



Scottish Government
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Scotland's Deposit Return Scheme Stakeholder Toolkit

September 2019

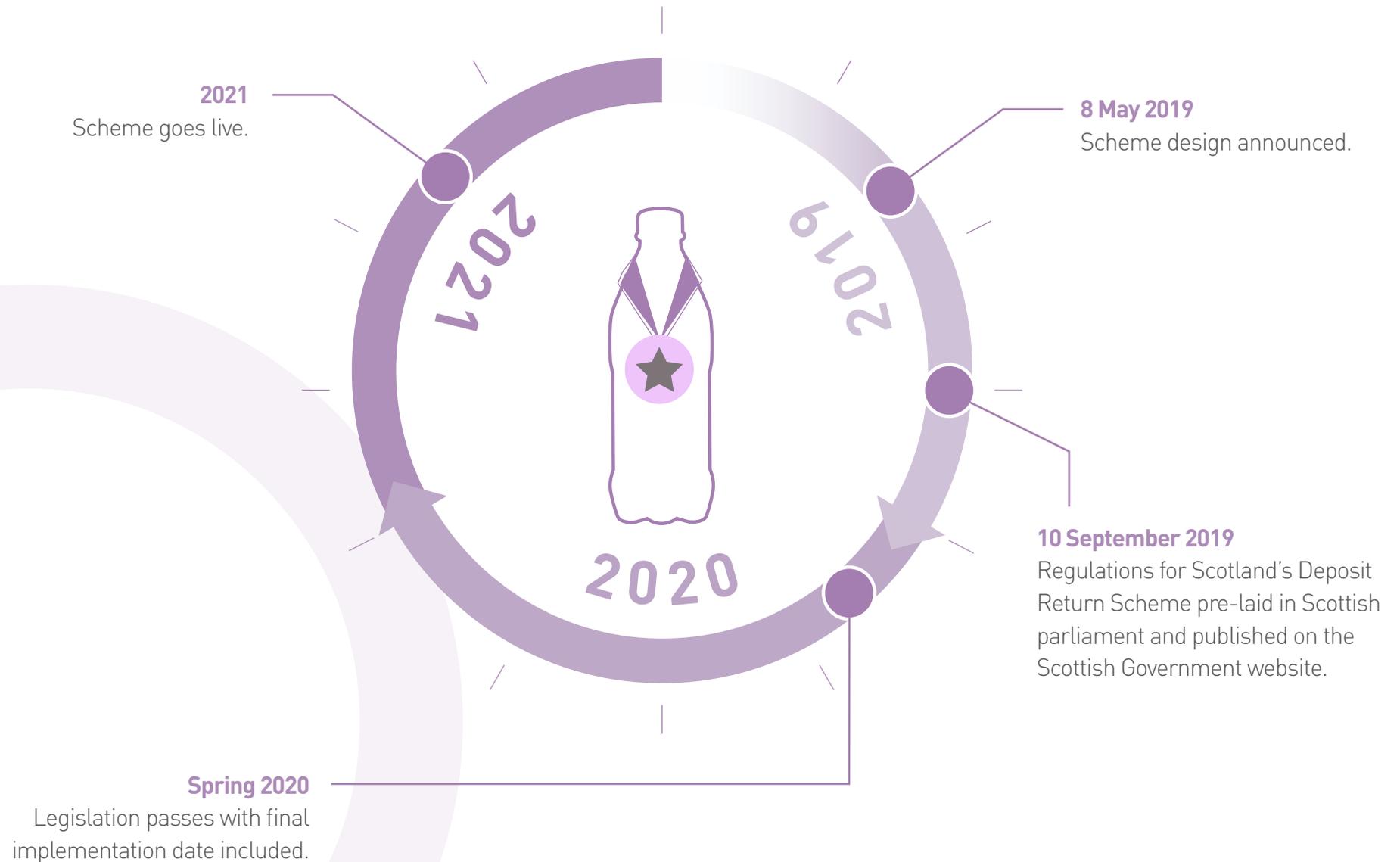
Scotland's Deposit Return Scheme

Your Guide

Draft Regulations for Scotland's Deposit Return Scheme for drinks cans and bottles have been published by the Scottish Government. These follow the announcement of the Scheme Design in May 2019, adding more detail to the blueprint for Scotland's Deposit Return Scheme. It's expected the scheme will become law next year, with the intention of going live in 2021.

Our new toolkit for stakeholders provides a handy guide to the regulations, the timetable and the key components of the scheme, as well as copy and content for you to use on your own channels.

Timetable



The Scheme - Key Components

Scotland is the first country in the UK to commit to a deposit return scheme. The consumer pays a small deposit on top of the retail price when they buy a drink or single-use container. It incentivises recycling by placing a value on the container.

The deposit will be 20p.

The following materials are included:

- **PET plastic**
- **Steel and aluminium**
- **Glass**

It will be available throughout Scotland. With over 17,000 return points, it will be as easy to return a drink as it is to buy one.

Containers of at least 50ml and no more than 3 litres are included.

Customers will return their empty containers either over the counter, by using a reverse vending machine (RVM), or to an online retailer.

It will capture 90% of containers for recycling, by the third year of operation.



Scheme containers

The Scottish Government regulations refer to any drink container that is eligible to carry a deposit as a 'scheme container'. We will also describe these in this toolkit as 'bottles and cans' or 'single-use containers'.

Regulations

The draft Regulations for Scotland's Deposit Return Scheme are available on the Scottish Government's website (<https://consult.gov.scot/environment-forestry/deposit-scheme-for-scotland>), alongside an Accompanying Statement setting out the reasons for bringing forward the legislation.

Views on the draft Regulations are requested by 10 December 2019.

After regulations pass in 2020, the scheme will become law and implementation will move up a gear.

Key Facts

- Any scheme container sold to a consumer in Scotland must have a deposit included in the sale price
- No one can sell a drink in scheme containers in Scotland if the producer is not registered
- All retailers will be obliged to assist in the return of empty scheme containers to producers or a scheme administrator unless specifically exempted.
- It must be made clear for consumers when they buy a drink in a single-use container in Scotland that it is part of the scheme, and will have a deposit.
- "Single-use" means designed for one use, in a sealed container, and can't be returned to original condition by consumer.
- SEPA will regulate the scheme, hold key data on producers and will enforce the legal requirements.

Producers

Scotland's Deposit Return scheme is a producer-led scheme. This means they are ultimately responsible for funding the scheme and taking a leading role in its management.

It's an example of Extended Producer Responsibility, where brand owners and importers of products bear responsibility for the environmental impacts of their products throughout their life-cycle. Across the world, many countries are moving to extend or add new Extended Producer Responsibility schemes.

In the context of Scotland's Deposit Return Scheme, a producer is a drinks brand owner or importer into the UK market, or, in the case of online sales, the operator of the website through which the product is sold.

Producers have a range of obligations under the regulations:

- For their drinks to be sold in Scotland, all producers must register with SEPA by 1st March each year. SEPA will hold a list of registered producers.
- Producers must ensure they include a deposit in the sale price of products sold in scheme containers.
- Producers must provide information about their products to SEPA as required.
- Producers are responsible for collecting scheme containers from retailers and other return points for recycling.
- Producers will be required to reimburse retailers for the deposit value of scheme containers collected and pay an additional "reasonable" handling fee per container if one is charged.
- Producers will be required to meet annual collection targets for recycling.
- Producers can appoint a scheme administrator to discharge the majority of these duties on their behalf.



Retailers and Return Points

Retailers will play a vital role in the successful delivery of the scheme, acting as a crucial link between the public as users of the scheme and producers.

For the purposes of the regulations, a retailer is a person who sells drinks in scheme containers, including through shops, hospitality businesses, vending machines and distance or online sales. The way in which the retailer sells the goods will impact on their obligations under the scheme.

All retailers operating a shop from which they sell drinks in scheme containers to be taken away will be automatically required to operate a return point, unless granted an exemption. Retailers also include public sector organisations which sell drinks to take away.

Retailers also have certain responsibilities under the regulations:

- They must ensure they are not selling drinks containers from producers not registered with SEPA.
- The deposit must be included in the price, and retailers must make it clear the container is part of the scheme.
- The deposit value must be displayed clearly as separate from the product price.
- Online retailers will have to ensure sales of containers in Scotland comply with the scheme.
- Return points must accept containers, and refund deposits to customers. They must keep containers for collection by producers or scheme administrator(s) acting on their behalf.
- Distance retailers must provide a free take-back service to customers.



Exemptions

- Duty free shops are exempted from any obligations under the scheme.
- Vending machine operators, retailers selling exclusively through distance sales, and hospitality businesses selling drinks exclusively for consumption on the premises of sale are exempted from having to operate a return point.
- Other retailers can apply to the Scottish Ministers for an exemption from operating a return point .
- Exemptions will only be considered if Ministers are satisfied there are other options for returning containers nearby, and that there are enough return points across a local authority.

Scheme Administrator

- A producer can choose to appoint a scheme administrator to meet many of their DRS obligations on their behalf.
- A scheme administrator must be approved by the Scottish Ministers before it can operate as such.



Hospitality Businesses

- Hospitality businesses, such as takeaway cafes or restaurants, that sell any drinks in scheme containers for off-site consumption, act in the same way as any other retail point of sale in Scotland's Deposit Return Scheme. This is the case if the business sells any drinks in scheme containers at all for takeaway.
- When someone buys a drink in a sealed scheme container to take away, businesses will charge the 20p deposit to the consumer, as the container is likely leaving their premises. The consumer then gets the 20p deposit back when they return the empty container, whether that's to the location they bought the container from, or another one.
- For business where drinks are sold only for on-site consumption, for example restaurants and bars where the consumer is buying the drink to consume on the premises, the business will not be required to charge a deposit. This is because the container won't leave the premises. Producers, or scheme administrator(s) will be required to collect scheme containers from those businesses and pay them a deposit and (if charged) a handling fee for each item collected.
- We have produced infographics to help illustrate the difference between open and closed loop, for hospitality businesses. Download from our website [here](#).



Community Organisations

Anyone, including voluntary or public organisations, can apply to operate a return point from a non-retail premises.

Those who collect containers on an ad hoc basis with the intention of keeping the deposit, for example for fundraising, can liaise with a scheme administrator regarding collection.

Consumers

When returning drinks containers, people must make sure their can or bottle is:

- Identifiable as a scheme container.
- Empty.
- Not “soiled”.

Zero Waste Scotland’s Role

We have advised the Scottish Government on scheme design and are supporting industry with regard to moving towards implementation of the scheme. We have an ongoing programme of stakeholder engagement and communications around the scheme.

Newsletter - Web Copy for Stakeholders

Factual

About Scotland's Deposit Return Scheme

Scotland's Deposit Return scheme to boost recycling of drinks cans and bottles is expected to become law next year, after draft regulations were published by the Scottish Government on 10th September 2019.

Deposit return schemes deliver high recycling rates in countries such as Sweden, Germany and Estonia. They place a value on a single-use container, to encourage people to return them for recycling. When customers buy a drink in a single-use container, or bottle, in Scotland, they'll pay a 20p deposit. They get the deposit back when they return the empty container.

The Regulations lay out in more detail the responsibilities on key industries such as drinks producers and retailers (<https://Depositreturnscheme.zerowastescotland.org.uk/scheme-design/regulations>) and set out a path to implementation of the scheme, allowing organisations to step up preparations.

Legislation is expected to pass next year, after which there will be a (minimum) 12-month minimum implementation period before the scheme goes live.

The design of our national deposit return scheme is a blueprint for a world-class recycling system that makes it easy for everyone to recycle their bottles and cans.

Scotland is the first nation in the UK to commit to a scheme which has been tailored to our unique needs. The target of 90% capture rate across all three materials after three years would see it rank among the world's top performing schemes. The first year target is 70% and the second year 80%.

Benefits include more and better recycling, litter prevention, as well as tackling climate change.

Scotland's Deposit Return Scheme has been designed to make it easy for everyone do the right thing.

It will help protect our beautiful country and its environment for generations to come.

Zero Waste Scotland has advised on the design and is working with stakeholders on implementing the scheme.

Deposit return incentivises behaviour change, presents a symbolic challenge to a throwaway culture and is a significant further step on our journey to developing a more circular economy.

Visit depositreturn.scot for more information

Click [here](#) to download **newsletter copy**

Newsletter - Web Copy for Stakeholders

Supportive

We Support Scotland's Deposit Return Scheme

XX (INSERT ORGANISATION HERE) is proud to support Scotland's Deposit Return Scheme for bottles and cans. It's expected to become law next year, after regulations were published by the Scottish Government on 10th September 2019.

By aiming to capture 90% of the cans and bottles in the scheme for recycling, it will rank among the world's top performing schemes.

People and businesses in Scotland increasingly want to know what they can do to tackle the climate emergency. By recycling their bottles and cans through the scheme, everyone in Scotland will have the opportunity to do their bit. Collectively, it adds up. Scotland's Deposit Return Scheme will contribute to the fight against climate change by reducing emissions by the equivalent of 4 million tonnes of CO2 over 25 years, or around 160,000 tonnes of CO2 each year – the equivalent of taking 85,550 cars off the road.

While we currently recycle just half of all containers, Scotland's Deposit Return Scheme aims to capture an estimated 1.5bn drinks containers each year for recycling.

We'll increase the quality of recycled material collected, a real benefit to industry, which has an increasing demand for recycled content of high quality.

Litter prevention is an important benefit of the scheme. Scotland's scheme will cut the volume of litter in the country by a third. It will cut the direct and indirect costs generated by litter every year, and the wider negative impacts of litter.

It has been designed with Scotland's unique needs in mind and, wherever you live, it should be as easy to return a can or bottle as it is to buy one. It will work for you whether you live in in Stromness or Stranraer.

Deposit return encourages behaviour change, presents a challenge to a throwaway culture and is a significant further step on our journey to developing a more circular economy.

It will help protect our environment for generations to come. That's why we're proud to back it.

Visit depositreturn.scot for more information

Click [here](#) to download **newsletter copy**

Content Assets

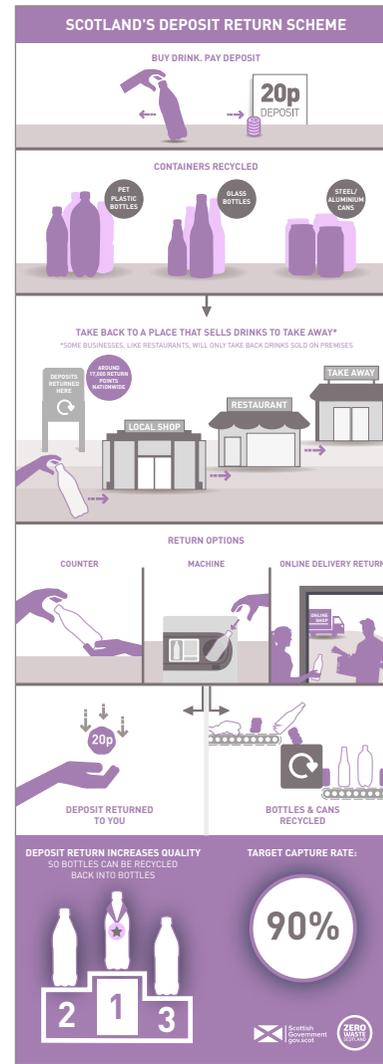
We've created a range of downloadable content, which is available for you to use on your channels, including emails, staff updates and newsletters, website and social media channels, to spread the word about Scotland's Deposit Return Scheme and show your support.

Deposit Return Scheme animation

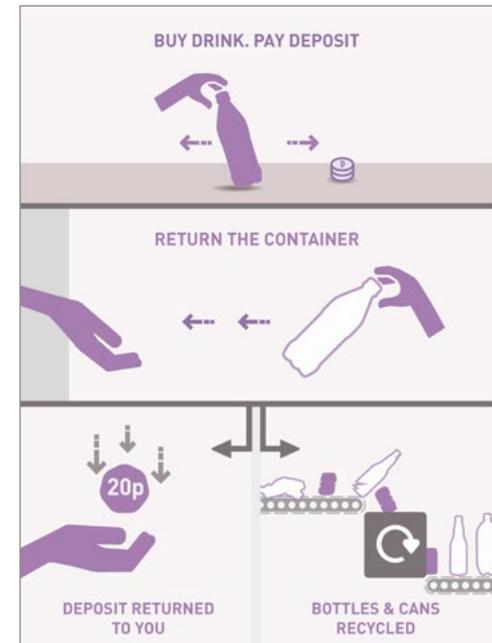


Click [here](#) to download **animation**

Infographics



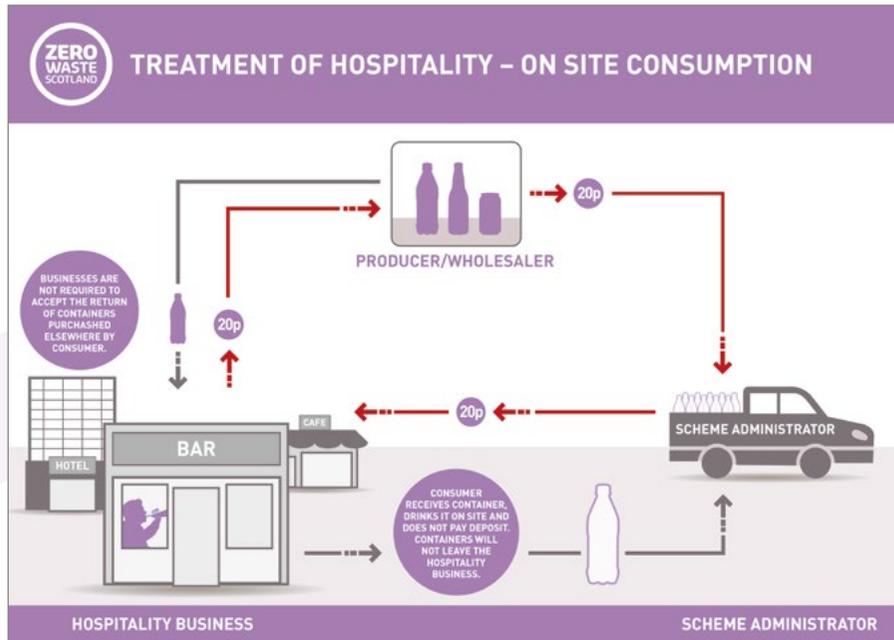
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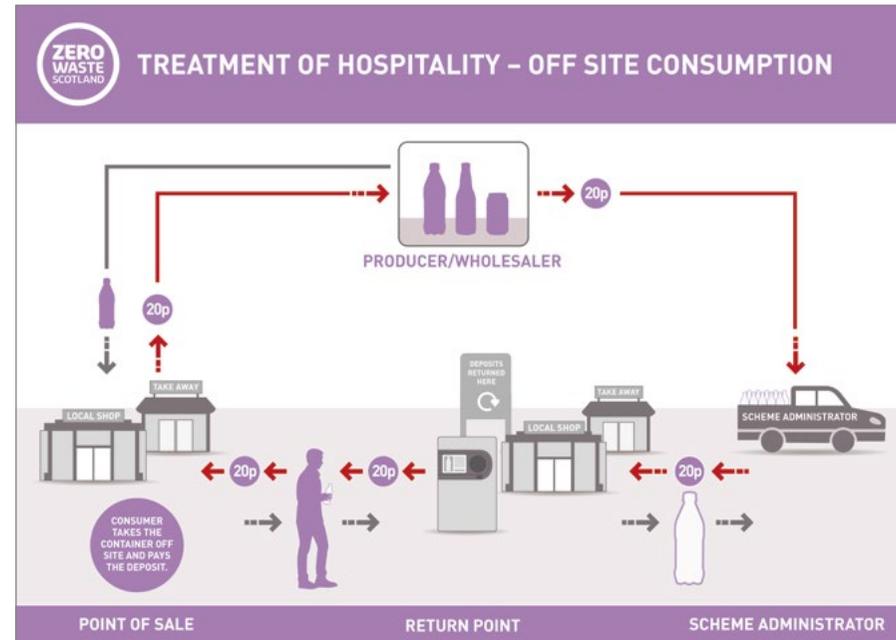
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Content Assets

Hospitality Infographics



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Content Assets

Social Media assets

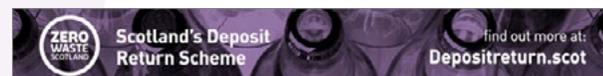


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More Information

The Implementation Advisory Group (IAG) has been set up by the Scottish Government to provide industry expertise and advice on practical issues related to the operation of the scheme and how it interacts with production, retail and hospitality industries. If you're represented by one of the member organisations, they can provide more information about this. To find out more, visit our IAG page <https://Depositreturnscheme.zerowastescotland.org.uk/industry-involvement>

For more information, including a comprehensive list of FAQs, please visit: Depositreturn.scot

Follow our social media channels for more information and shareable content:

@ZeroWasteScot
#DepositReturn
Linked In group:

<https://www.linkedin.com/company/zero-waste-scotland>
www.facebook.com/zerowastescotland

We issue a regular stakeholder newsletter.

To sign up, contact:

<https://www.zerowastescotland.org.uk/deposit-return-scheme/more-information>



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