

Who is APRS? The Association for the Protection of Rural Scotland works to protect all of Scotland's rural landscapes, from the Green Belt around towns and cities, out to the forest, hills and mountains.



ACTIVITY FOR SCOUTS AND EXPLORERS

40 minutes

Welcome to the Future! Deposit Return and a Circular Economy in Scotland

Please note this activity can follow any outdoor activity involving litter collection, in particular litter which includes bottles and cans made of glass, plastic and metal.

DELIVERING FOR THE SCOUTS PROMISE TO THE PLANET

920 million drinks containers were littered, landfilled or incinerated in Scotland in 2019

BEFORE YOU BEGIN

We invite leaders or the Scouts/ Explorers themselves to watch 2 short videos in advance of the session to familiarise themselves with the subject of Deposit Return and Circular Economy.

- 8 minute APRS Deposit Return educational video with Jo McFarlane from APRS found at the bottom of the page: <https://aprs.scot/learning> (please see supporting additional resources too).
- 3 minute Introduction to Circular Economy video from the Ellen Macarthur Foundation - <https://ellenmacarthurfoundation.org/videos/explaining-the-circular-economy-rethink-progress>



YOU WILL NEED

- Used drinks bottles and cans made of plastic, glass and metal brought from home or from a group litter clean
- 4 sheets with these words on them: MAKE, USE, THROW AWAY, RUBBISH DUMP/ INCINERATE
(a lot of our rubbish is burnt in incinerators in Scotland) (per pair or per group)
- 6 sheets with these words on the: MAKE x 2, USE, REUSE, REPAIR, RECYCLE (per pair or per group)
- 2 containers/bags, one with a sign "Home Recycling" and the other with a sign "Deposit Return"
- 20p piece
- Example plastic milk bottle and example Tetrapak drinks carton

ECONOMY EXPLANATION FOR CHILDREN

It's the system of trade and industry in a country, how things are produced, bought, sold and used in a country or region.

Did you know?...

APRS led the successful campaign for a new Deposit Return System in Scotland.

APRS supports local communities in Green Belt protection.

APRS led the successful campaign for more National Parks in Scotland.

APRS is delivering an exciting educational programme in schools and to the public across Scotland.

APRS set up the National Trust for Scotland.

Please contact us at
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ACTIVITY PART 1 - CIRCULAR ECONOMY



1 Introduce the topic: An exciting change is coming to Scotland in 2023 called Deposit Return which is part of a Circular Economy but what is a Circular Economy? It's about not having any waste anymore, not using up everything but reusing, repairing, recycling. It's about the life of something you buy or use such as a toy or plastic bottle, from its beginning to its end.

2 Explore the topic: Divide the group into 2 groups or pairs

3 Group 1/half of the pairs have 4 sheets of paper with the words MAKE, USE, THROW AWAY, RUBBISH DUMP/ INCINERATE. Ask them to work out the order they go in if you throw something away and do not recycle or reuse it. 4 children from the group/pairs volunteer to stand in a line with the sheets in order in front of the whole scout group. This is a **LINEAR ECONOMY**.

4 Group 2/other half of the pairs have 6 sheets of paper with the words MAKE, USE, REUSE, REPAIR, RECYCLE, MAKE, in the same way ask the children to put them in the right order (which is as above). 6 children from the group/pairs volunteer to stand in a circle with the sheets in order, with the **2 MAKE volunteers linking arms**. This is a **CIRCULAR ECONOMY**.

5 Ask everyone to vote, which is the better way to live? CIRCULAR or LINEAR? If 100% vote for CIRCULAR, ask them why they think the whole world isn't doing this already? Discuss e.g. huge cultural change needed, cost, no willingness to change from businesses, politicians. Good news! Some countries like Scotland are working towards this. Discuss - **Why is it good to have a circular economy?**

(a) If we keep buying everything new, we will run out of resources and energy to make products. We must save our Planet's resources for the future.

(b) Many habitats and ecosystems are destroyed to get resources for new products, often out of sight of us in other countries.

(c) There will be less rubbish in landfill, less burnt in incinerators, less litter on streets, in the countryside and sea.

(d) New products mean more greenhouse gases escaping from the factories and vehicles transporting them which head up into the atmosphere, trapping heat and making our planet warmer (global warming) which causes climate change.

ACTIVITY PART 2 - DEPOSIT RETURN



1 Leaders introduce topic: So why have we asked you to bring bottles and cans in? Something is coming to Scotland in 2023 that is part of this **CIRCULAR WORLD!** It is called Deposit Return.

2 Share with the group that next year when you buy a drinks bottle or can you will pay an extra 20p deposit (show 20p). When you bring it back to a shop or pop it in a machine called a Reverse Vending Machine (**RVM**) in a supermarket, you will get the 20p back. The hope is that people will bring all their bottles and cans back to get the money so they don't throw them on the ground as litter or in rubbish bins anymore. Ask the children, do you think people will do this?

3 As an example - We have 2 choices with our drinks bottles - The bottle or can is made, we use it, we throw it away in the rubbish bin, which goes to landfill or some on the ground as litter - **LINEAR ECONOMY** OR The bottle or can is made, we use it, we clean it, we recycle through Deposit Return to be used again - **CIRCULAR ECONOMY**

Deposit Return is a great example of a circular economy. Remind them of the 920 million drinks containers wasted in 2019 across Scotland that would need to be replaced. Deposit Return will help reduce greenhouse gas emissions of 83,000 cars a year across Scotland.

4 Leader to explain that in Deposit Return not all bottles and cans will be accepted only:

- Glass and plastic drinks bottles and metal drinks cans and NOT glass or plastic milk bottles or tetrapack cartons (show examples).**
- They have to have a special deposit barcode on them - so no bottles and cans you find before August 2023 will have this on them.**
- They must be cleaned and washed so the recycling process is quick and easy and uses less energy.**

ACTIVITY PART 3 - WHAT WILL HAPPEN TO YOUR USED CANS AND BOTTLES IN 2023?

1 Each Scout chooses which of the bottles and cans they have brought, go in the home recycling (e.g. tetrapak cartons, milks bottles, crushed cans and bottles) and what goes in the deposit return (all others). Assume all have the special deposit return barcode on them.

2 Once complete, work out as a group how much the Scouts would have got for all these bottles and cans x 20p per item.

3 Remind everyone that they can get 20p's back too if they find any on walks or near their school and get the **20p's** for home too! Also all bottles and cans found in litter cleans done by Scout groups can be taken to a **RVM** in a supermarket or across a shop counter to receive the 20p deposits, which can be donated to the Scout group. Alternatively the Scouts can have a voluntary return point but this requires more administration. <https://depositreturnscheme.zerowastescotland.org.uk/voluntary-return-point-application>