting

The meeting was called for 7.00 pm and ended at 7.55 pm.

CHAIR _____

DATE _____

Annex A – Introductory Remarks from the Chairperson

Good evening and welcome to the Council's [Policy & Resources/Environment/Development] Committee in the Chamber, [Cookstown/Dungannon/Magherafelt].

I specifically welcome the public watching us through the Live Broadcast. The Live Broadcast as aforesaid, will run for the period of our Open Business but will end just before we move into Confidential Business. I will let you know before this happens.

I would remind the public and press that taking photographs of proceedings or using any means to enable anyone not present to see or hear proceedings, or making a simultaneous oral report of the proceedings are not permitted.

Thank you and we will now move to the agenda.



Keep Recycling Local

Nicola Carruthers
Spokesperson, KRL

Keep Recycling Local - Who We Are

- Campaign established by businesses and other organisations

OUR AIM

- To see positive changes in the way recyclables are collected
- To ensure recyclable materials collected in Northern Ireland are reprocessed in Northern Ireland

WHY?

- To aid Northern Ireland's circular economy – local businesses and jobs
- To benefit the environment

HOW?

- Separate our recycling materials before collection
 - Avoids contamination
 - Maximises reprocessing with Northern Ireland





The Problem....

- Co-mingled recycling collections
 - Currently carried out by the majority of Northern Ireland's councils
- This means that, each year in Northern Ireland
 - We export over 91,000 tonnes of recyclables around the globe
 - Local companies have to import “clean” recyclables
- Massive cost to business, NI economy & the environment

Recycling locally generates over

£100m

for the NI economy

Policy Context in NI

- Recycling is a key council service
- Waste management accounts for 4% of current emissions (excluding transportation)
- Climate Change (NI) Act 2022 –
 - Net zero target by 2050 (47% reduction by 2030)
 - 70% waste to be recycled by 2030
 - DAERA consulting on first Carbon Budget
- DfE's draft Circular Economy Strategy (January 2023) and report on consultation (August 2023)
 - *"The case for a circular economy is already made"*
 - NI needs *"interim targets, action plans and greater ambition"*
 - Consultation *"overwhelmingly"* supportive of the commitment to transition to a Circular Economy
- DEFRA's EPR programme (*"producer pays"* – using recyclables reduces costs)

Policy Context in NI (cont.)

- KRL welcomed DAERA's recent consultation on a single waste strategy for Northern Ireland
 - To improve overall recycling quantity and quality
 - Set and review core dry recycling materials for domestic and non-domestic collections
 - Ensure maximum value is extracted from the materials
 - Ensure materials are kept in use for as long as possible
 - Clear link with DfE's draft Circular Economy Strategy
- Northern Ireland Audit Office Waste Management Report July 2024
 - NI sent 1.29 million tonnes of waste to landfill in 2022-23
 - Energy from waste is still carbon intensive – NI must prioritise re-use and recycling
 - Exporting waste for processing represents a loss of revenue for NI
 - Alternative options to exporting waste must be examined (Recommendation 4)
 - A single centralised approach to waste management might allow for innovative solutions that might be economically viable to pursue (Recommendation 7)

The Three Step Solution

1. Collect key materials separately
2. Change key legislation to incentivize local reprocessing over export
3. Make information on end destinations of recycling more publicly available



This Would Mean -

- Over 80% of our recyclable materials could be recycled locally vs the current 10% from co-mingled collections
- Significant savings for NI councils – better quality recyclate
- Significantly support local businesses and provide secure jobs
- Lower carbon emissions
- Stop the global export of poorly sorted recyclables

Virtually *none* of the glass collected in co-mingled bins is recycled locally

Recycling Rates

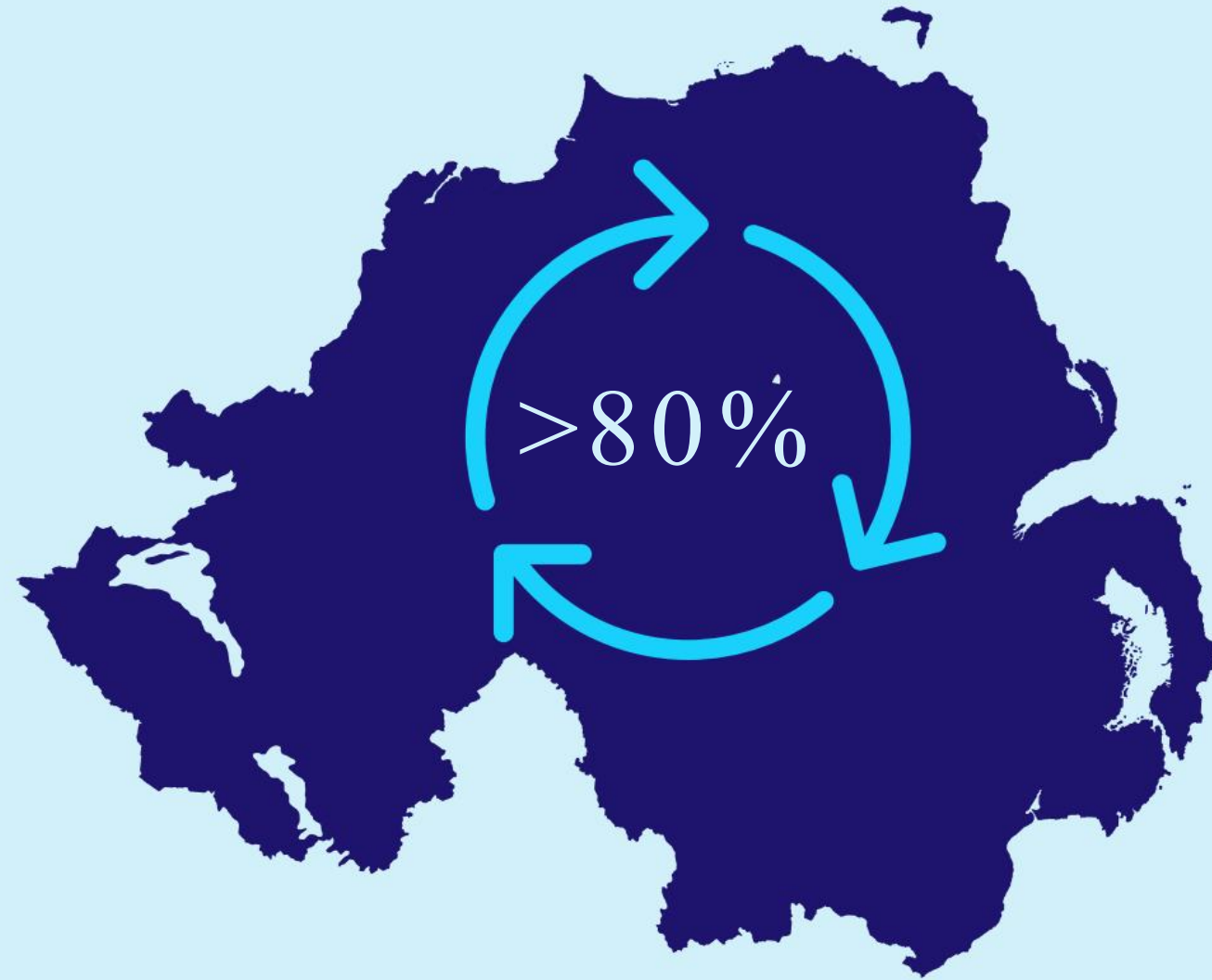
Wales named as second best recycling nation in the world

- 1 **Austria**
- 2 **Wales**
- 3 **Taiwan**
- 4 **Germany**
- 5 **Belgium**
- 6 **Netherlands**
- 7 **Denmark**
- 8 **Slovenia**
- 9 **Northern Ireland**
- 10 **South Korea**

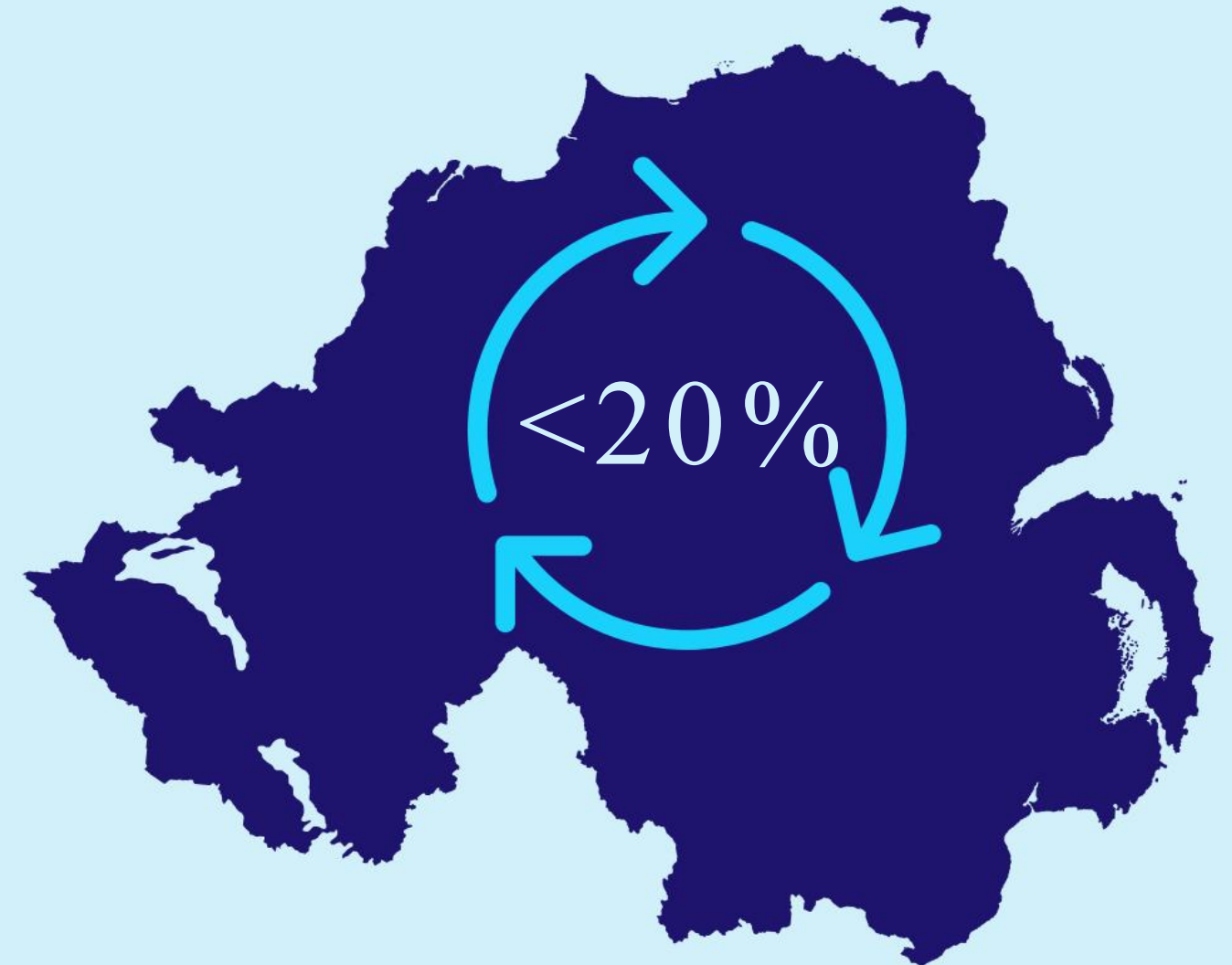


Source: Global Recycling League Table - Phase One Report

End Destinations – Dry Recycling



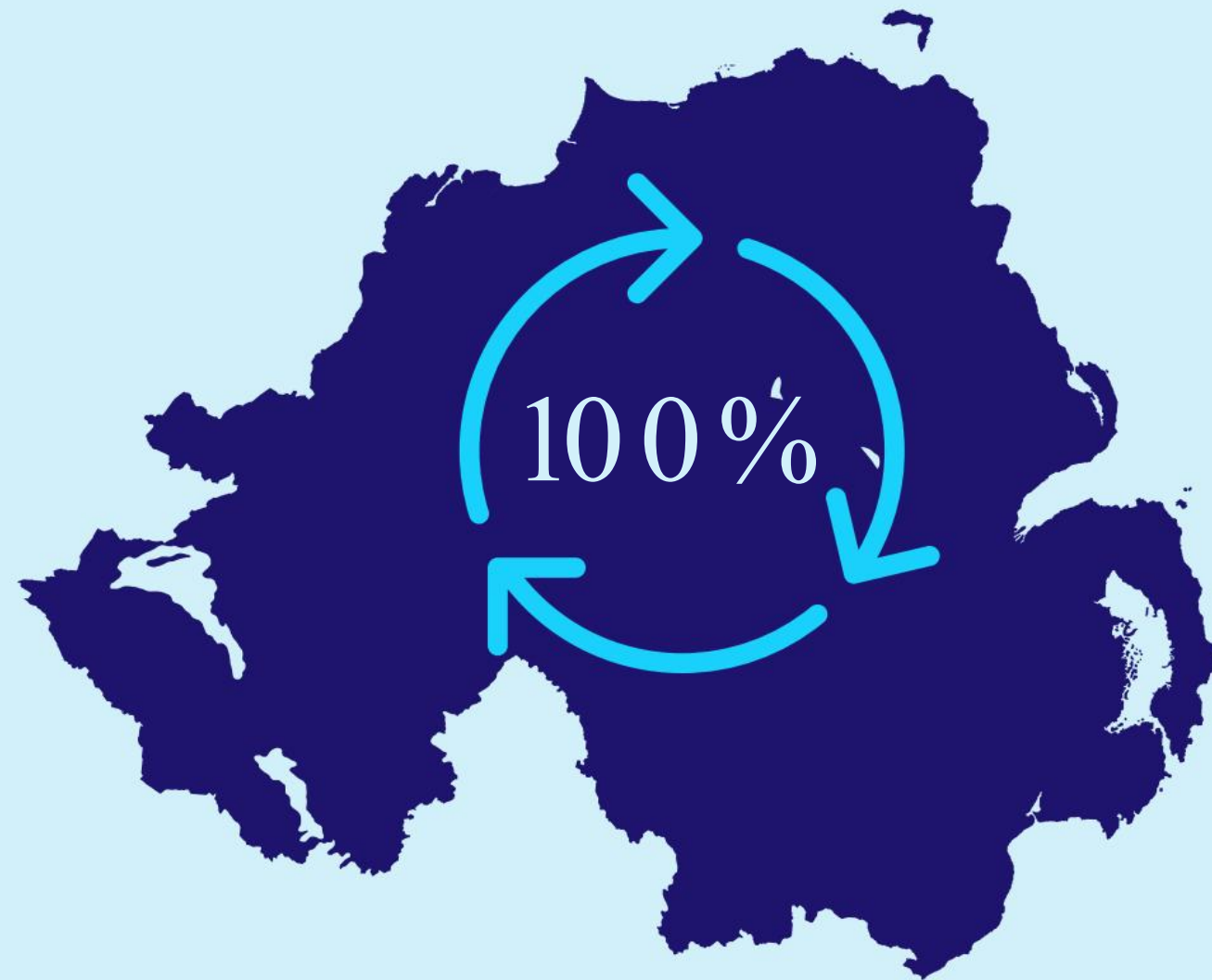
3-Stream Recycling



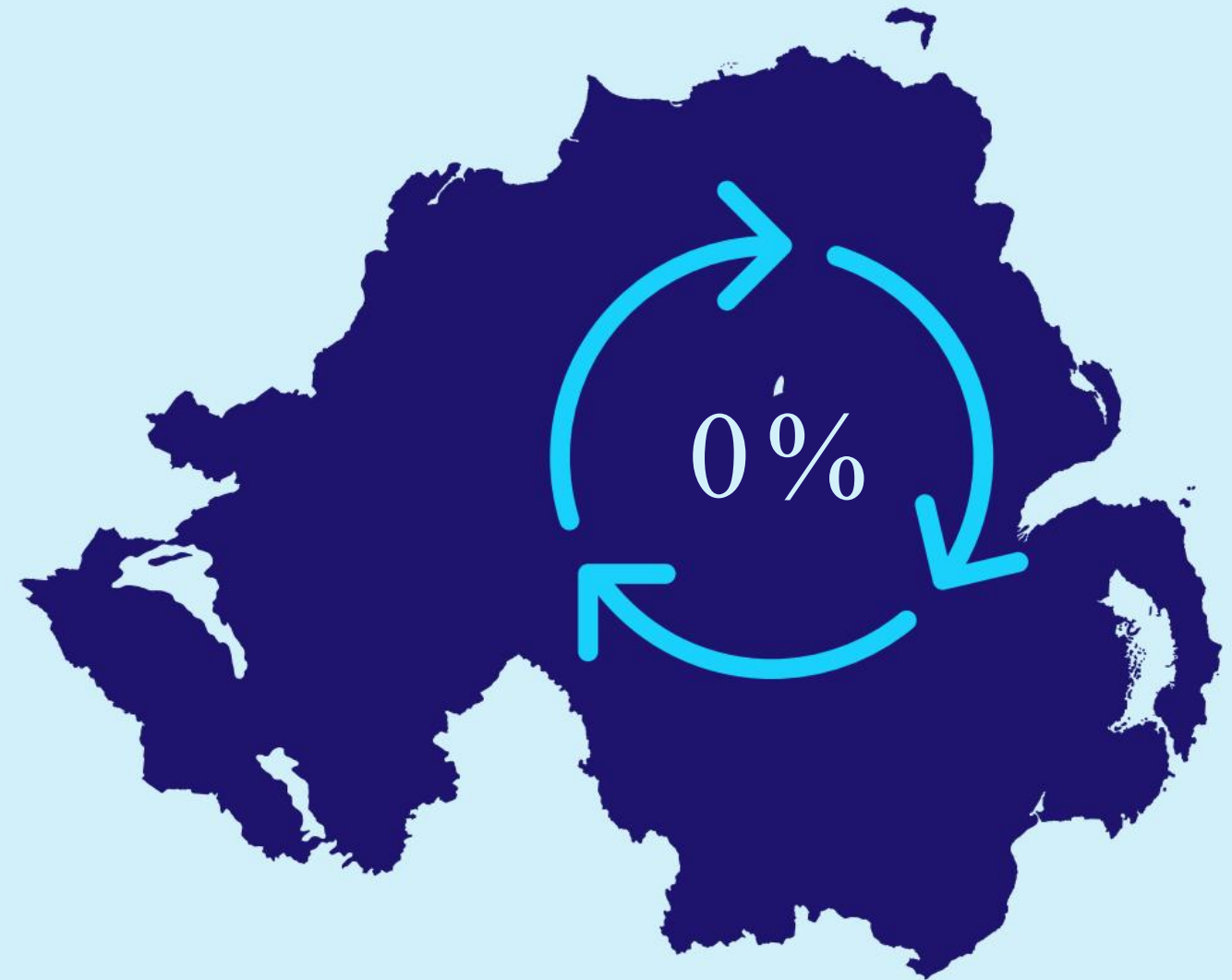
Co-mingled Recycling

Recycled in NI

End Destinations – Glass Recycling



3-Stream Recycling



Co-mingled Recycling

Only 35.6% of the total glass placed on the market in the UK is recycled back for remelt into cullet for new glass - the rest is lost to the circular economy (British Glass figures for 2022)

Recycled in NI

Our Asks

- Support the introduction of a 3-stream collection system
- Support DAERA in its ambition to introduce a single waste policy across all Northern Ireland, in particular 3-stream collection, to keep key recyclables separate
- Support the need for better public awareness and education
 - public support for better information and better recycling (Lucid Talk 2023)
- Exemptions should be time-limited and required to show progress being made towards compliance

Further Reading

- WRAP & British Glass “*A Roadmap to Closed Loop Glass Recycling*” (2024)
- European Commission’s Joint Research Centre “*Impacts of the Collection & Treatment of Dry Recyclables*” (2024)
- NI Audit Office “*Review of Waste Management in Northern Ireland*” (July 2024)
- NI Circularity Gap Report (2022)
- Review of the Welsh Government Collections Blueprint – Eunomia, March 2016
- Recycling Who Really Leads the World Report, Eunomia
- Enva MRF Comparison Report - Glass Quality and Contamination Levels
- FERVER Contamination Survey
- Glass from waste treatment facilities Regulatory Position Statement and Guidance LIT 72733, Environment Agency
- Household Food Waste Collections Guide, WRAP, 2024
- Flexible Plastic Fund Flex Collect Project, Interim Report, SUEZ, 2023



Keep Recycling Local

We want to be part of the solution, not the problem

For further details please visit: keeprecyclinglocal.com

nicola@keeprecyclinglocal.com

X @keeprecyclocal