

# #SpringCleanScotland 2026



# Overview

**#SpringCleanScotland is the country's largest mass litter picking activity.**

Every year tens of thousands of volunteers make a collective effort to deal with the litter polluting our environment.

This report is a celebration of all the people, schools, community groups, local authorities, businesses and organisations who have made a difference and helped keep Scotland beautiful.

CLEAN UP  
SCOTLAND

"Once again we have seen a phenomenal amount of people take part in #SpringCleanScotland.

"Your dedication, enthusiasm and commitment to keep Scotland beautiful is an inspiration to us all. Litter picking can often be a thankless task, and the impact may seem insignificant or unnoticed at times.

"But it is crucial that we continue. We must not let litter win. We are on the right track to a litter free Scotland, and in the meantime we all need to ensure we do our best to make a difference, to pick up a piece when we see it.

"Almost 35,000 people took part in this year's campaign. This report is a both a celebration of your efforts and a thank you."

Barry Fisher  
Chief Executive



# Our impact

**This year #SpringCleanScotland ran for six weeks from 13 March to 24 April 2026. During these six weeks individuals, communities, organisations, businesses, schools and local authorities from all over the country worked together to clean up Scotland.**

#SpringCleanScotland is a key part of our wider year-long Clean Up Scotland programme. We work in partnership with Keep Britain Tidy and Keep Wales Tidy as part of the Great British Spring Clean.



**34,702**

volunteers including **17,883** young people

**3,340**

events across all 32  
local authorities

**46,877**

bags collected

**309**

tonnes of litter picked

**69,404**

volunteer hours  
worth the equivalent of **£933,484**  
(based on Scottish living wage)

This year we launched #SpringCleanScotland at the Glasgow Science Centre and were joined by Glasgow City Council, HP and Citylink, who wrapped a bus with our #SpringCleanScotland messaging.

INCREDIBLY  
IMPORTANT

"We're proud to support Keep Scotland Beautiful and continue working together to encourage cleaner, greener communities across the country.

"We've been delighted to play a part in supporting community action through Keep Scotland Beautiful's campaigns and look forward to continuing our partnership in the future."

Nicola Campbell, Head of Marketing, Scottish Citylink and megabus



Keep Scotland  
Beautiful

#SpringCleanScotland



## Live Lessons

**Our Education team organised a series of lessons every day for a week, open to all ages, to inspire pupils to join the fight against litter.**

The week kicked off with lessons in English and Gaelic on reducing textile waste, encouraging pupils to organise swap events in their schools. We also shared an upcycling resource from the Futures Institute at Dollar Academy. We then had a fantastic story time lesson from Georgina Stevens, author of 'Stella and the Seagull', who read an excerpt from her book and took pupils through a fun recycling quiz.

Our challenge for the week was for pupils to organise litter picks in their schools. In total, 110 litter picks were organised, 101 bags of litter were collected, and five schools won a £100 voucher for Muddy Faces.

A total of 247 schools registered across all lessons covering 29 local authorities; 121 classes attended the lessons, which is equivalent to 3,025 pupils (2,375 for English-speaking lessons, 25 for Gaelic lessons and 625 for the bilingual assembly).

# Tackling the litter emergency together

Tackling the litter emergency in Scotland requires collaboration across all sectors both public and private. Over six weeks 34,000 people volunteered and we are proud to support and be supported by them.

The success of **#SpringCleanScotland** annually demonstrates the positive impact for communities when local individuals, charities, community groups, local authorities and businesses come together to clean up Scotland.



**70**

volunteers from Ayr Rotary, Ayrshire Coastal Path and local volunteers joined the 2026 Ayr Rotary Club Annual Spring Beach Clean collecting 72 bags of rubbish and other larger items including fishing nets, lobster pots and traffic cones.



**89**

volunteers taking part in 9 litter picks, collecting 128kg of litter.



**32**

local authorities involved



**808**

bags of litter were collected by Fife Street Champion volunteers across Fife during 193 litter picks



**#SpringCleanScotland**



**268**

schools hosted a litter pick



**320**

volunteers took part in Beachwatch clean ups across 34 events in 9 local authorities collecting 244 bags of litter from Scottish beaches.



**316**

volunteers including 72 young people took part in the Big Clyde Clean Up in Inverclyde, with 29 events collecting 365 bags of litter (1.46 tonnes).



**466**

volunteers collected 545 bags of litter during the The Big Clyde Clean Up campaign in West Dunbartonshire



# Spring Clean prize winner

We ran #SpringCleanScotland prize draws and had five community group winners.



## Early Registration Prize winner

East Kilbride Litter Pickers



## Uniformed Group Prize winner

1st Crieff Guides and Rangers



## Sport Club or Organisation Prize winner

St Mirren FC Volunteers



## #SpringCleanScotland Prize 2026 winner

Friends of Naseby Park



## #SpringCleanScotland Prize 2026 winner

West Lothian Litter Pickers

# Volunteer impact

Every year we seek to highlight the efforts of volunteers during the campaign and the figures we report for many are only a snapshot of their regular local impact.

We are celebrating the efforts of the local authority area with the highest number of litter picks recorded over the population of the area. This in no way detracts from the efforts of other volunteers in other areas of Scotland but highlights just how much can be achieved when we come together to tackle a problem. Dumfries and Galloway Council is this year's winner and our top 10 table recognises the hard work by volunteers and local authorities calculated again by effort/population.

## INCREDIBLE DEDICATION

"We're proud that Dumfries and Galloway has once again been recognised with the Spring Clean Scotland Quaich. This reflects the ongoing efforts of our communities, whose commitment to tackling litter makes a real difference across the region. We remain committed to supporting volunteers and working with partners to keep our communities clean and welcoming.

"We also want to recognise the incredible dedication of community groups who work tirelessly, week in and week out – not just during the Spring Clean campaign, but all year round – to keep our local areas clean, vibrant and thriving."

Councillor Andy Ferguson, Chair of Economy and Infrastructure Committee.

## Top 10 local authorities

1. Dumfries and Galloway
2. West Lothian
3. Renfrewshire
4. Orkney
5. Fife
6. West Dunbartonshire
7. Inverclyde
8. Clackmannanshire
9. Argyll and Bute
10. North Ayrshire



# Feedback

Our survey, sent to all participants at the end of #SpringCleanScotland, captured the impact this year's campaign had\*.

"I litter pick all year round but good to get a sense that everyone is doing it."

"we regularly collect litter throughout the year and a number of us have adopted a local layby. SCS focuses the mind on the problem and encourages more people to join in."

"We've always been involved but interestingly, this year I felt I saw a lot more groups wanting to identify with and align themselves to the movement/event. This is encouraging as I felt it was about national pride and taking responsibility."

"I think it is important that the children in school appreciate that they can have a positive effect on their community and surroundings."

Do you have any further feedback on #SpringCleanScotland?

"Spring clean Scotland is more than keeping our community clean — it's about pride, respect, and coming together to make a real difference."

"Keep Scotland Beautiful have been fundamentally a force for good tackling the litter emergency and other initiatives that create a network of highly motivated volunteers."

\*98 participants responded to the survey

## Top three reasons for getting involved ✓

1

I wanted to clean up and improve my local community

2

I wanted to demonstrate that we all have a part to play

3

I wanted to protect wildlife from litter and waste

86%

agree that #SpringCleanScotland shows a noticeable difference in their local community

80%

said that they felt more connected to their community

94%

of people surveyed said that they intend on taking part in next year's #SpringCleanScotland





We support the Sustainable Development Goals.

**Keep Scotland Beautiful inspires environmental action.**

**Support us to combat climate change, tackle litter and waste, restore nature and biodiversity and improve places.**

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