



Scotland's National Litter and Flytipping Strategy

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of Scotland

Strategy Overview

The Strategy was published in 2023 following public consultation. It sets out a 6-year process to tackle litter and flytipping in Scotland.

The Strategy's 14 objectives aim to better tackle litter and flytipping. They are grouped in 3 themes

- behaviour change
- infrastructure & services
- enforcement



Wider Policy Context

- Circular Economy and Waste Route Map – published in January 2024 – sets out the SG's 11 priority actions on waste and circular economy.
- Product Stewardship plan (Route Map action)
- Packaging EPR
- Deposit Return Scheme
- Single use vapes ban
- Commitment to charge for single-use beverage cups
- Circular Economy (Scotland) Act 2024
- Marine Litter Strategy for Scotland

Legislative developments

► The Circular Economy (Scotland) Act 2024 sections relating to littering and flytipping.

Introduction of new powers to impose a civil penalty on the registered keeper of a vehicle from which a littering offence is committed	A new fixed penalty regime will be introduced to allow local authorities to issue Fixed Penalty Notices for breaches to householder duty of care obligations in relation to the disposal household waste	New powers will be introduced to allow enforcement authorities to search and seize vehicles suspected to be involved in illegal waste activity
Ministers have powers to request information from a relevant authority on unauthorised or harmful deposit, treatment or disposal etc. of waste. The reporting set out in the Act will support ongoing work to tackle flytipping.	powers to increase the flytipping Fixed Penalty Notice amount to level 3 (£1000) and provide for a variable amount which could be used to adjust the amount to reflect the circumstances of the offence	Modifies Section 59 of EPA: setting the circumstances where Section 59 notices can be issued and change the appeal process for land occupiers; the appeal would be to Scottish Ministers (DPEA /the Planning & Environmental Appeals Division) rather than through the Sheriff Court.
Implementing the Act is a priority for the Scottish Government and future NLFS actions that support the implementation of the Act will be our focus.		

SEPA Update

Partnership Enforcement Model

- SEPA have been trialling an alternative enforcement model, working in partnership with local authorities.
- Led to the issuing of over £21,000 of variable monetary penalties (VMPs) in the last 12 months
- Amplifying the enforcement action is key aspect of the model to provide deterrent
- Keen to look at flytipping incidents on private land

Digital Interventions

- SEPA has been working to identify and disrupt unauthorised waste collectors advertising through social media
- What have we achieved:
 - 26 Facebook profiles deactivated
 - 8 waste carrier registrations received
 - Over £2,000 of fixed monetary penalties (FMPs) issued
 - Investigation leading to the clearing of waste from an unlicensed site

Both projects are continuing in year 3 of the strategy, get in touch with enforcement@sepa.org.uk to get involved and find out more



GlasgowTimes
Glasgow man slapped with £2000 fine after caught fly tipping

THE Gazette
Paisley business fined more than £2.6k after being caught fly tipping

ENDS
WASTE & BIOENERGY
SEPA targets online operators in crime crackdown
Four unregistered waste carriers were investigated on social media and subsequently fined

YEAR 3

Draft Action plan



Year 3 draft action – SG/all

Action	Continuing/new	Lead
Improving enforcement Implementing the Circular Economy (Scotland) Act 2024 by taking steps to prepare for littering from vehicles civil penalty to be introduced	NEW	SG
Improving enforcement Implementing the Circular Economy (Scotland) Act 2024 by working on the introduction of Section 12 (Section 59 amendment)	NEW	SG
Improving data Implementing the Circular Economy (Scotland) Act 2024 Section 13: national flytipping data collection	Continuing	SG
Improving enforcement Providing Cairngorms National Park FPN issuing powers	Continuing	SG
Improving enforcement work with COPFS to ensure any guidance or other relevant resources is shared with stakeholders where appropriate.	Continuing	SG
Sharing information and best practice Explore the value of establishing a Knowledge Hub for NLFS to create a single source of information for LAs/wider stakeholders	NEW	SG/all partners
Sharing information and best practice (Continuation of Year 1 Action 8): Share information and support resource sharing between key stakeholders and fora including the Litter Managers Network, SPARC etc.	Continuing	All partners

Year 3 draft actions – SEPA

Action	Continuing/new	Lead
Partnership Enforcement Model (formerly referred to as Roles and Responsibilities) SEPA will extend the trial of the alternative enforcement model working with local authorities to take enforcement action against flytippers. Will also look to expand the trial of the model to tackle flytipping on private land, working with landowners.	Continuing action building on project in years 1 and 2	SEPA as the lead organisation supported predominantly by LAs with some support sought from landowner organisations
Digital Disruption SEPA will extend the use of digital interventions to deter and disrupt unregistered waste carriers advertising online (as well as rogue operators operating behind a waste carrier registration). Will also look to expand our abilities to operate on Meta, tackling advertisements in community groups.	Continuing action building on project in years 1 and 2	SEPA as the lead organisation with some support sought from local authorities and private organisations such as Meta.

Year 3 draft actions – KSB

Action	Agreed/continuing action or new/proposed action	Budget secured Y/N	Lead/Supporting organisations (if needed)
Targeted behaviour-based interventions Building on work in Year 2 on a roadside litter intervention along the A9, continue to collaborate with key stakeholders (local authorities, duty bodies and businesses) to further develop, roll-out and test the intervention in three further local authorities. The methodology, materials, and supporting research, will be collated into a toolkit for wider roll-out to compliment and support the forthcoming littering from vehicles provision that will allow enforcement bodies to fine registered keepers for littering.	Builds on work in Year 1 and Year 2 Action Plans.	Y	KSB to lead, support as required from LAs, TS and Ros, possible input from private sector as partners or funders.
Empowering Communities Maintain Community Litter Hub, ensuring current content and information is reviewed and updated. Further develop and expand content on the Hub to integrate information, guidance, and support on flytipping and marine litter to make a clear connection between NLFS and MLS where appropriate. Further scoping and development will be undertaken to collate content from external sources to highlight available opportunities and support for individuals and groups. Continue to coordinate the CRG to ensure their input to development and delivery of actions.	Builds on work in Year 1 and Year 2 Action Plans.	Y	KSB to lead, support as required from LAs, SEPA, possible input from other organisations as needed.

Year 3 draft actions – KSB

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Action	Agreed/continuing action or new/proposed action	Budget secured Y/N	Lead/Supporting organisations (if needed)
<p>Developing litter data</p> <p>Building on work in Year 1 and 2 by DMG, finalise the indicator framework for litter, develop the administrative process for consolidating datasets and work with all stakeholders to encourage consistent approaches that support best practice in data collection methods, tools, analysis, and reporting.</p> <p>Based on agreed approach for transition from LMS in Year 2, work with local authorities to adopt this approach for LEAMS and encourage duty bodies on an approach that is consistent with their data needs</p> <p>Continue to engage with academia to identify research opportunities to improve understanding of the cause and effect of litter.</p>	Builds on work in Year 1 and Year 2 Action Plans (Action 16).	Y	KSB to lead, support as required from LAs, SG, ZWS, SEPA, duty bodies, possible input from other organisations as needed.
<p>Improving consistency of litter data</p> <p>Actively promote and improve quality and consistency of citizen science to support litter data collection and complement existing programmes.</p> <p>Build on work undertaken in Year 2 by facilitating ongoing discussions with, and action by group of citizen science coordinators established in Year 2 to encourage and promote collaborative approaches to consistent data collection and use, and connection with policy.</p>	Builds on work in Year 1 and Year 2 Action Plans (Action 17).	Y	KSB to lead, support as required from LAs, SG, ZWS, SEPA, duty bodies, possible input from other organisations as needed.
<p>Leadership, management, and facilitation of DMG</p> <p>Build on work in Year 1 and 2, continue to support litter and flytipping data actions, recognising that the group provides an important resource for the development and delivery of these actions, including oversight of the development of indicators for evaluation of NLFS, as well as the sharing of knowledge and best practice.</p>	Builds on work in Year 1 and Year 2 Action Plans (Action 18).	Y	KSB to lead, support as required from LAs, SG, ZWS, SEPA, duty bodies, possible input from other organisations as needed.

National Litter and Flytipping Strategy

Our vision is for a future where Scotland's environment and communities are not blighted by litter and flytipping, and materials remain within a circular economy

Key drivers

Addressing:

Behaviour Change

Addressing:

Infrastructure and Services

Addressing:

Enforcement

STARTING POINT

Prevention

- Litter is often visible,
- perceptions of littering are high
- Local government spend on clearing litter is significant

- Levels of flytipping are unknown,
- perceptions of flytipping are high
- Local government/land owners spend on clearing flytipping is high (add estimate)
- Lack of clarity on roles and responsibilities

Resources

- Costs of litter clearance and collection puts increased pressure on LA spend
- Recyclable material is lost to the circular economy.
- LAs cannot afford to undertake prevention activity due to cost of removal

- Lack of data means there the extent of the problem is unknown
- Costs of flytipping clearance & disposal puts increased pressure on LA spend
- LA resources are not available to investigate or prevent flytipping or to support other landowners who are the victims of flytipping

Deter and enforce

- Lack of success has disincentivised enforcement agencies from taking cases to COPFS
- Cost restricts investigation and enforcement action that agencies can justify taking
- Skills and training for enforcement agencies is not prioritised
- General awareness about the lack of enforcement reduces the likelihood of FPNs being paid - deterrent effect reduced
- Lack of data hides the real impact and prevents links to serious /organised crime being identified and investigated

By 2030

that there is an agreed national approach to tackling litter and flytipping, supported by excellent educational material and community support

that interventions, such as the single-use cups charge, reinforce the need for individuals to be more mindful about how they consume and dispose of single use items.

That litter and flytipping are seen as unacceptable acts that pollute our natural environment and should be taken seriously.

That there is clarity on the roles and responsibilities of those involved in tackling flytipping

The public are clear on how to report flytipping and their role in prevention and in supporting enforcement action.

New powers in the Circular Economy Act provide enforcement agencies with additional powers that improve their ability to tackle litter and flytipping.

New national reporting processes provide enforcement agencies with data that helps to demonstrate the impact of flytipping and helps to ensure resources are channel towards prevention and enforcement.

The introduction of the ban on single use vapes/packaging EPR/DRS/SUPD results in marked reduction in litter and demonstrates the range of interventions that can reduce littering and provide motivation to businesses to support prevention activities, reduce harmful packaging and support campaigns aimed at reducing littering. Product stewardship actions reduce the amount of flytipping as there is reduced scope for illegal waste carriers to step in with cheap disposal options.

That the Circular Economy Strategy and reuse focus increase the value of materials currently flytipped and reduce the volume of flytipped waste in Scotland.

Public awareness of the harmful impact & cost of littering and flytipping increases

Enforcement agencies are equipped with the tools and training they need to undertake effective investigation and enforcement.

That reporting to COPFS is focused and effective resulting in better results for enforcement agencies who report and increased awareness of the implications of flytipping or littering and an effective deterrent.

Agencies see the value in working collaboratively where appropriate to strengthen and improve investigation and enforcement.

The new powers in the Circular Economy Act are utilised effectively, both as a deterrent and to tackle litter and flytipping.

Improved reporting highlights areas where enforcement can be improved and targeted action can be taken

That enforcement agencies are supported to be innovative and use technology to tackle litter and flytipping.

The public are clear on personal responsibility for waste disposal; know how to report flytipping and understand their role in prevention and in supporting enforcement action.

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Thank you

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