



Scottish Government
Riaghaltas na h-Alba
gov.scot

Scotland's deposit return scheme

About Zero Waste Scotland

We exist to create a society where resources are valued and nothing is wasted.

Our goal is to help Scotland realise the economic, environmental and social benefits of making best use of the world's limited natural resources.

Zero Waste Scotland

Our work



Improving recycling
performance



Accelerating a
circular economy

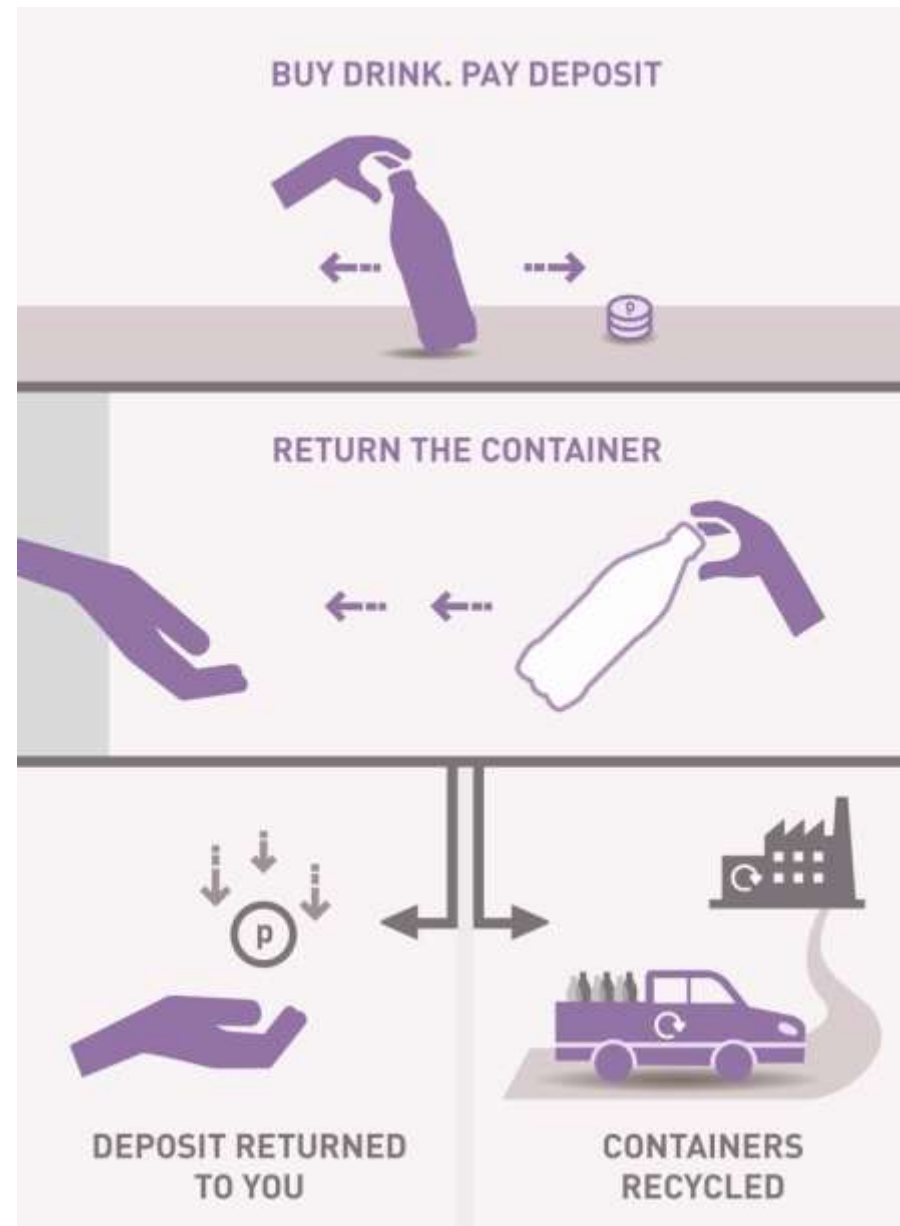


Encouraging
resource efficiency



Reducing litter and
fly tipping

What is a deposit return scheme?





Scotland was the first country in the UK to announce that it is bringing in a deposit return scheme for drinks containers.

Scotland's scheme aims to:

- Increase recycling rate
- Improve quality of what's collected
- Combat littering
- Prevent plastics and other materials polluting our rivers, oceans and countryside

How does it work?

Deposit return is a crucial part of the strategy planned by the Scottish Government to tackle climate change and the problems created by single-use items. It will help us all to change our throwaway culture.

SCOTLAND'S DEPOSIT RETURN SCHEME

BUY DRINK. PAY DEPOSIT



CONTAINERS RECYCLED



RETURN OPTIONS

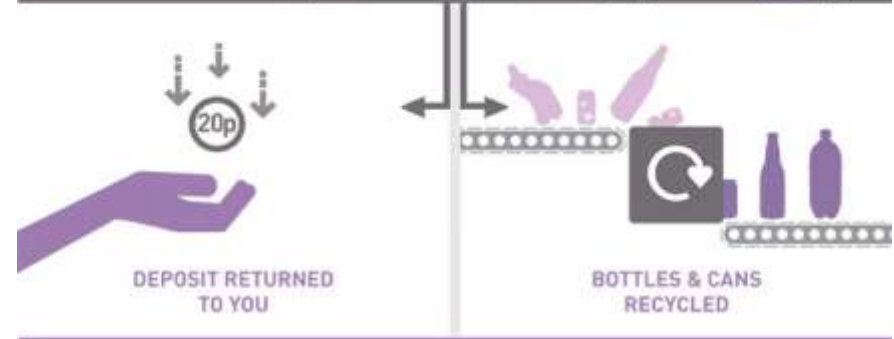
COUNTER



MACHINE



ONLINE DELIVERY RETURN



Key Messages & Benefits

Scotland's scheme

World-class

Easy, accessible

Game-changer (for recycling, litter, behaviour)

Circular

Evidence-based

Industry-funded

Benefits

The Economy

**Social
benefits**


**Behaviour
Change**

**Recycling
quality**

**Recycling
quantity**

**Litter
prevention**

**Tackling
Climate
Change**

An underwater photograph showing a large blue plastic bag and various pieces of debris, including sticks and leaves, floating in clear blue water. The scene is likely a representation of marine pollution.

**Deposit return schemes
are used in 45 countries
and territories around
the world...from Sweden
to Saskatchewan**

**Currently, Scotland recycles
just half of drinks containers**




Scotland's deposit return scheme aims to capture at least 90% of target containers for recycling.



**Scotland's deposit return
scheme will capture an
estimated 1.5bn drinks
containers for recycling
each year.**

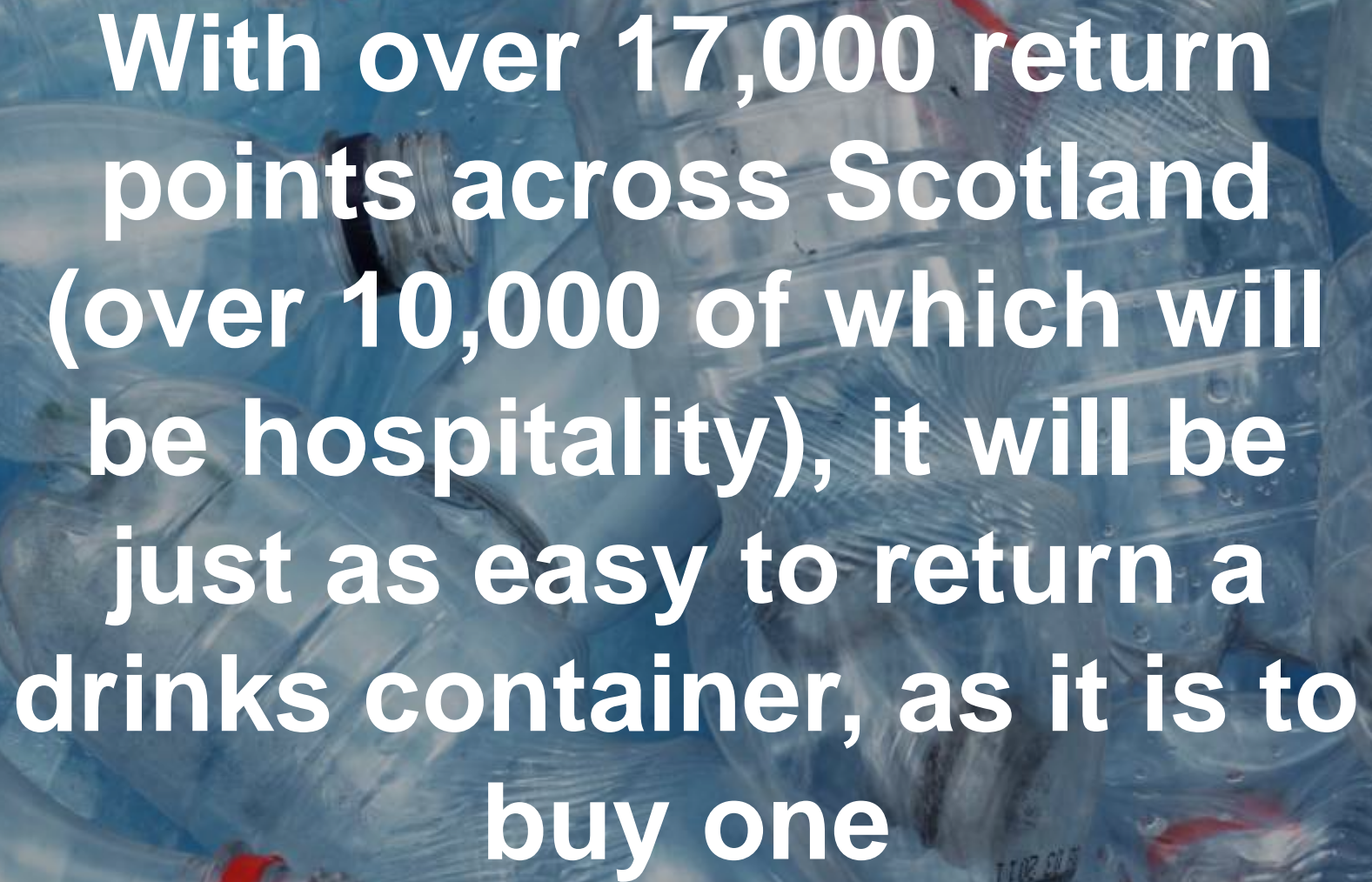


A white car is parked on the right side of a paved road. The background shows a line of green trees and a bright, hazy sky, suggesting a sunny day. The text is overlaid on the left side of the image.

**That's an average of
around 160,000 tonnes
of CO₂eq each year, the
equivalent of taking
85,500 cars off the road**

**Scotland's Deposit
Return Scheme is
expected to reduce
the impacts of litter
in Scotland by
an estimated
£61 million
a year**





With over 17,000 return points across Scotland (over 10,000 of which will be hospitality), it will be just as easy to return a drinks container, as it is to buy one

£46 million of public money is spent every year removing litter and fly tipping from the Scottish environment.





**The wider impacts of litter
cost the Scottish economy
and society £361 million
per year.**

Next steps

Regulations introduced to Scottish Parliament in 2019, under the Climate Change Act.

Under parliamentary procedure, the draft regulations will be required to sit for comment for 90 days.

Following a pause for any required revisions, the regulations will then be laid for 54 days, at the end of which there will be a final vote by MSPs.

Once the legislation process is complete, businesses will have a minimum of 12 months to get ready before the scheme becomes operational.

This will give organisations the time to prepare for its launch.

Thank you

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

www.zerowastescotland.org.uk/depositreturn

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#DepositReturn

www.linkedin.com/company/zero-waste-scotland

www.facebook.com/zerowastescotland

We issue a regular stakeholder newsletter.

To sign up, contact:

drs@zerowastescotland.org.uk



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