

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 SQUIRRELS, BEAVERS, CUBS

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 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/BURNT (a lot of our rubbish is burnt in incinerators in Scotland)
- 9 sheets with these words on them: MAKE x 2, USE, REUSE, REPAIR, RECYCLE x 2, DRINK x 2
- 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 more if you decide to copy more sheets).

**3 Group 1 has 4 sheets of paper with the words MAKE, USE, THROW AWAY, RUBBISH DUMP/BURNT.** Ask this group to work out the order they go in if you throw something away and do not recycle or reuse it. 4 children 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 has 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 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 the children,** which is a better way to live - in the line or in the circle?

**6 Why is it good to live in a circular world** where things go round and round and are used again and again? Brief discussion with children. Share one or more of the below depending on age group.

**(a)** If we keep buying everything new, we will run out of the metal to make cans, glass to make bottles, plastic to make bottles and we will use up all our energy too quickly. We need to start saving what we have on Planet Earth for the future.

**(b)** If we reuse and repair and recycle, there will be less rubbish in rubbish tips, less rubbish on our streets and in the countryside. Better for us, better for wildlife.

**(c)** Every time something new is made for us from plastic, metal or glass instead of being recycled, repaired or reused, more gases escape from the factories or vehicles transporting it, which head up into the air and form a blanket around our planet making it warmer, causing 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 Repeat the group exercise,** this time using a drinks bottle or can as an example as the item - Group 1 has 4 sheets of paper with the words **MAKE, DRINK, THROW AWAY, RUBBISH DUMP/BURNT**. Group 2 has 6 sheets of paper with the words **MAKE, DRINK, RECYCLE, MAKE, DRINK, RECYCLE**. Ask 2 groups of children to stand in a line and circle as before.

**4 Ask the children,** which is a better way to deal with our bottles and cans - in the line or in the circle?

**5 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>