

DEPOSIT REFUND SCHEME FACTSHEET

VOICE
urging greener choices now!

PLASTIC PACKAGING WASTE IN IRELAND

1 in 3 plastic bottles are not recycled



Dublin

Cork

That's nearly 1 million bottles/day. End to end they would reach Cork from Dublin

We create 280,000 tonnes plastic packaging waste a year, that's 30 million pieces/day!

 **61 kg/person**

Ireland is the worst in Europe for producing plastic packaging waste at 61kg/person (double the EU average of 30kg)

 **1 mill/day**

200-400 million takeaway coffee cups are used each year, that's around 1/2-1 million a day.

The Waste Reduction Act would ban many single use items and adopt a deposit refund scheme for drinks containers.
Please urge your TDs to support!

www.voiceireland.org

6. It's better to run a DRS pilot programme in Cashel to test its effectiveness. **FALSE**

This will be difficult to manage as many of the containers will be bought outside Cashel and then returned in Cashel, looking for a deposit. If not adequately funded and managed, it could easily fail. The evidence is in from other jurisdictions that deposit schemes work.

6 Common Myths

1. It will cost consumers an extra €1/lift with removal of valuable bottles/cans from the green bin. **FALSE**

Each of the 1 M Households has ~20 lifts of the green bin/year. Total income from recycled plastic/ aluminium is circa €6,567,000, equalling ~€30/lift.

However, any potential increased costs should be covered by producers under the polluter pays principle. REPAK's producer packaging fees are one of the lowest in the EU. Right now, drinks manufacturers pay, on average, €0.002 per plastic bottle (€89/tonne). In Austria, they pay €0.015 per plastic bottle (€670/tonne), in Germany, €0.0325 per plastic bottle (€1,296/tonne), in the Netherlands, €0.009 per plastic bottle (€355.40/tonne) and in Spain, €0.01 per plastic bottle (€377-472/tonne).

2. Establishing a DRS would only increase plastic recycling by 3% **TRUE but misleading...**

Plastic bottles, which are scattered around the countryside, are a small percentage of the whole plastic packaging stream, but comprise a large and visible component, by volume, of plastic packaging litter. Our levels of PET plastic bottle and AL can recycling would increase from 65% to 90% in 3-4 years. Additionally, the EU single use plastic legislation calls for 90% collection of plastic bottles by 2025 and a DRS is the only way to achieve this.

3. A DRS would be a net loss from an environmental perspective because of the carbon footprint of haulage. **FALSE**

Nearly every environmental organisation worldwide supports a DRS for drinks containers. Potential carbon impacts would be alleviated through efficient logistics management (no lorry trips without a full load). Additionally, consumers would not drive to a collection point merely to deposit containers, they would likely do this while shopping.

4. A DRS system is inefficient on top of an existing kerbside system. **FALSE**

Many jurisdictions successfully have both a DRS and kerbside system in place such as Michigan, Oregon, Germany and other countries.

5. Little public and Recyclers support for a DRS. **FALSE**

60 Tidy Towns, 20,000 petition signatories and recycling companies such as Shabra, Wellman International and Quinn Packaging all support a deposit scheme.