



Scotland's Deposit Return Scheme

Support for improved recycling and solutions to litter in Scotland is strong – and as we draw nearer to the launch of a public consultation on deposit return, interest in it as a means of achieving both these ambitions continues to grow.

The Scottish Government has committed to a public consultation on deposit return in the coming months. This will be a key opportunity for stakeholders to influence the design of the scheme and how it should operate.

We at Zero Waste Scotland have now completed the major part of an extensive stakeholder engagement exercise to inform design options, which culminated in last month's Deposit Return Summit. The event marked the first time some of the key sectors affected by deposit return were brought together in one location, following a series of sector-specific workshops.

The summit received an overwhelmingly positive response, and was a valuable forum for discussion. Zero Waste Scotland will of course continue to work closely with stakeholders around deposit return in Scotland, and to keep our partners up to date with scheme design developments.

Meanwhile, work to tackle single-use items continues in parallel with deposit return – including the Scottish Government's establishment of the Expert Panel on Environmental Charges and Other Measures. The group will provide advice on dealing with items symbolic of our throwaway culture, such as disposable cups and plastic straws, and I'm delighted to have been asked to sit on the panel.

Myself and Environment Secretary Roseanna Cunningham also met with Dame Ellen MacArthur recently. We shared Scotland's ambition for one of the best performing deposit return schemes in the world and discussed how this fits in to our shared circular economy vision – reinforced in recent weeks by the Scottish Government's signing of the UK Plastic Pact.



Iain Gulland

Chief Executive
Zero Waste Scotland

Deposit Return Summit

with Environment Secretary, Roseanna Cunningham

Nearly 160 delegates gathered at Heriot Watt University's Edinburgh campus recently to share views from various sectors on deposit return, hear from an international operator, and ask their questions of Zero Waste Scotland.

The 23 May event marked the culmination of the major part of stakeholder consultation from Zero Waste Scotland – which included more than 120 one-to-one interviews and 'strategic conversations' across key sectors.

In her address, Environment Secretary Roseanna Cunningham welcomed the "intensive pace" at which work on a deposit

return scheme for Scotland has moved since it was announced in the new Programme for Government in September.

She referenced the Scottish Government's continued desire for collaboration with Westminster and other devolved nations to achieve a scheme that works for everyone – as well as reinforcing the Scottish Government's ambition to achieve a scheme that's supportive of the nation's circular economy vision, and to make it one of the best performing in the world.



Marine Litter Summit

On 18 June, in Oban, the Scottish Government and Zero Waste Scotland will bring together for the first time several key players in the fight against marine litter.

The Marine Litter Summit will highlight policy actions, both planned and already underway, highlight the serious commitments being made to the issue and how it fits with wider policymaking, as well as expressing a desire to harness positive action from businesses and communities. We're delighted that the event is fully subscribed, highlighting the level of support for action around this issue.

The links to deposit return are clear. Blue Planet II highlighted the plight of marine mammals earlier this year, with arresting images of animals tragically affected by plastic pollution.

With a recent report from the Ellen MacArthur Foundation suggesting that by 2050 there will be more plastic than fish in the world's oceans, governments, representative bodies and consumers alike have pledged to take action. Deposit return has huge potential to increase recycling and tackle litter, with less plastic ending up in landfill or in our oceans as a result.



Activity update

Parallel to our work to make preparations for the public consultation on deposit return, Zero Waste Scotland is now putting plans in place around the crucial issue of how best communicate deposit return.

As outlined in a dedicated communications session at the Deposit Return Summit, we are actively looking for stakeholders to tell us what materials they need in order to explain and promote deposit return to their members, service users and staff – and what they can do to help us spread the word across Scotland.

There will be events in the community, in areas of high footfall, and organised in partnership with schools and businesses to get people engaging with deposit return. Zero Waste Scotland will also be producing content such as webinars to ensure everyone has the opportunity to find out more and respond appropriately to the public consultation.

If you would like to work with Zero Waste Scotland to host a public engagement event, or have an idea to contribute, please email drs@zerowastescotland.org

For more information on the engagement process, please contact Zero Waste Scotland on the details below.

drs@zerowastescotland.org.uk