

Public Document Pack

COMHAIRLE CONTAE FHINE GALL FINGAL COUNTY COUNCIL

Email: Corporate.Services@fingal.ie

County Hall
Swords
Co Dublin

Tuesday 12th December 2023

To Each Member of the Climate Action, Biodiversity, Environment Strategic Policy Committee

Dear Member

A meeting of the Climate Action, Biodiversity, Environment Strategic Policy Committee will be held in the at 4.30 pm on Tuesday, 19th December, 2023 to consider the following Agenda.

Yours faithfully

Nikki Halleran
Meetings Administrator
Corporate Services

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A G E N D A

- 1 Confirmation and Re-Affirmation of Minutes of the Climate Action, Biodiversity, Environment SPC meeting held on Tuesday 19th September 2023
- 2 National Waste Management Plan
- 3 Community Climate Action Grant
- 4 Deposit Return Scheme

MOTIONS

- 5 Councillor J. Newman - Report on Funding streams to tackle Climate Change
"That the Chief Executive provides a detailed report from the various Council Departments on the 2024 plans to access the Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine (DAFM) Afforestation funding to achieve Nature Based Solutions to climate change, as well as meeting targets in the Forest of Fingal Policy, in particular, are there any ongoing efforts to follow up on DAFM schemes FT3 – Forest Creation on Public Lands and FT4 – NeighbourWoods."
- 6 Councillor M. McCamley - Use of LED lighting to minimise the effect of light pollution
"That the Chief Executive change from LED blue/white lighting and switch to alternative LED's using warmer tones in order to minimise the effect of light pollution on humans, birds and animals."
- 7 Councillor P. Mulville - Report on Fingal Biodiversity Action Plan 2022-2030
"That the Chief Executive report on the progress in implementing the Fingal Biodiversity Action Plan 2022-2030."

Comhairle Contae Fine Gall Fingal County Council

Minutes of Climate Action, Biodiversity, Environment Strategic Policy Committee

Tuesday, 19th September, 2023

PRESENT

Attending Remotely:

Councillor David Healy, Councillor Joe Newman, Councillor Pamela Conroy, Councillor Paul Mulville, Councillor Aoibheann Tormey, Seamus McGrath

Apologies: Councillor Mary McCamley, Edward Stevenson

The Area Chairperson, Councillor David Healy, presided.

OFFICIALS PRESENT

David Storey, Director of Services; John Daly, Senior Engineer; Catherine O'Donovan; Senior Executive Officer, Enda Hoey, Senior Executive Scientist, Alain Kerveillant, Executive Scientist, Grainne Carroll, Administrative Officer, Maria Hand, Senior Staff Officer.

CABE/10/23 (Agenda Item No 1)

Confirmation and Re-Affirmation of Minutes of the Climate Action, Biodiversity, Environment SPC meeting held on Tuesday 27th June 2023

There was a discussion regarding the LACAP update ahead of the public consultation. David Storey stated that the document had just been proofed and advised that there will be a briefing to all Councillors next Monday, September 25th and that there would also be 2 Public Engagements in Swords and Blanchardstown and that these would be both drop in and online sessions. It was requested by Members that the Public Engagement sessions be expanded to other towns in the County and that part of the remit from these sessions would be to capture the feedback given. David Storey agreed to look at other areas and advised that the plan is going out in Draft format and feedback of the consultation will be presented at the next SPC meeting.

Cllr Tormey advised that the issue re: CRMs was brought to the recent OP&F meeting.

The minutes of the meetings of the 27th of June 2023, were agreed. The minutes were proposed by Cllr Healy and seconded by Cllr Newman.

CABE/11/23 (Agenda Item No 2)

Councillor P. Mulville - 'Deposit and Return' scheme for plastic bottles and aluminium cans

Motion: Councillor P. Mulville

Proposed: Cllr Mulville

Seconded: Cllr Healy

“That the Chief Executive report on what steps is being taken to promote can and plastic bottle recycling units at shopping centres under the new 'Deposit and Return' scheme for plastic bottles and aluminium cans.”

Response:

Ireland will soon be introducing a Deposit Return Scheme. In February 2024, when you buy a drink in a plastic bottle, aluminium or steel can that features the Re-turn logo, you pay a small deposit in addition to the price of the drink. When you return your empty, undamaged container to any retail outlet, you get your deposit back in full.

The legal framework for the Deposit Return Scheme is the [\(Separate Collection \(Deposit Return\) Regulations 2021 \(SI 599 of 2021\)\)](#). Under the DRS Regulations, it is the responsibility of producers to establish the Deposit Return Scheme and to nominate an operator of the scheme for approval by the Minister.

In May 2022, Minister Smyth received an application from Deposit Return Scheme Ireland CLG (Trading as [Re-turn](#)) to act as an approved body under the DRS Regulations. On 1 July 2022, Re-turn's application was approved. Re-turn is a new, not-for-profit company set up by beverage producers. The approval is a vital foundational element for the project, giving Re-turn the legal standing to establish a deposit return scheme and commence formal engagement with beverage producers, wholesalers, retailers and other operators.

All beverage containers from 150ml to 3 litres are included in the DRS (PET, Aluminium & Steel). At present 30-40% of beverage containers are not collected for recycling and the DRS will address this shortfall and increase collection rates significantly.

All producers and retailers are legally obliged to register with Re-turn and comply with the DRS Regulations which will be overseen and managed by Re-Turn. Registration is available at www.re-turn.ie.

The Department of the Environment, Climate and Communications is working closely with Re-turn on the implementation of the Scheme, which started back in November 2022 with the registration of producers and retailers. In August 2023 Re-Turn invited all Producers to register their in scope products (150ml – 3 litres) in PET bottles, aluminium or steel cans. The planned 'go-live' date for consumers is February 2024.

A marketing and communications strategy is currently being implemented by Re-Turn focusing on producers and retailers initially to help raise awareness and to increase engagement with a wider PR campaign being implemented around consumers from October 2023 onwards. A website has been developed in conjunction with blogs, webinars and digital campaigns to educate and inform the general public about the benefits of the new Deposit Return Scheme and how to recycle beverage containers using either reverse vending machines or over the counter to an approved return point operator. A deposit of 15c will apply to containers 500mls or less and a deposit of 25c for each container from 500ml to 3 litres.

Local Authorities will have a role to play in terms of enforcement for Producers/Retailers who haven't signed up to the scheme or are not fully complying with the Deposit Return Scheme Regulations and this will be confirmed in due course through the Eastern Midlands Waste Enforcement Regional Lead Authority (WERLA).

For further information visit: <https://re-turn.ie/> or <https://re-turn.ie/#questions>

Following a discussion, it was agreed that an invite be issued to 'Re-turn' to give a briefing/presentation to this committee.

Report: Accepted

CABE/12/23 (Agenda Item No 3)

Councillor P. Conroy - Raise awareness towards circular consumption and production patterns

Motion: Councillor P. Conroy - Raise awareness toward circular consumption and production patterns

Proposed: Cllr Conroy

Seconded: Cllr Healy

"That this Strategic Policy Committee recommends that the Chief Executive provides support to communities wishing to raise awareness and foster behavioural change towards circular consumption and production patters, by hosting clothes swaps, through the provision of equipment and advice, similar to the approach taken by Dublin City Council."

Response:

If the Committee recommends this initiative, then the Environment Climate Action and Active Travel Department will engage with Dublin City Council's Waste Management Section to enquire as to the success of the scheme, any learnings to date; and consider an appropriate pilot for Fingal.

It was agreed that Catherine O'Donovan will liaise with Dublin City Council with a view to having a pilot programme in Fingal.

Report Accepted

AOB: Next meeting to take place in person at date to be agreed upon.

Meeting ended at 17:11

AREA CHAIRPERSON

DATED

Community Climate Action Fingal

Funding Community projects to Reduce Emissions



COMMUNITY ENERGY



TRAVEL



FOOD & WASTE



LOCAL CLIMATE & ENVIRONMENTAL ACTION



SHOPPING & RECYCLING

Comhairle Contae
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Fingal County
Council



Rialtas na
hÉireann
Government
of Ireland

Tionscadal Éireann
Project Ireland
2040

Community Climate Action Officer

Sinéad Fox

CommClimateActionOfficer@fingal.ie

Agenda Item 3

Who is Eligible?

- Not-for Profit organisations operating in Fingal
- Tidy Towns, Community Groups, Residents Organisations
- Youth Clubs, Active Age, Mens/ Women's Sheds
- Sports Clubs, GAA, Soccer, Sailing, Scouts, Tennis, Cricket, Cycling
- Can have Charitable Status, Articles of Association, Regular minuted meetings/ AGM
- Groups registered with PPN/ The Wheel
- **This grant covers projects that will reduce emissions**
 - *This grant is not for 'learning' and does not cover workshops and festivals/ awareness events
- Please note *Schools and Educational facilities are not eligible,
 - *businesses/ commercial entities are not eligible, but projects can include working with businesses to reduce waste/ water/ energy



Projects are 100% funded,
3 scales of grants available in this competitive application process

Small Scale Projects - Up to €20K

Medium Scale Projects - €21K to €50K

Large Scale Projects - €51K to €100K

Each Application should cover the 5 Themes



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Themes - Project Ideas to Reduce Emissions

1. **Community Energy:** Solar Panels, Building Insulation, Heat Pump on a Community Building, LED Lighting in car park/ community area/ sports pitch
2. **Community Travel:** Cycle Parking infrastructure in Community area, Community Share Travel Options, Car-Pooling Initiative, Group cycling, bike lockers, bikeshare schemes, bike repair hubs
3. **Community Food & Waste:** Community Composting, Leaf Mould Collections, Community Food Bank/ sharing, Working with local businesses to reduce Food Waste, Packaging, Community Gardens
4. **Community Local Climate & Environmental Action:** Sand Dune/ river/watercourse/ Habitat Restoration, Planting Trees, Planting Biodiversity Area, Community Gardens
5. **Community Shopping & Recycling:** Working with local businesses to reduce waste, introduce local return/ Repair/ swap schemes, reduce packaging

Project Ideas

- **Building Fabric Upgrades**
 - Roof/Attic Insulation
 - Wall Insulation
- **Renewable Energy Solutions**
 - Heat Pumps
 - Solar PV Panels for Solar Electricity
- **Energy Efficient Lighting**
 - Interior & Exterior, Floodlighting
 - Car Parks



Community Climate Action Fingal

Funding Community projects to Reduce Emissions



COMMUNITY ENERGY



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Project Ideas

- Heat Recovery Solutions
- Smart Metering
 - What gets measured gets managed
- Technological improvements
 - Building Management Systems
 - Heating Controls
 - Ventilation Controls





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FOOD & WASTE



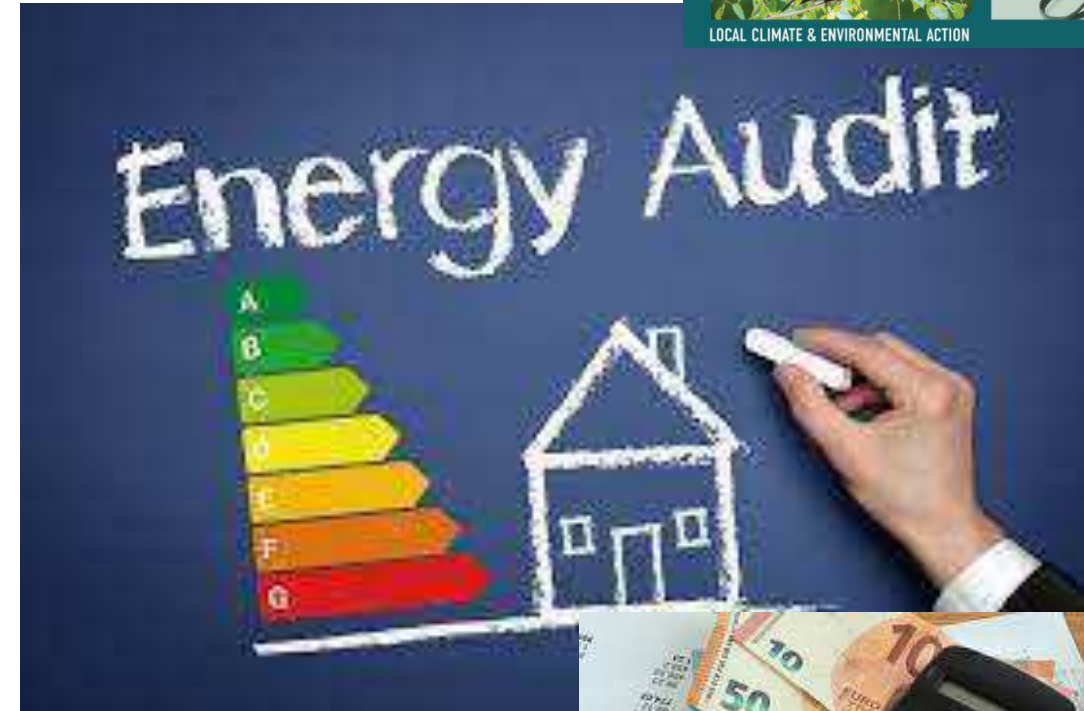
LOCAL CLIMATE & ENVIRONMENTAL ACTION



SHOPPING & RECYCLING

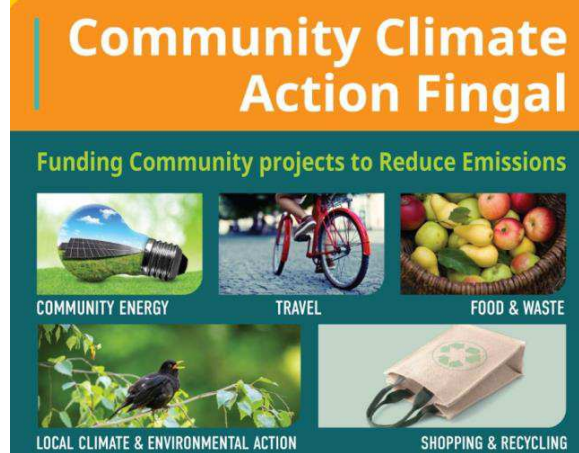
Next Steps

- Assess Your Buildings
 - Energy Audit
 - SEAI 2k Voucher Support System
 - Baseline Energy Consumption
 - Schedule of Improvements
 - Cost vs Impact Assessment
- Get at Least Three Quotes
- When can the work be scheduled?
- **Contact Eric Dennis, Sustainable Energy Communities Mentor for Fingal**



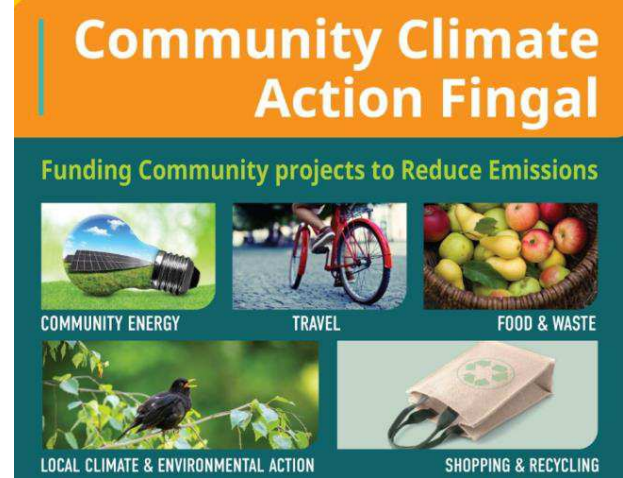
Community Climate Action Officer will support groups in developing applications

- There will be one lead group in the application
- Each application might have multiple groups involved to hit the 5 themes - so networking is very important
- Fingal County Council will assess the applications and partner with the groups in the Application to the Department for the grant
- Meetings must be minuted and all agreements recorded
- Following approval, the lead group will receive 25% upfront funding, if necessary, group bank details will be submitted
- More payments can be drawn down as the project is verified/ vouched
- All parties must have a Bank/ Credit Union Account & treasurer



Online Applications

- Deadline for Applications is 28th February 2024
- Contact the Community Climate Action Officer (CCAO)
- Arrange a meeting to discuss ideas
- These are long-term projects, aiming to begin next September 2024 (approximately)
- Groups should develop ideas locally, partnering with groups to fulfil the 5 themes
- Get Energy Audit (BER), then 3 quotes for the components - not required to go with the cheapest quote but you must get quotes for the work/ items
- Gather whatever paperwork is required (5yr lease/ renting agreements from property owner)
- Applications scored as according to Department Guidelines



Community Climate Action Fingal

Funding Community projects to Reduce Emissions



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Project Ireland
2040

**Comhairle Contae
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Fingal County
Council



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CommClimateActionOfficer@fingal.ie

1. Contact Sinéad Fox Climate Action Department
2. Request an EOI Expression of Interest Form
3. Develop the Application Together



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LOCAL CLIMATE & ENVIRONMENTAL ACTION



SHOPPING & RECYCLING



Ireland's New Deposit Return Scheme

**Presentation to Fingal Co Co, Climate Action,
Biodiversity, Environment Strategic Policy Committee**

19 December 2023

Gillian McCann Re-turn



Agenda

- **Why Deposit & Return?**
 - Legislative Context
 - Ireland's Deposit Return Scheme (DRS) Regulations
 - Fingal County Council Corporate Plan 2014 -2024
- **Benefits of Deposit & Return**
- **Who is Re-turn. Strategic Objectives of Re-turn**
- **The Deposit Return Model**
 - How it works
- **Producer & Retailer Definitions**
- **Transition Period**
- **Fraud Risk**
- **Re-turn Communications Plan**
- **Enforcement of the DRS Regulations**
- **Public Support for DRS**
- **Q & A**



Why Deposit & Return?

Waste Action Plan for a Circular Economy (4th September 2020)

Ireland's National Waste Policy 2020-2025

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PLASTIC, PACKAGING AND SINGLE USE PLASTIC (SUP)

DEPOSIT AND RETURN SCHEME FOR PLASTIC BOTTLES AND ALUMINIUM CANS

SINGLE USE ITEMS BANNED FROM JULY 2021:

COTTON BUD STICKS, CUTLERY, PLATES, STIRRERS, CHOPSTICKS, STRAWS, POLYSTYRENE CONTAINERS AND OXO-DEGRADABLE PLASTIC PRODUCTS

SIGNIFICANTLY REDUCE SUPS BEING PLACED ON THE MARKET BY 2026

ALL PACKAGING REUSABLE OR RECYCLABLE BY 2030

Waste Hierarchy



Circular Economy

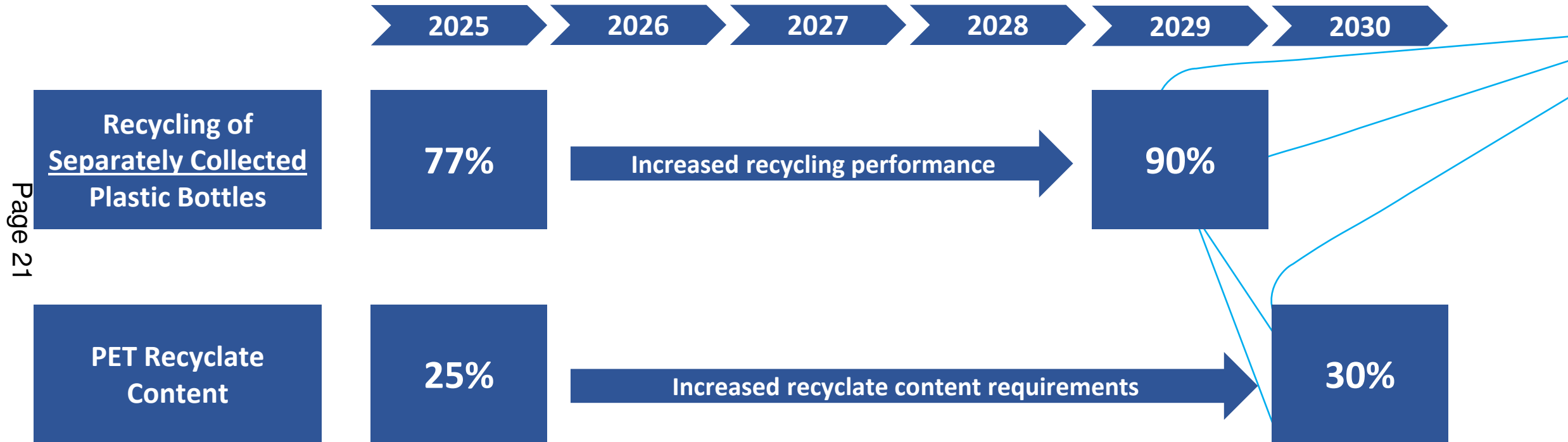


Fingal County Council Corporate Plan 2019 - 2024

- The introduction of Deposit and Return (DRS) is a flagship Circular Economy project of Ireland's National Waste Policy 2020-2025
- DRS also aligns with the strategic objective set out in THEME 2 of the Fingal County Council Corporate Plan 2014 -2024
- **THEME 2: Quality and Climate Resilient Environment**
 - **STRATEGIC PRIORITY PROTECT OUR ENVIRONMENT AND HERITAGE**
 - **STRATEGIC OBJECTIVE**
 - Promote the sustainable management of waste & the circular economy



Key Driver of DRS: Single-use Plastics (SUP) Directive Targets (June 2019)



Transposed into National Regulations (3rd July 2021)

Ireland's Deposit Return Scheme (DRS) Regulations (SI 599-2021) 20th November 2021

Mandatory deposit on 'in-scope containers'	PET bottles and Aluminium and Steel beverage containers from 150ml to 3 litres	Includes alcohol and non-alcohol containers	Excludes dairy containers	Excludes glass
Excludes non-beverage containers	Excludes items consumed in bars/cafes or other on-premises options	Deposit rate set by the Minister 15c less than 500ml 25c 500ml to 3ltr	Deposit rate fixed for each individual container (Multi-packs)	Deposit (VAT-free) must be shown as a separate line item on invoices and till receipts

The legislative basis is provided through the transposition of the Single Use Plastics Directive (3rd July 2021) and the Government's Waste Action Plan for a Circular Economy, which commits to the introduction of a DRS for PET and Aluminum beverage containers. New Separate Collection (Deposit Return Scheme) Regulations 2023 to be published in Dec 2023.

Benefits of Deposit & Return

- DRS is an effective recovery system with the highest recovery rates of any other ERP, exceeding 90% in several European markets
- DRS is expected to reduce the tonnage of deposit-bearing containers that are landfilled or incinerated by 88%.
- DRS offers Consumers an economic incentive to return post consumer beverage packages for recycling and transition from a traditional linear take-make-dispose models in preference of a circular economy
- DRS reduces marine and land litter due to high recovery rates, reducing industry recovery of litter cost (estimate tens of millions of euros in savings)
- Reduction in CO2 emissions (yielding savings of circa €3m per annum) and reduced consumption of virgin PET (reduced fossil fuel consumption, climate change benefit)
- DRS yields more high food grade recycled Pet material (recyclate) for rPET – bottle-to-bottle recycling
- Significant potential to create green jobs (full or part-time) in administration, transportation, processing and recycling.



Who is Re-turn

- **Re-turn** is an extended producer responsibility scheme set up by producers, operating under Ministerial Approval, on a not-for-profit basis, to operate a deposit return scheme (DRS) in Ireland

Mission

Re-turn's mission is to provide consumers with a convenient, user-friendly and best in class deposit return system for beverage bottles, aluminium & steel cans in Ireland.

Vision

Re-turn's vision is to create a positive impact on the environment and inspire consumers to contribute to a sustainable society by supporting circular economy principles.

Core Values

Re-turn operates with honesty, transparency and aims to collaborate with all stakeholders to ensure the best outcome. It embraces and drives change, and is committed to constantly improving and innovating. It is motivated by an innate drive to take action and achieve its vision.

Re-turn Strategic Objectives

- Establish an efficient and successful DRS System that is cost effective for all stakeholders, resulting in maximum economic and environmental benefits
- Provide Consumers with a convenient, user-friendly and best in class deposit return scheme for beverage bottles, aluminium and steel cans in Ireland
- Encourage and inspire behavioural change to practice more sustainable habits and incorporate DRS into everyday life
- During the Approval period, achieve high collection and recycling rates in excess of the EU target of 90% (Note: achievement of the EU targets should be the minimum, DRSI should be ambitious, and it should be possible to achieve in excess of the 90% target in ten years)
- Against the framework of the Circular Economy, achieve maximum circularity for beverage containers and guarantee a high quality and quantity of materials (rPET), to facilitate the achievement of the Recycled Content target
- Contribute to the reduction of litter, particularly for beverage containers consumed 'on-the-go'

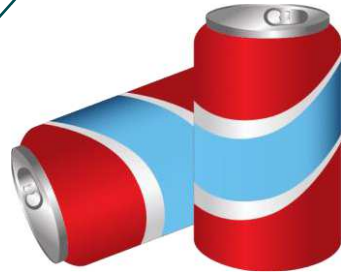
The Deposit Return Model – How it works...

- DRS is a proven solution to achieving higher collection rates for beverage containers
- More than 40 countries and regions have successfully introduced Deposit Return Schemes, with 13 in Europe and many more being implemented
- DRS incentivises recycling by placing a monetary value on beverage containers
 - The Consumer pays a small deposit on top of the retail price when they buy a drink or single-use container
 - Return points will be located throughout the Republic of Ireland
- Consumers may return their empty containers either by using a reverse vending machine (RVM), or over the counter, to an approved return point operator



Producer Definition

- Ireland's DRS Legislation defines a 'producer' as any person, irrespective of the selling technique used, who is first to place in-scope products on the market in the Republic of Ireland. The Regulations also set out the obligations that will fall to producers, retailers and return point operators under the scheme.
- If you produce/manufacture drinks, import them or sell them online, you are considered a Producer and have a key role to play in the new Deposit Return scheme.
- All Producers must register with the scheme in order to fulfil their environmental and legislative responsibilities.



Retailer Definition

- Ireland's DRS Legislation defines a “retailer” as any person who for the purpose of trade or otherwise in the course of business sells or otherwise supplies ‘in-scope’ products to a final consumer;
- The Regulations also set out the obligations that will fall to producers, retailers and return point operators under the scheme and provide the framework within which the Minister approves the scheme operator, DRSI CLG, trading as Re-turn.
- Under the regulation of the scheme, retailers that sell ‘in scope’ products will have a legal requirement to accept returns of empty drinks containers for recycling. This includes online retailers of drinks.
- If you sell drinks on your premises (for take away) or online, you have a key role to play in the new Deposit Return scheme.
- All Retailers must register with the scheme in order to fulfil their environmental and legislative responsibilities.

Re-turn Transition Period Timeline



Producers & Wholesalers prepare for transition period with run down of non-deposit stock and supply of Re-turn logo stock to Retailers, in preparation for 1 Feb go live

1 January
2024

1 February
2024

16 March
2024

April
2024

31 May
2024

1 June
2024

From 16 March, 2024, all Retailers & Wholesalers must only order / purchase Re-turn logo products

Non deposit stock filtered through the system and only Re-turn logo stock on Retailer Shelves.

Re-turn Deposit Return Scheme go-live in Retail environment and to Consumers.
Retailers purchase new Re-turn logo stock in addition to non-deposit stock.
Transition period of 6 weeks for Producers to SELL non-deposit logo stock until 15 March 2024

From 16 March, all Producers & Wholesalers must cease to SELL non-deposit stock to Retailers.

Re-turn Logo stock and non deposit stock on shelves / for sale over 4-month period in total

ONLY Re-turn logo stock on Retailer shelves / For sale nationwide

Fraud Risks

To minimize the risk of fraud in the new Deposit Return Scheme, the following is recommended:

- Use of ROI specific barcodes to be maximized to minimize fraud.
- International barcodes should only be used where absolutely necessary (e.g., for small volume products). This ensures that registered barcodes do not match product sold in other jurisdictions without DRS (allowing fraudulent claims by consumers). Extent of International barcode usage to be finalized.
- All containers to display the Re-turn logo to maximise awareness of 'in scope' products (consumers, manual, retail take back and enforcement authorities).
- International barcodes where used will incur a surcharge to mitigate fraud financial risk.



Challenge of Fraud Prevention and Mitigation

Land border with
NI increases risk
of fraud

Scheme is
prioritising the
use of National
Barcodes

Mandatory
requirement for
on-pack scheme
logo

Ensuring Fraud
risk provision is
part of all
assumptions



Communications Plan

To communicate the Deposit Return Scheme effectively, a comprehensive B2B and B2C communications plan, with clear messaging is essential.

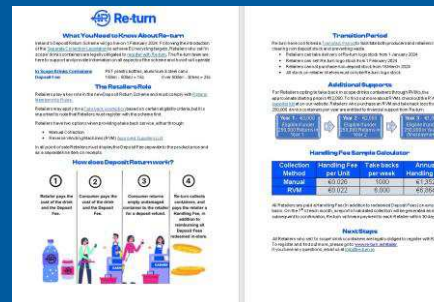
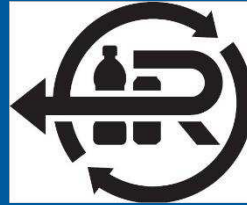
Communication Objectives

- Create Awareness and Understanding of the Re-turn proposition – who we are, why introduced, benefits and impact
- Educate key stakeholders on how Re-turn operates, timelines and expectations
- Influence and shape attitudes - on circular economy and the positive impact of Re-turn in achieving EU recycling targets - recycling quantity and quality
- Inspire stakeholders to actively participate in scheme and advocate on behalf of Re-turn

In line with brand development, there will be a continuity across all messaging, ensuring streamlined development of the Re-turn brand identity and clear links back to our core communications goals and objectives.

Re-turn Brand Assets

- Logos
- Retailer Toolkit
- Social Media branding
- Technical & Labelling Specification Manual
- Producer Guidelines & Logo Assets
- RVM Brand Guidelines
- Retailer & Staff Handouts
- Variety of POS



RVM Branding

RVM Branding - part of Retailer toolkit

RVM External Enclosures branding

How to Return

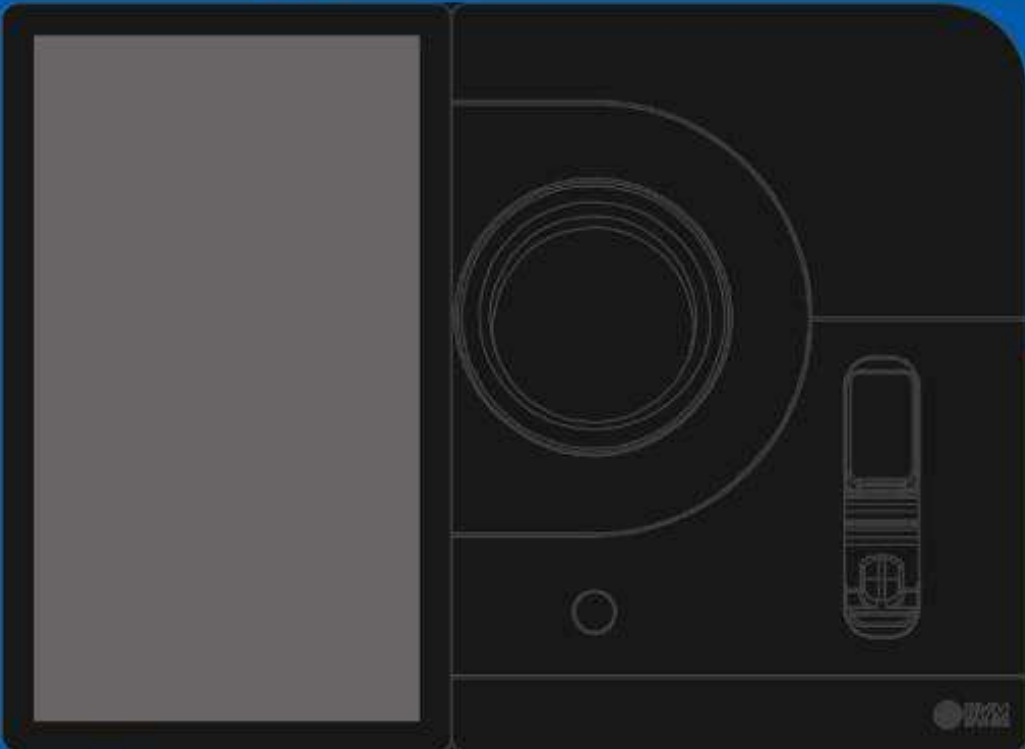
- 

1
Insert empty, undamaged plastic drinks bottles & cans with Re-turn logo only.
- 

2
Voucher for deposit amount is issued.
- 

3
Redeem deposit voucher at till.

Re-turn



What to Return

Permitted Drinks Containers

PET Plastic Bottles, Aluminium/Steel Cans from 150ml - 3litres.



ONLY containers with the Re-turn logo.



Label/barcode must be clearly legible.

Do Not Insert



Glass



Tetra Pak



Dairy Products

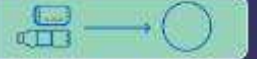
Deposit Values

(Based on size of bottles/cans)

150ml - 500ml	→	20c
Over 500ml - 3litres	→	25c

Discover the benefits of Deposit Return at www.re-turn.ie

How to Insert:
Base first



Re-turn Livery - Nationwide

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National Consumers Communications Campaign Objectives

Awareness, Education, Engagement & Brand Building

Execute an awareness and education campaign launching Re-turn as a national Deposit Return Scheme to consumers, and providing information on the 'Who, Why and How'.



Burst 1 Communications Pillars

Who we are: Introduce and familiarise consumers to Re-turn as Ireland's National Deposit Return Scheme.

Why do this: Inform consumers about Deposit Return, the environmental benefits and differences from the current system of recycling.

How to Re-turn: Provide consumers with necessary information on how Deposit Return operates and how they can participate and contribute to this really important circular

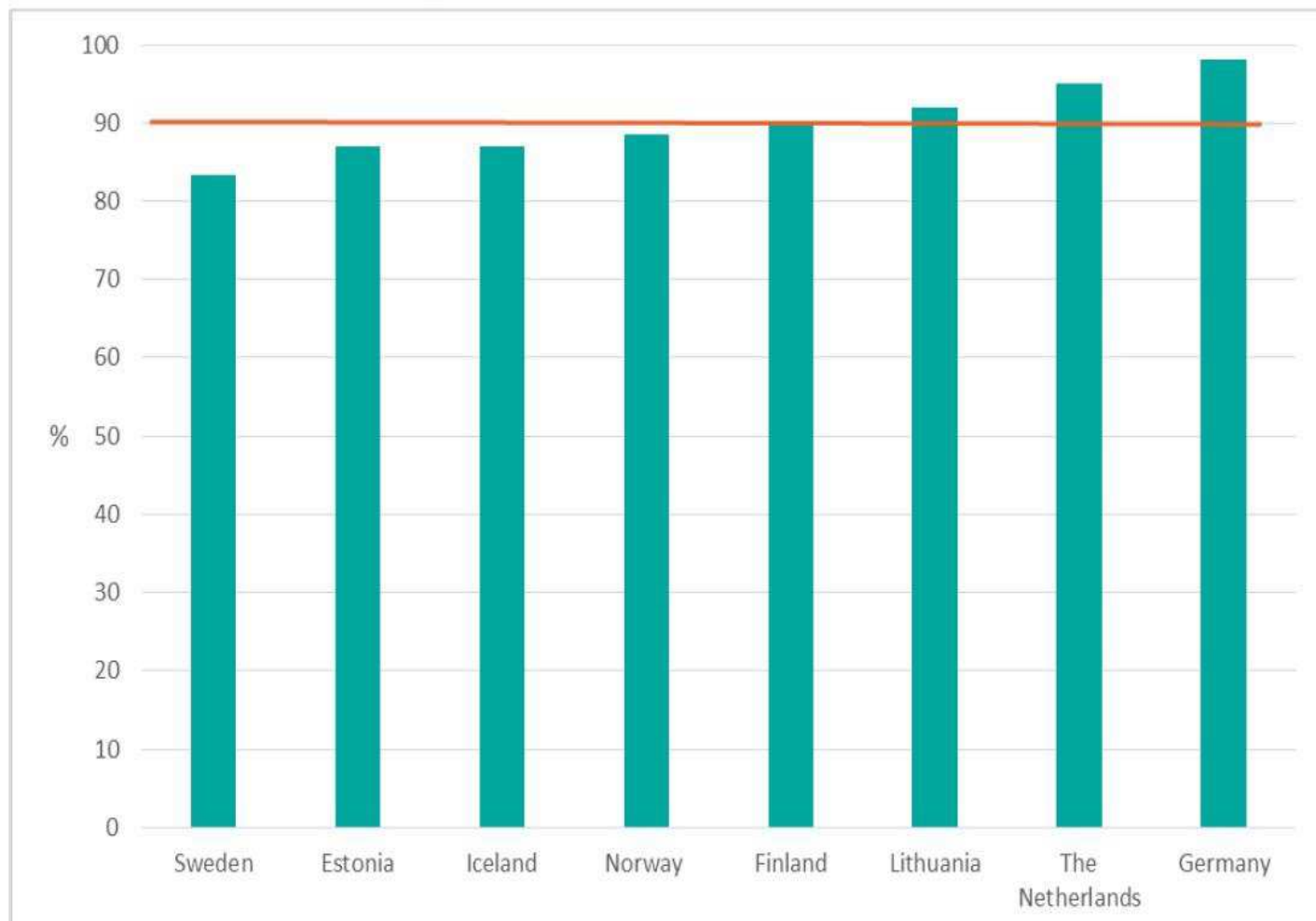
Enforcement of the DRS Regulations

- Regulation 19: “Each local authority shall be responsible for the enforcement of the provisions of these Regulations within their functional areas and shall appoint authorised persons to take such steps as are necessary for this purpose.”
 - Offences, Prosecution and Penalties are also set out in Regulations 20 and 21
- Re-turn have been supporting the WERLAS in the development of their Enforcement Plans for DRS (i.e. guidelines, templates, enforcement portal etc).
- Re-turn and WERLAS to participate in joint awareness raising Roadshows in each waste region in Q1 2024
 - Enforcement of the DRS Regulations to be a national priority in 2024

Deposit Return Scheme Adoption & Public Support

High return rates in European Deposit Return Schemes

Figure 2: Plastic Beverage Bottle Return Rates in European DRSs

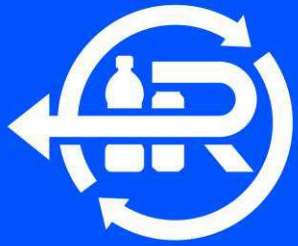


Public Support

Red-C poll commissioned in 2020 indicated 88% of Irish people support introduction of DRS

*Source: Voice Ireland

Consumer Report of Acceptance of Ireland's Deposit Return Scheme based on a survey research carried out by Amárach Research in 2023 indicates 81% support for the introduction of DRS



Re-turn

Ireland's New Deposit Return Scheme

Thank You Questions & Answers



For further information, please contact: info@re-turn.ie

COMHAIRLE CONTAE FHINE GALL FINGAL COUNTY COUNCIL

CLIMATE ACTION, BIODIVERSITY, ENVIRONMENT STRATEGIC POLICY COMMITTEE MEETING

TUESDAY 19th December 2023

ITEM 05

REPORT OF FUNDING STREAMS TO TACKLE CLIMATE CHANGE

Motion: Councillor J. Newman

“That the Chief Executive provides a detailed report from the various Council Departments on the 2024 plans to access the Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine (DAFM) Afforestation funding to achieve Nature Based Solutions to climate change, as well as meeting targets in the Forest of Fingal Policy, in particular, are there any ongoing efforts to follow up on DAFM schemes FT3 – Forest Creation on Public Lands and FT4 – NeighbourWoods.”

Report:

During 2024 the Council is planning to plant 11 Hectares (Approximately 27.2 Acres) of new woodland at Nevitt, an area of land in Council ownership south of Balbriggan. This involves planting in excess of 20,000 mainly native trees in line with Action Ref: N9 of the Fingal Draft Climate Action Plan 2024-2029 which states: *“Initiate a programme of targeted Strategic Annual Tree Planting including identifying and mapping priority locations, to include sites suitable for woodland creation. Reviewed in an annual works programme, presenting what is planned for the coming year. Taking advantage of government funding programmes such as the New Woodland Creation Scheme on Public Lands”*. This initiative is also in line with the actions in the Fingal Biodiversity Action Plan recommending increased tree cover in the County and with Action 3.1 of *“Forest of Fingal – A Tree Strategy for Fingal”* which states: *“Initiate a programme of targeted Strategic Annual Tree*

Planting including identifying and mapping priority locations, to include sites suitable for woodland creation. Reviewed in an annual works programme, presenting what is planned for the coming year. Taking advantage of government funding programmes such as the New Woodland Creation Scheme on Public Lands". Additional extensive planting is planned for the Nevitt site along with strategically located afforestation projects at other locations including Rogerstown Park / Firmer Balleally Landfill, Ward River Valley Park, Tolka Valley Park, Dunsink former landfill and Bremore Regional Park, Balbriggan. The Council will pursue available public funding for these planting initiatives as appropriate.

Source of report:

Kevin Halpenny, Senior Parks & Landscape Officer, Planning & Strategic Infrastructure Department

COMHAIRLE CONTAE FHINE GALL FINGAL COUNTY COUNCIL

CLIMATE ACTION, BIODIVERSITY, ENVIRONMENT STRATEGIC POLICY COMMITTEE MEETING

TUESDAY 19th December 2023

ITEM 07

REPORT OF FINGAL BIODIVERSITY ACTION PLAN 2022 – 2030

Motion: Councillor P. Mulville

“That the Chief Executive report on the progress in implementing the Fingal Biodiversity Action Plan 2022-2030.”

Response:

The Fingal Biodiversity Forum was set up in June 2023. This Forum includes representatives from 11 NGO's, State agencies and community groups, as well as Councillors from each ACM area and SPC's and representatives from various Council Departments. At the first meeting 62 priority actions were identified by the forum members for implementation in the period 2023-2026. Project leads were identified and actions were allocated for each of the years. The resulting implementation plan gives a clear overview of what actions will be implemented each year and by whom.

28 actions are listed for 2023 of which 23 actions were implemented or ongoing. Wetland restoration works were completed at St Itas Demesne and Turvey Nature Park. Exeter University completed the Brent Geese Satellite tracking project which has yielded a wealth of information on how these birds spend the winter here. Invasive species control works were undertaken for Giant Hogweed, Himalayan Balsam, Japanese Knotweed, Cherry Laurel, Rhododendron and Mink. Conservation grazing with the Old Irish Goat, Pigs and cattle are ongoing in Howth to manage the

wildfire breaks and enhance the conservation value of the lands. A river enhancement study on the Ward river identified various measures that will help to enhance the river habitat and improve fish migration. 35 schools have registered for the Nature Education program in primary and secondary schools and this program will be rolled out early next year. The Council continued its work with the 22 local tidy towns groups to implement the Tidy Towns plans and carry out works to enhance the biodiversity value of our open space. Fingal County Council also supported Birdwatch Ireland volunteers with their Little Tern project in Portrane and they had 13 fledglings this summer.

Source of Report:

Hans Visser, Biodiversity Officer