



Scotland's Deposit Return Scheme

The public consultation on a deposit return scheme for Scotland has drawn to a close and it's time for the Scottish Government to analyse all the responses gathered.

Thank you to everyone who contributed. We were delighted that we were able to engage with so many of you throughout this process.

Zero Waste Scotland delivered a comprehensive programme of engagement with key stakeholders across the country, followed by a nationwide drive to gather views on the scheme from residents in every local authority in Scotland. We were determined that as many people as possible would have the chance to have their say.

I'm thrilled that we got to visit all of Scotland's 32 local authority areas with our public engagement events. Zero Waste Scotland heard from communities in every corner of the country about how they thought a deposit return scheme could work best. For those who didn't manage to make an event, Zero Waste Scotland held a live webinar hosted by TV personality and columnist Hayley Matthews. The webinar explained what a deposit return scheme could look like and Zero Waste Scotland panellists answered audience questions but don't worry if you missed out, it is available to view on [Vimeo](#).

The support we received from you was invaluable, including the feedback we received that helped us to compile a comprehensive suite of documents to support the consultation.

The large number of people that have engaged with the consultation, as well as Zero Waste Scotland's programme of local roadshows, covering all 32 local authorities, shows the appetite in Scotland to live a more sustainable lifestyle and be more considerate of how we dispose of things.

We plan to continue with this level of open engagement as things progress and thank you for your continued support.



Iain Gulland

Chief Executive
Zero Waste Scotland

Activity update

Public engagement



Following the launch of a public consultation on a Scottish deposit return scheme in June, Zero Waste Scotland – acting on behalf of the Scottish Government – had a presence in every Scottish local authority to raise awareness of Scotland's commitment to a national deposit return scheme, hear views, and encourage as many people as possible to have their say. We've conducted a high-profile programme of communications to engage the public, at a local and national level, in the press and across social media.

Throughout the summer, people across Scotland had the opportunity to inform what kind of deposit return scheme they would like, at events across the country – from festivals, to visitor attractions, shopping locations and community centres. For those who couldn't make it to an event, Zero Waste Scotland produced a webinar, which is still available [online](#) and has been viewed 7000 times to date.

Stakeholder engagement

Both prior to the launch and during the public consultation, Zero Waste Scotland undertook a full programme of engagement with key stakeholder and representative bodies for trade, industry, manufacturers, retailers, and local authority groups, including over 150 one-to-one interviews and strategic conversations.

We created a range of stakeholder tools and materials on a Scottish deposit return scheme to help make it easy for stakeholders to communicate what a deposit return scheme is, in a clear and comprehensive way. If you used these materials it would be great to hear your feedback via email to drs@zerowastescotland.org.uk

During the course of our research, Zero Waste Scotland had conversations with representatives from Denmark, Estonia,

Finland, Lithuania, Iceland, Norway and Germany. These nations are among those with an operating deposit return scheme and had valuable learnings to share in relation to design considerations such as the level of deposit, the types of container the deposit could apply to, the options for where containers are returned, and how the scheme could be managed and promoted.

Although the consultation has now closed, Zero Waste Scotland is continuing to work with stakeholders in developing the final scheme design for Scotland's DRS. We will also be working with trade associations and interested companies to understand the key next steps in planning for implementation. As we enter this critical next phase, Zero Waste Scotland encourages stakeholders with questions or who want to be involved to contact us.

Next steps

The Scottish Government will now analyse the consultation responses received, and survey data collected from the national roadshow will also contribute to the decision-making surrounding the design of a Scottish deposit return scheme.

We'd like to thank stakeholders and the public for their participation in the process so far and reiterate that there will be further engagement opportunities to help shape elements of scheme design in the months ahead.



Other Zero Waste Scotland events you might be interested in:

Circular Economy Hotspot Scotland

Zero Waste Scotland will host one of the world's most prestigious sustainable business events later this year. Circular Economy Hotspot Scotland runs from 30 October to 1 November and is being delivered in partnership with Circular Glasgow, with support from the Scottish Government and the European Regional Development Fund.

First Minister Nicola Sturgeon will address the global gathering of circular economy experts, policy makers, and business leaders.

Visit circulareconomyhotspot.scot for further information.



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

drs@zerowastescotland.org.uk