

Delivering Recycling Performance for Cardiff

Environmental Scrutiny
11th January 2024



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Recycling performance



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- Current statutory recycling target is **64%** rising to **70% in 2024/25**
- Cardiff recycling performance for **2022/23 is 61.58%** (unvalidated) and improved position on **58.19% in 2021/22**
- Contamination in comingled recycling is high and causes a **loss of up to 30%** of recycling material collected
- Sampling of residual waste in Cardiff shows **60% of material in the residual bin is recyclable. With 43% of this material being collected by the Councils kerbside collections – food, dry recycling and AHP (nappies)**



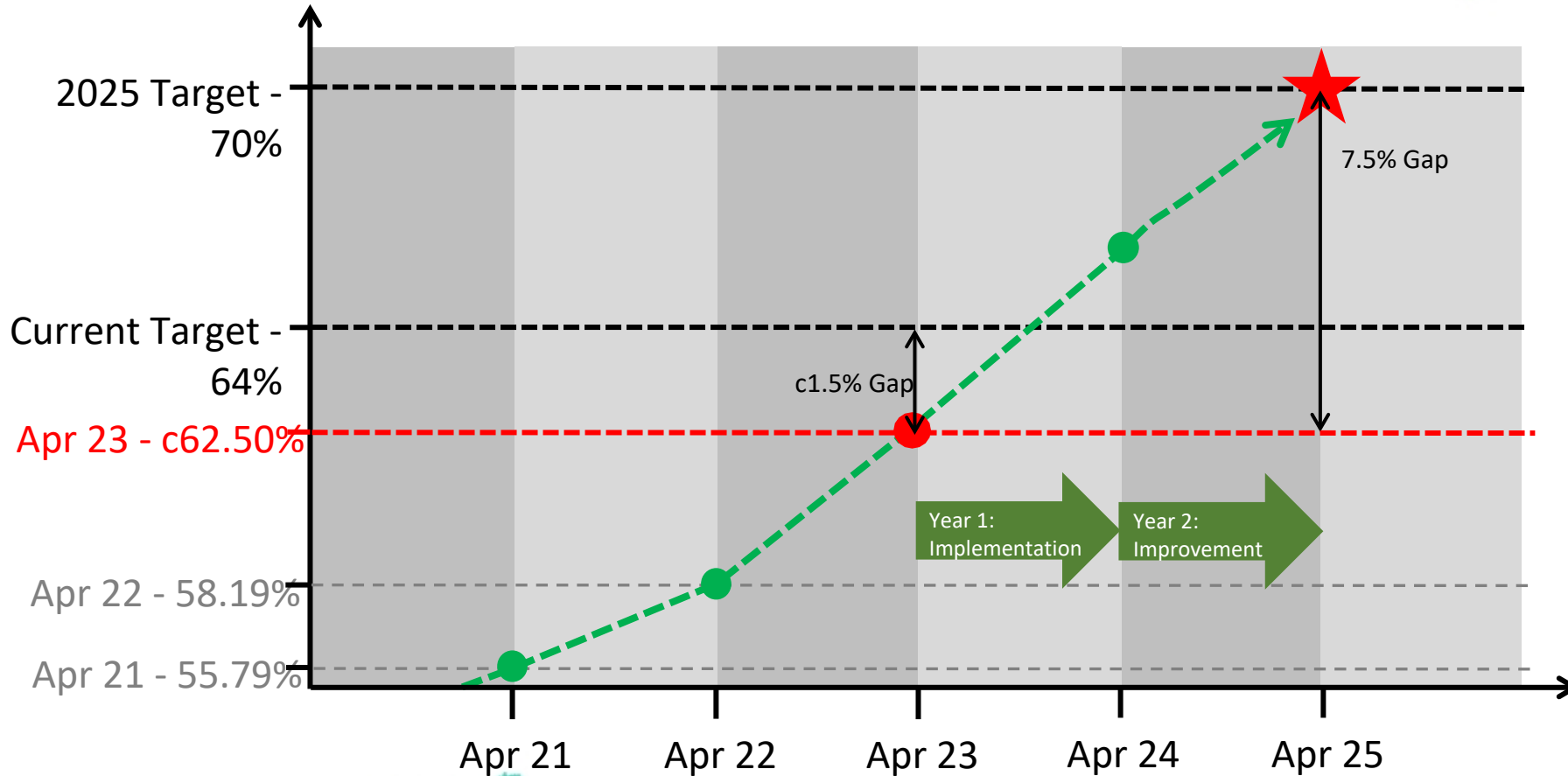
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Current Performance



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- **STRAND 1:** Resident Segregated Recycling (1.6%)
- **STRAND 2:** Trade Segregated Recycling (4%)
- **STRAND 3:** Expansion of Services (1%)
- **STRAND 4:** Restriction of residual waste (2%)



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Strategic change programme



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1. The aim of the 4-day working model and digitalisation in collections was to **‘improve the efficiency and effectiveness’** of the service. This change has been delivered
2. The aim of segregated recycling is to **‘improve the quality of recycling material presented’** by residents. This change is programmed to be delivered in two phases:
 - 20th February 2024 for 36,000 properties
 - July – September 2024 for 80,000 properties
3. The aim of extending the frequency of residual waste collections is to **‘increase the amount of recycling material presented’** by residents. Delivery October 2024 – **No made decision by Cabinet**
4. The aim of garden waste collection charging will be to provide **‘a more sustainable financial position for service delivery’**. Delivery March 2025 – **No made decision by Cabinet**



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Segregated Recycling Pilot areas - outcomes



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- 9,000 Properties now on segregated recycling, including inner City wards
- Recycling quality of segregated recycling continues to be between 6-7% contamination compared to 30% for comingled recycling
- Good acceptance of the changes with high participation in the initial weeks of change
- Social media and resident feedback shows an understanding as to why the changes are taking place and the impact on the environment
- **Informed the change to use of split body RCV for containers (plastics and cans) and fibres (paper and card) and not kerbside sort vehicles**
- **Informed the need for a wider range of bag and container sizes**
- **Cleaner streets as no split bags**



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Segregated Recycling 'Sack Sort Service'



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- Split body RCV for containers (plastics and cans) and fibres (paper and card) – Weekly Collection
- Dedicated vehicle for glass bottles and jars – Fortnight Collection
- Dedicated team to manage delivery of information and receptacles
- Dedicated team to monitor transition and provide support
- Communication to residents on changes and services provided (information provided separately)



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Extending the frequency of residual collections

A sample of residual waste from Cardiff was analysed by external teams, as part of a Wales Wide study. The results identified that:

- **60%** of what goes into black bins in Cardiff can be recycled

of this 60%:

- **43%** of what goes into black bins in Cardiff can be recycled via kerbside collections



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60% of what goes into our black bins in Cardiff actually could be recycled!



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Cardiff recycles
wrapcymru.org.uk/composition



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Extending the frequency of residual collections



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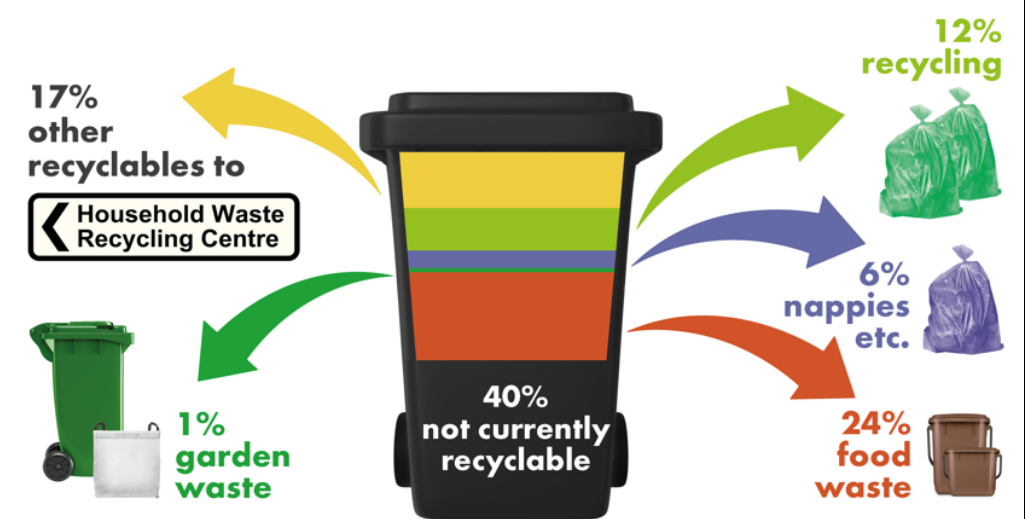


The top 5 items in the 17% 'other' recyclables are:

Item	%
Textiles	6.3
Stone/Rubble	3.3
Wood	3
Hard plastic	2
Electrical items	1.3

Excluding stone/rubble which is most often associated with trade activity, these materials can be taken to Recycling Centres or collected via the bulky waste service

60% of what goes into our black bins in Cardiff actually could be recycled!



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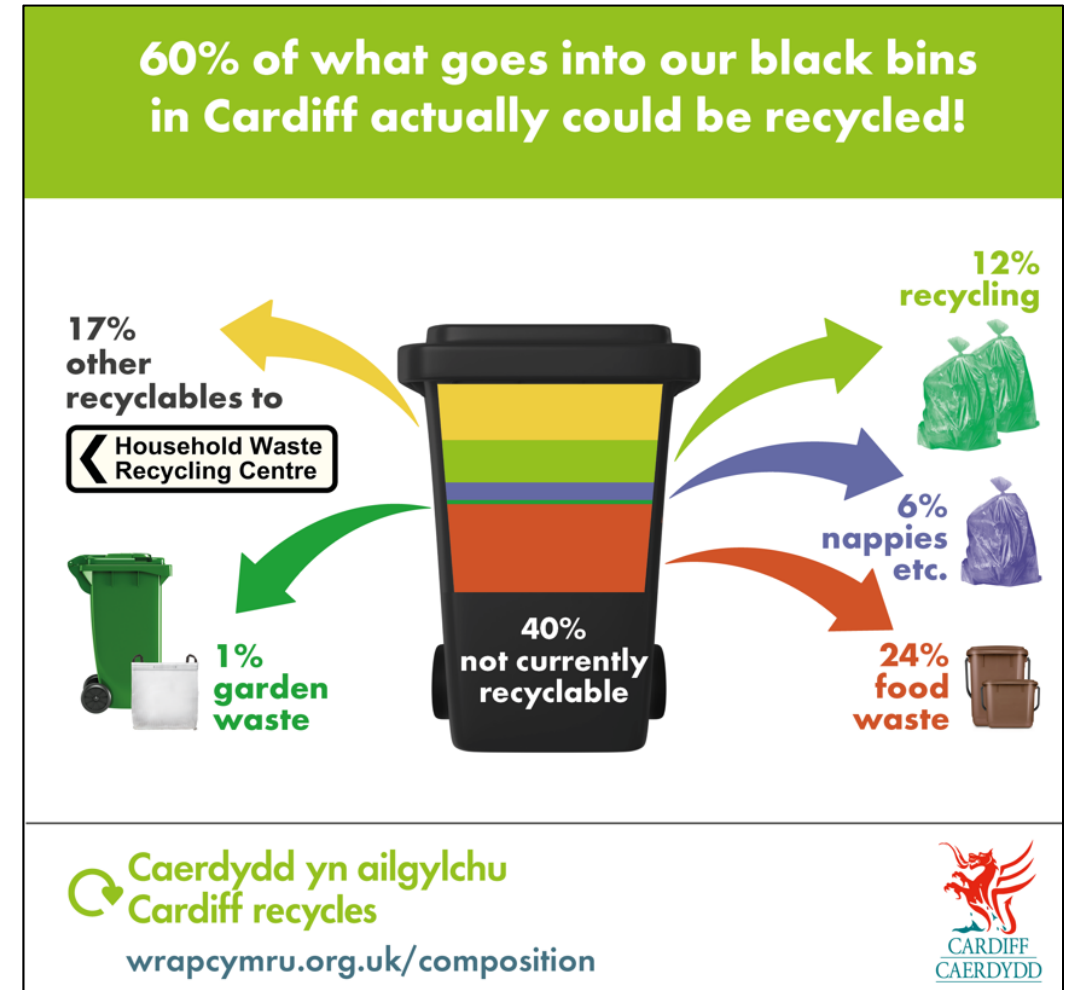


Extending the frequency of residual collections from 2 weeks to 3 weeks

- Two options to squeeze recycling out of residual bins:
 - Smaller bins
 - Extend the frequency of collections
- The change will mean the amount of residual waste able to be presented by residents will reduce.
- There will be no room for recycling to be disposed as residual waste and this will promote resident behaviours towards recycling.
- The service will also provide **weekly** AHP (nappy) collections as part of any change.



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Tonnage and potential improvements to recycling performance



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Target Material	Cardiff Average Composition	Tonnage
Food	24%	9,791
AHP (nappies and other AHP products)	6%	2,256

Costs reduction / savings are from the cost of disposal

Potential recycling performance improvements based on capture rates

	10% capture	25% capture	50% capture	75% capture
Food recycling	0.5%	1.24%	2.48%	3.72%
Hygiene recycling	0.07%	0.18%	0.36%	0.54%
Total	0.57%	1.42%	2.84%	4.26%



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What is happening elsewhere



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LA	Frequency	Capacity	Proposed
Newport	3 weekly	120l	Live
RCT	3 weekly	140l	Live
Vale	3 weekly	180l	Live
Cardiff	3 weekly	140l	Proposed
Denbigh	4 weekly	140l	Proposed



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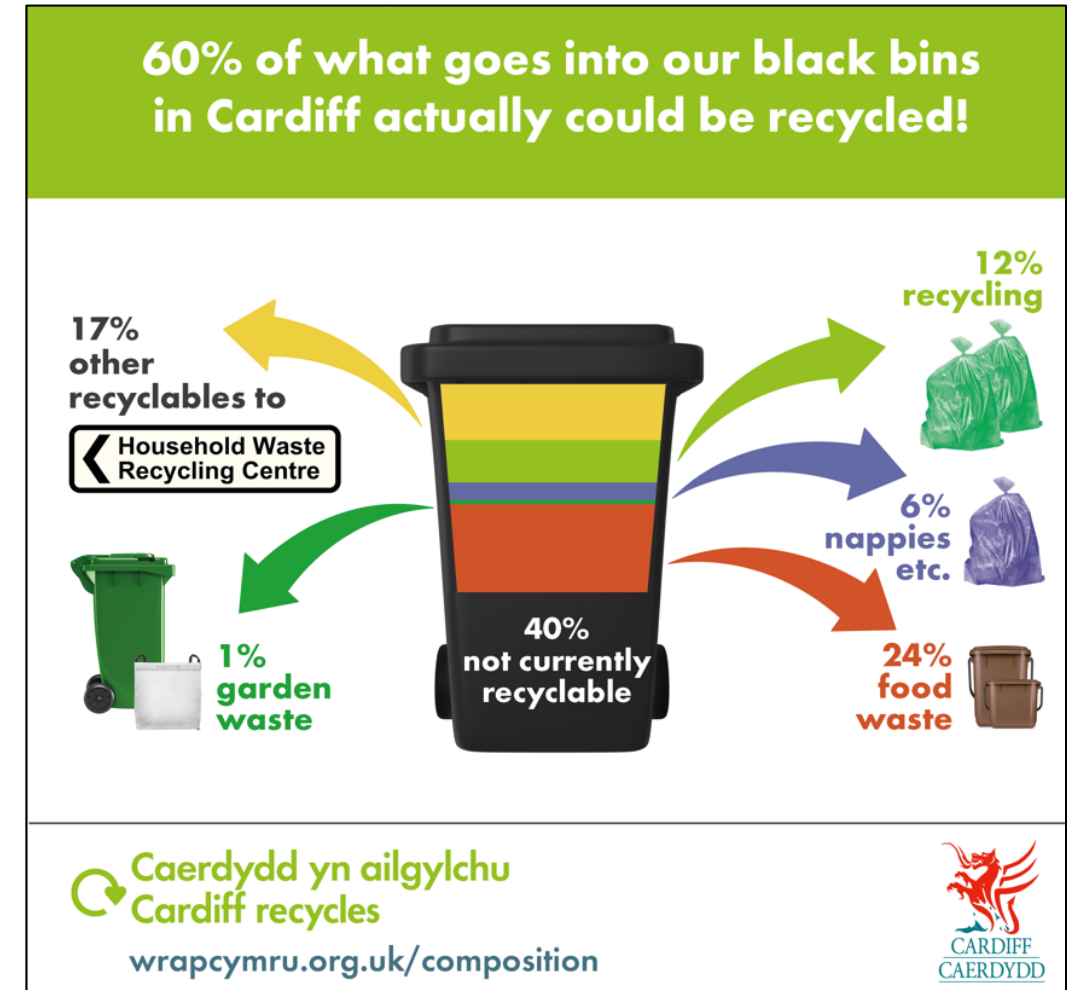
Extending the frequency of residual collections from 2 weeks to 3 weeks



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- With 50% capture of food and AHP (nappies) a Recycling performance increase of 2.84% is achievable
- There are kerbside collections services for majority of recycling currently within residual bins and therefore access to Recycling Centres is not a barrier to improving recycling performance
- Without extending the frequency of residual collections households will continue with their current behaviours towards recycling



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Kerbside Services for residents



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Recycling Services	Dry Recycling	Food	Garden	Residual	Absorbent Hygiene Products	Bulky collections	Pod Back (from April 2023)
Items collected	Bottle & Jars Containers Card & Paper	Food	Grass & leaves	Non-recyclable	Nappies and other AHP	Furniture	Coffee pod collections (plastic and metal)
Frequency collected	Weekly	Weekly	Fortnight (stopped over winter)	2 weekly/ 2 bags fortnight (to be reviewed)	2 weekly (to be reviewed)	On demand	On demand
Collection method	Split back Refuse Collection Vehicle Toploader - glass Kerbside Sort (farm run)	Toploader	Refuse Collection Vehicle	Refuse Collection Vehicle	Sealed hygiene vehicle	Transit box van	Transit box van
Disposal point	Material Handling Facility	Anaerobic Digestion plant	Windrow Lamby Way	Viridor Energy from Waste	Waste Transfer Station – Lamby Way	Waste Transfer Station – Lamby Way	Waste Transfer Station – Lamby Way
Bag / Caddy / Bin							

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Changes to trade



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From April 2024 new legislation will be introduced meaning businesses need to separate their recycling into different containers

This includes **the Council, Schools, 3rd sector** and **Charities**

Enforcement is by NRW – potential of £300 fine for not segregating recycling



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Benefits of changes



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1. Moves Cardiff towards meeting its statutory recycling targets (70% by 2024/25) and delivers on policy commitments
2. Promotes correct presentation of recycling within re-useable bags less food = improved Street Scene
3. Removes single use plastic from our operations – currently 23.7million comingled recycling bags used per year
4. Improved quality of recycling gives higher value to materials – invested back into services
5. Drives improvements in relation to use of resources – vital for climate behaviour change



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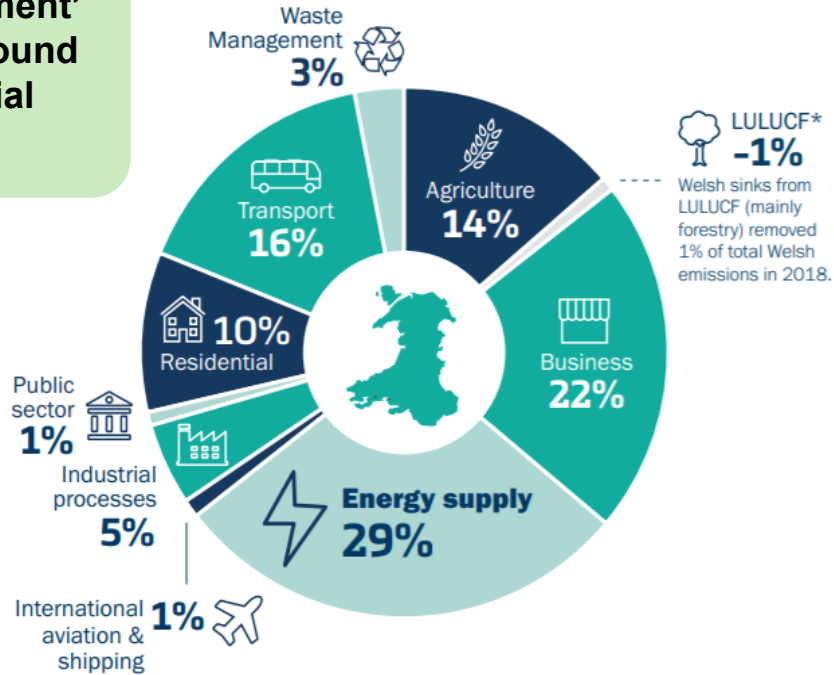
One Planet Cardiff and the recycling contribution to decarbonisation



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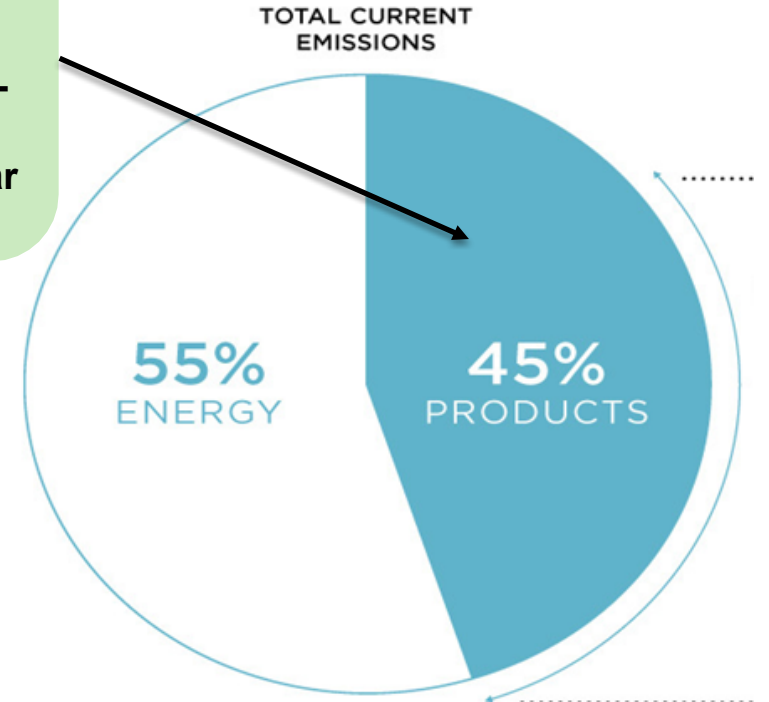


'Waste management' accounts for around 3% of territorial emissions



**LULUCF*
-1%**
Welsh sinks from LULUCF (mainly forestry) removed 1% of total Welsh emissions in 2018.

But resource extraction, use and disposal of products accounts for almost half of all emissions – this is what's tackled by moving to a circular economy



* Land Use, Land Use Change and Forestry
** Please note that the sector definition for the greenhouse gas inventory (GHGI) varies from the 1st low carbon delivery Plan "Prosperity for All: A Low Carbon Wales"



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Challenges of changes



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1. Resistance to change - positive public messaging to support the change
2. A change from a Material Recycling Facility to a Resource Handling Facility – the need to plan and deliver changes within financial envelope
3. Engaging with frontline staff to ensure a roll-out of changes with minimal disruption to residents
4. Perception of savings being related to a diminishing services – the number of kerbside services provided are at their highest level and the service has introduced recycling at hubs – savings relate to improvements in disposal costs



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Questions?

