

"Our volunteers are filling hundreds of bags with litter every month. A lot of the litter they collect is single-use packaging. We agree that more responsibility should be put on the producers of the packaging and they should have to meet the costs for safe management of the waste their packaging creates. With more responsibility placed on the producers, we would hope it would encourage producers to more efforts to reduce packaging and provide more sustainable options in the future."

**Jen Pless, Chair, Irvine Clean Up Crew**

"Scotland's litter problem is visible in every community, and too often the cost of clearing it up falls on councils, charities and volunteers rather than the companies that produce the packaging in the first place. Extending packaging Extended Producer Responsibility to cover littered items and waste in public bins is a practical application of the polluter-pays principle, ensuring responsibility sits where it belongs.

"There is strong public backing for producers to play their part, and this reform represents a rare opportunity to both reduce waste and encourage smarter packaging design in the first place. By reaffirming its commitment and working with partners and scheme administrator Pack UK, Scotland can show leadership in tackling litter while supporting climate and nature goals.

"Communities and volunteers are already doing enormous work to improve local environments, now policy needs to match that effort by ensuring the true costs of single-use packaging are recognised and reduced."

**Laura Anderson (Young), Campaigner, Environmental Scientist, and Ethical Influencer**

Or shorter version:

"Scotland's communities are tired of footing the bill for litter created by single-use packaging. Extending producer responsibility to cover littered items and waste in public bins would ensure the polluter-pays principle works in practice, while helping reduce waste at source and support cleaner, healthier places to live."

**Laura Anderson (Young), Campaigner, Environmental Scientist, and Ethical Influencer**

*"We see first-hand the devastating impact single-use packaging has on Scotland's beaches, rivers and communities - from plastic bottles and food wrappers polluting our shorelines to microplastics washing back in with every tide. Extending Producer Responsibility to cover littered and bin-bound packaging is a vital step toward holding polluters accountable, ensuring the true cost of waste is borne by those who create it,*

*and accelerating the shift away from our throwaway culture. This is an important opportunity to act against plastic pollution and protect Scotland's people and places for future generations."* **Ruby Free, Surfers Against Sewage Plastics Policy Officer**

Or shorter version:

*"We see first-hand the devastating impact single-use packaging has on Scotland's blue spaces. Extending Producer Responsibility to cover littered and bin-bound packaging is a vital step toward holding polluters accountable and turning the tide on plastic pollution."*

**Ruby Free, Surfers Against Sewage Plastics Policy Officer**

*"Planet Patrol volunteers in Scotland dedicate countless hours to collecting and recording litter in public spaces, but the burden of managing packaging waste shouldn't fall on volunteers or local communities. We fully support Keep Scotland Beautiful's call for pEPR regulations that really put the onus back where it belongs - with producers. Companies profiting from items sold in single-use packaging must meet the cost of the collection and disposal when it's littered or discarded in public bins, and producers must be pushed to cut packaging at source."*

**Lizzie Carr, Founder, Planet Patrol**

*"Communities are calling for urgent action to cover the cost of all the litter that both we and our Local Authorities are collecting from our streets. Twelve years since we started litter picking the volume of single-use items and packaging we collect just increases all the time. Our local authority tries to help by providing volunteers with stickers to place on bags which we can leave in strategic locations for their collection. Other volunteers use their own vehicles to transport bags and other items to recycling centres. The cost to volunteers is increasing over time. Not just in terms of financial cost but cost to their health too. We are finding over time that the burden of supporting industry in this way is taking its toll on physical and mental health and it's increasingly difficult to keep volunteers motivated. Volunteers desperately need to know that producers and suppliers are doing everything possible to reduce the amount of single-use items and packaging littered. Also to fully compensate both volunteers and local authorities for the costs involved in collecting and recycling waste."*

**Wendy Murray, Lead Trustee, East Haven Together**

*"The GRAB Trust have been working to reduce litter in Argyll and Bute for almost 30 years. In this time, litter has become an even bigger problem and more abundant than it*

*was 30 years ago. The sheer abundance of single use packaging and the longevity of these items in the environment (especially plastics), is a significant problem for both people and the environment. The pEPR proposals to ensure producers cover the costs of cleaning up the mess of litter they create is a step in the right direction to reduce single use packaging use and the risk of it becoming litter in our communities.”*

**Kerry MacKay, The GRAB Trust**

*'Greener Duns volunteers continue to help keep Duns litter free on a regular basis but it is an uphill struggle. We are fighting a mounting tide of single use plastic on our streets, in our parks and countryside. The only sensible solution is to reduce the plastic packaging at source'*

**Julia Wood, Greener Duns**

*"The problem of discarded food packaging and plastic waste continues to grow alarmingly. We find huge amounts when we're out picking in Berwickshire and it's VERY depressing. Many of us find our blood pressure rising dramatically every time we drive up and down the A1, as well as shouting in the car about the mountains of litter that we're almost literally drowning in. Production of all this packaging needs to be curtailed, and the producers need to take some responsibility."*

**Alison Currie, Berwickshire Anti-litter Group (BAG)**

*“As our members pick up large quantities of food and drink related packaging on dog walks, it is entirely reasonable that companies producing these items should take accountability for the removal of littered items. We look forward to progress on this issue as the scale of littering is continuing to increase.”*

**Marion Montgomery, Paws on Plastic**

*“The UK is experiencing a litter and flytipping epidemic. Ultimately it is the reckless decision of an individual to drop litter or flytip but companies can, and should, be doing more to reduce packaging and lower their environmental footprint. It is not acceptable to blame consumer demand and maximise profits. Companies need to reduce plastic by swapping it for more sustainable and recyclable options.”*

**Rebecca Lane, West Lothian Litter Pickers**

*“40% of the single-use pollution littering trails, parks, woodlands and public rights of way is made of materials covered by Extended Producer Responsibility - yet none of the funds raised by the policy go towards tackling bin and ground litter. On behalf of our community and the wild places they love, this needs to change.*

*“This isn't about pointing the finger and saying Extended Producer Responsibility isn't working - it's about maximising its potential as a vehicle to protect the wild places we love, so the scheme can live up to the Polluter Pays principle it is founded on.”*

**Dom Ferris, Trash Free Trails**