

EPECOM

Expert Panel on Environmental Charging and Other Measures

In May 2018, the Scottish Government launched the **Expert Panel on Environmental Charging and Other Measures (EPECOM)**. EPECOM provides expert advice to Scottish Ministers on charges or other measures which may be adopted in Scotland with the goal of encouraging the long-term and sustainable changes in consumer and producer behaviour required to move towards a circular economy.

EPECOM operates under a framework of general principles. These principles provide a reference point to guide and inform the EPECOM's consideration of key issues and aid its assessment of potential options and recommendations. They also underpin the Expert Panel's general way of working.

The general principles are informed by other established principles or frameworks, including Scotland Performs, Scotland's waste hierarchy, Better Regulation principles, UK Plastics Pact.

GENERAL PRINCIPLES APPROACH



OUTCOMES FOCUSED AND EVIDENCE INFORMED

Focus on the difference that issues or measures can make to address Scotland's throw-away culture. Based on best available evidence on key issues, impact, and unintended consequences of measures.



TARGETING

Prioritise preventing single use materials being used, before looking at reuse, recycle and recovery options. Take into account the different lifecycle impacts of specific materials. Consider how measures add up and impact groups differently (for example those with disabilities or small and medium enterprises).



PROPORTIONALITY

Only proposing additional measures when necessary. Solutions proportionate to the problem and the potential costs of implementation. Considering all options for achieving objectives, prescriptive actions as well as educational measures.



TRANSPARENCY, INTEGRITY AND ACCOUNTABILITY

Explain clearly how and why recommendations are made. Open to public scrutiny and publish summaries of its discussions. Clear line of accountability to Scottish Ministers, and regularly review and report on progress.



CONSISTENCY, COHERENCE AND CONTEXT

Consider whether existing policy measures work together in a joined-up way. Identify opportunities to strengthen co-ordination & coherence to maximize impact. Taking account of the wider context.

1

SCOTLAND'S NATIONAL PERFORMANCE FRAMEWORK

It aims to reduce inequalities in Scotland and gives equal importance to economic, environmental and social progress.
https://scotland.shinyapps.io/scotlandperforms_alpha/

2

UN'S SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS

Adopted by all United Nations Member States in 2015, provides a shared blueprint for peace and prosperity for people and the planet, now and into the future.
Source: Phases considered in an LCA. [Zero Waste Scotland, 2017]

3

LIFECYCLE IMPACTS OF A MATERIAL, PRODUCT OR SERVICE

Allows impact comparison between different materials, products or services.
Source: Applying the Waste Hierarchy: Guidance. [Scottish Government, Nov 2017]

4

LIFECYCLE ASSESSMENT

Lifecycle assessment (LCA) is a method of quantifying the whole-life impacts of a material, product or service.
Source: Phases considered in an LCA. [Hydro-Quebec, accessed 08/11/2018]

5

WASTE HIERARCHY PRINCIPLES

The waste hierarchy ranks waste management options according to the best environmental outcome taking into consideration the lifecycle of the material.
Source: <https://www.un.org/sustainabledevelopment/sustainable-consumption-production/>

6

USE PHASE CATEGORISATION APPROACH

A new system of categorisation of single use plastics based on the length of time they are used.
<https://ciwm-journal.co.uk/wordpress/wp-content/uploads/2018/06/Eliminating-avoidable-plastic-waste-by-2042-a-use-based-approach-to-decision-and-policy-making.pdf>



Scottish
Government
gov.scot