

04 March 2026

Ms Gillian Martin MSP
Cabinet Secretary for Net Zero and Energy
The Scottish Government
St Andrew's House
Regent Road
Edinburgh
EH1 3DG

Dear Cabinet Secretary,

Extended Producer Responsibility for litter packaging

We write as a broad coalition of environmental charities, not for profit organisations and community groups which are all taking action on litter to urge the Scottish Government to reaffirm its commitment to extend proposals for Extended Producer Responsibility for packaging (pEPR) regulations to include litter on the ground and placed in bins.

As the [Welsh Government consult on amendments to pEPR](#) to cover on-the-go packaging waste which is placed in public bins or littered we are calling for your renewed commitment. This will build on efforts to ensure we do not miss a once in a generation opportunity to further address the unsustainable consumption of single-use items. Litter payments will support measures on pEPR ensuring the true costs of dealing with littered packaging waste is recouped, and producers are encouraged to design out and reduce the amount of packaging put on the market.

There was widespread support from environmental organisations for the initial proposals published by the UK Government in 2019 that producers would be obligated under pEPR to meet the cost of the collection and disposal of packaging items littered on the ground and disposed of in public bins.

Additionally, almost 70%¹ of people across Scotland agree that producers should be responsible for meeting the specific costs of managing and cleaning up the waste caused by packaging, and meeting the specific costs of activities aimed at changing behaviours and preventing litter caused by the packaging they produce.

Collectively, many organisations and tens of thousands of volunteers across Scotland are working to turn the tide on litter and improve the environmental quality of our communities for people and nature. However, one of the most visible indicators of poor local environmental quality is litter.

¹ [Tackling the litter emergency. Making the case for packaging EPR to include ground and binned litter.](#) Keep Scotland Beautiful, June 2024

More than 80%² of people say they want more to be done to clean up and prevent litter, and alongside technical data from our ground litter surveys³, and data collected by the public⁴ we know much more can and should be done. Our data shows:

- 77% of people in Scotland report food containers, wrappers and packaging at the top the of the list of litter items being seen.
- 42.7% of sites audited across the country recorded at least one item that would be in scope for pEPR regulations.

We welcome the Scottish Government's commitment to tackling waste and its impact on nature and our climate through the National Litter and Fly Tipping Strategy. However, we have long called for the need to properly and sustainably fund the efforts of charities and volunteers working in this space to support litter education and behaviour change interventions.

With such a compelling case we are calling for the Scottish Government to outline a timeframe for engagement with PackUK about extending the scope of pEPR regulations to cover ground litter packaging and ensure litter payments form a key component of reforms.

Ahead of the Scottish Parliamentary Elections we collectively urge you to show strong leadership, reaffirm your support for this measure, and seize the game-changing opportunity offered by including litter payments as part of pEPR to support action on tackling the climate, nature and litter emergencies.

Yours sincerely,



Barry Fisher
Chief Executive Officer, Keep Scotland Beautiful

Endorsed by:

Alison Currie, Founding member, Berwickshire Anti -litter Group (BAG)

Calum Duncan, Head of Policy and Advocacy, Marine Conservation Society

Dom Ferris, CEO, Trash Free Trails

² [Scottish Litter Survey](#), Keep Scotland Beautiful, October 2025

³ [How clean are our streets 2024/2025](#), Keep Scotland Beautiful.

⁴ [Scottish Litter Survey](#), Keep Scotland Beautiful, October 2025

Eloner Crawford, Greener Duns

Henry Swithinbank, Senior Policy and Advocacy Manger, Surfers Against Sewage

Jennifer Pless, Chairperson, Irvine Clean Up Crew

Jeremy Harris, Chief Executive Officer, Fife Coast and Countryside Trust

Kerry MacKay, Beaches and Marine Litter Project Officer, The GRAB Trust

Laura Anderson (Young), Environmental Scientist and Campaigner

Lizzie Carr, Founder, Planet Patrol

Marion Montgomery, Paws on Plastic

Matt Lewis, Membership & Policy Manager, Circular Communities Scotland

Rebecca Lane, West Lothian Litter Pickers

Sarah Horner, Director, Reloop (UK and Ireland)

Wendy Murray, Lead Trustee, East Haven Together