

Glass production and the environment

Glass is infinitely recyclable, it is a green product which has an exciting and sustainable future and can play an essential role in creating a circular economy.

We are committed to observing all current legislation on improving the environment and making a direct contribution to reaching the UK net-zero emissions target. We want to contribute to the low carbon energy production, green tech and net zero initiatives being developed by the Welsh and UK Governments.

We think it is important to cut the number of miles bottles have to travel to reach the customer. From Rassau, it is envisaged that our bottles will not have to travel more than 200 miles to reach their intended destination.

We believe, that as a country, Wales could collect more of its recyclable glass. Our aim is to be able to use this recycled glass and avoid the necessity for it to travel long distances.

The use of recycled glass makes a vital contribution to cutting energy consumption by at least a fifth, as recycled glass melts at a lower temperature.

The new facility would use its waste heat for hot water generation, general heating and cooling of the plant.

We also want to see an innovative glass Deposit Return Scheme (DRS) developed across the whole of Wales. This would allow the recycling process to be much easier and provide higher quality recycled glass. This scheme would be the first in the UK and one of the first in Europe.

Transport

The site has been selected for its excellent transport links, including the upgrade works on the A465 Heads of the Valleys Road, access to the M4 and wider regional connectivity plus its close proximity to the skilled workforce of the local area.

We aim to work with local material suppliers to reduce the transportation distances and associated emissions from freight. We will also develop strategies to encourage the use of low carbon transport modes, including active and public transport, a strategy for electric vehicle charging and sufficient cycle parking, in order to reduce emissions from transport.

Once operational, the facility will require delivery of raw materials to the site including sand and soda ash to produce glass alongside other raw materials required for the production process, including the use of recycled glass.

The facility will also need to transport the finished product of glass bottles and containers. The existing industrial estate road network and the adjacent A465 provides sufficient capacity to accommodate these transport requirements.

As viable low emission solutions for HGVs such as electric, biomethane and hydrogen become available, we will be looking at options to adopt these technologies at scale in our transport arrangements.