

Resource Management Association Scotland

ORMAS
RESOURCE MANAGEMENT ASSOCIATION SCOTLAND

briefing note

w/c 5th May 2025



Recycl8 on track with Istock cable trough trial



Programme for Government 2025-26
Building The Best Future For Scotland

SCOTTISH GOVERNMENT
Programme for Government 2025-26 released



SEPA Environmental Performance Assessment Scheme online events



UK DMO Work begins to deliver Deposit Return Schemes



PwC Truck Study 2022: Routes to decarbonising commercial vehicles published



CIRCULAR ECONOMY INSTITUTE Festival of Circular Economy tickets on sale

membernews

Recycl8 on track with Ibstock cable trough trial

Last week Recycl8 team members Mark Gillespie (CEO), Jim Young (Technical Industry Consultant) and Graduate Civil Engineer Daniel Wisely had the pleasure of visiting the team at Ibstock Plc.

Ibstock has been manufacturing cable trough production trial units for Network Rail using the sustainable technology firm's R8Mix. The project is the result of Recycl8's involvement with Scotland's Lower Carbon Concrete Collective (LCCC), a partner ecosystem which is spearheaded by Scottish Water, with the aim of accelerating the development and adoption of lower carbon concrete solutions in Scotland.

The collective comprises Scotland's main utilities companies including Network Rail, Scottish Power, Transport Scotland and SSE, as well as the country's leading construction materials manufacturers such as Breedon, Marshalls and Ibstock.

CEO of Recycl8, Mark Gillespie, said:

"I'd like to extend our thanks to Steve Pugh and everyone at Ibstock for the warm welcome and the insightful site visit.

"We are delighted to be working with Ibstock and Network Rail as part of the LCCC. Being part of the collective gives us a fantastic platform to showcase the capabilities of our sustainable, Circular Economy lower carbon concrete technology. Collaborating with such high-profile strategic partners is absolutely key to unlocking the potential of our technology and driving down carbon emissions across our built environment and infrastructure.

"We are looking forward to seeing the units installed on site, and supporting Network Rail in exploring more sustainable infrastructure solutions."



(L-R): Daniel Wisely, Mark Gillespie, Jim Young and Steve Pugh

Building the best future for Scotland: Programme for Government 2025-26

The NHS will deliver 100,000 additional GP appointments and Scotland will have a 'best in UK' cost-of-living guarantee, including the permanent abolition of peak rail fares, First Minister John Swinney announced as he set out a Programme for Government against a backdrop of global economic challenges.

Speaking one year since he was elected First Minister and one year before the end of this Parliament, Mr Swinney committed to a package of cost-of-living initiatives for households and businesses and a new Six Point Export Plan to unlock target markets. He set out plans to strengthen the NHS with the delivery of extra GP appointments for key health risks such as high blood pressure, and 150,000 more NHS appointments and procedures, including a 50% increase in surgical procedures such as hip and knee replacements.

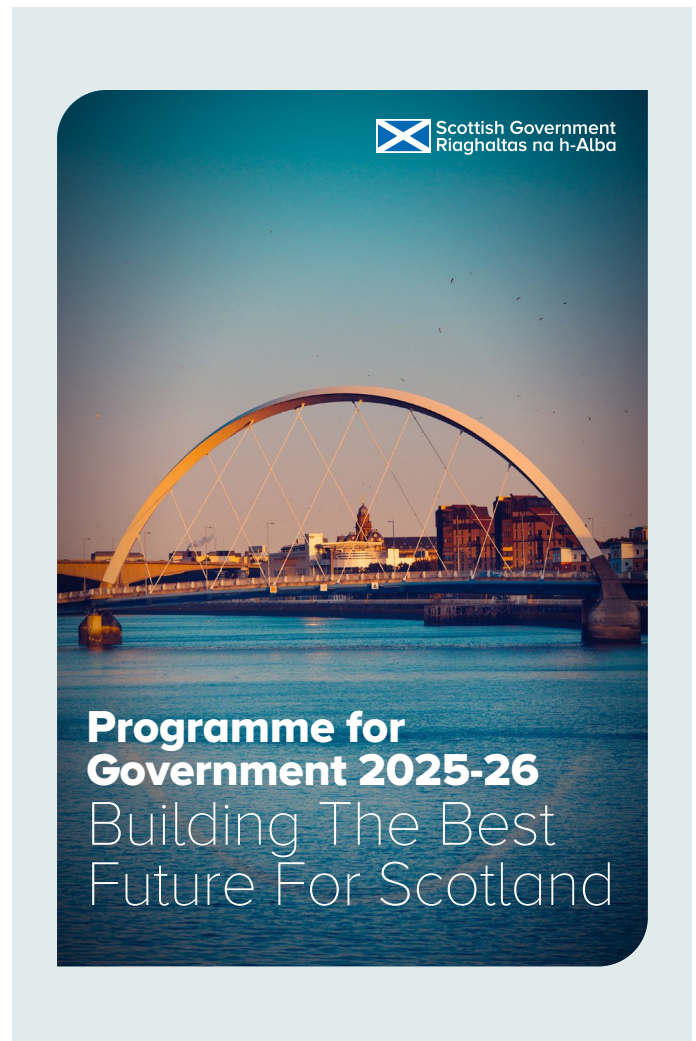
Key announcements include:

- 100,000 enhanced service GP appointments by March 2026 for key risk factors including high blood pressure, high cholesterol, high blood sugar, obesity and smoking as well as more than 150,000 extra appointments and procedures, including surgeries and diagnostic tests, and target cancer pathways to tackle backlogs against the 62-day referral to treatment standard.
- The cost-of-living guarantee which includes ongoing free prescriptions, eye exams, bus travel for 2.3 million people, free tuition for students and more than £6,000 in early learning and childcare support for each eligible child.
- ScotRail peak rail fares abolished and the general alcohol ban on ScotRail trains removed and replaced with time and location restrictions.
- Winter fuel payments for pensioners restored.
- A new Six Point Export Plan, with a focus on actions to unlock target markets, and showcase Scotland to global buyers.
- A national regeneration fund that will support at least 26 projects to renew and restore communities, with a focus on delivering more local jobs.

- More rights and stronger protections for tenants, helping deliver more than 8,000 affordable homes, including for social and mid-market rent, and removing barriers on stalled building sites with the potential to deliver up to 20,000 new homes.

[Read the Programme for Government 2025-26 here.](#)

[Read the First Minister's statement to the Scottish Parliament, 6 May 2025 here.](#)



liveconsultations



CLOSES
06/06/25

Future of the Scottish Landfill Communities Fund

This consultation seeks views on the future of the SLCF, given the forecast decrease in waste disposed of at landfill sites because of Scotland's transition to a more circular economy. The information gathered via the consultation and subsequent analysis will inform decisions about the future of the fund which will be communicated alongside the publication of the consultation analysis report.

[Respond here.](#)



CLOSES
17/06/25

Changes to waste management services

The Scottish Government is launching the Changes to Waste Management Consultation and the Call for Evidence (CfE) on the potential extension of the upcoming ban on landfilling biodegradable municipal waste.

The first of these consultation topics is a review of the **rural food waste exemption** that permits local authorities not to collect food waste from locations classified as being rural if collections are not economically viable.

The second consultation topic will consider the **approach to collection of textiles in Scotland**.

Launching with the consultations is the Call for Evidence (CfE) on the **potential extension of the upcoming ban on landfilling biodegradable municipal waste**.

[Respond here.](#)



CLOSES
30/06/25

Environmental Performance Assessment Scheme (EPAS) - a fair way to report performance

SEPA is consulting on a new way of assessing environmental performance that is designed to drive quick action to resolve issues that could cause harm to communities and nature. They are proposing a responsive scheme that is transparent about when they have checked compliance and what this means for environmental performance.

[Respond here.](#)

Environmental Performance Assessment Scheme (EPAS) online information events

Your environmental performance is under more scrutiny than ever before. Your customers, supply chains and the communities you operate in are increasingly focused on how you manage your environmental impact.

Understanding how your performance will be reported, and how to improve it if necessary, is key to staying competitive and responsible.

SEPA is consulting on how businesses will be assessed through their new Environmental Performance Assessment Scheme (EPAS). The proposals will see your performance rated as Good, Below Expectations, or Unacceptable.

SEPA's aim is to make environmental performance clear, transparent and reflective of your actual impact, assessed through your compliance with environmental regulations, the seriousness of any harm caused to the environment and the timeliness of the actions you take.

Join SEPA at one of two online information events:

- **Thursday 15th May 14:30 to 15:30**
- **Wednesday 21st May 14:00 to 15:00**

At the event, you'll hear from SEPA on the proposals, have the opportunity to ask questions to help you better understand EPAS and consider how you can get prepared for the future.

Attending will not only help you give informed feedback on the consultation before it closes on 30th June, it'll ensure you're ahead of the curve and ready when EPAS comes into effect.

Email EPAS@sepa.org.uk to book your place.

Rothsay waste carrier fined £300 for incomplete waste transfer notes

Waste producers and carriers are being reminded of the importance of keeping accurate records after a Rothsay man was given a £300 penalty for failing to complete waste transfer notes correctly.

John McMillan of Rothsay, Isle of Bute, was served the Fixed Monetary Penalty (FMP) by SEPA after the regulator discovered that waste transfer notes relating to the transfer of controlled waste from several properties in Rothsay had not been completed correctly.

Waste transfer notes ensure that there is a clear audit trail from when waste is produced until disposal - providing an accurate record that enables regulators to track waste movements and check waste has been handled legally.

A waste transfer note must contain certain essential information as set out in the Environmental Protection

(Duty of Care) (Scotland) Regulations 2014, including the type and quantity of waste, where it originated from, and where it will be disposed of or treated. Any person who produces, keeps, manages or carries controlled waste must complete accurate waste transfer notes and make them available to SEPA on request.

Calum McGregor, Unit Manager of SEPA's Environmental Crime Team, said: "Regulating the movement of waste is essential to ensure that it is taken to an appropriate disposal or treatment site and to prevent waste crime. This penalty should be a reminder to any business or individual working in the waste management industry that it is your responsibility to ensure you are compliant with your duty of care obligations, and ensuring your staff understand what is required when completing waste transfer notes."

[Read the full article here.](#)

partnerupdate

Cross Party Group on Independent Convenience Stores

You are invited to the next meeting of SGF's Cross Party Group on Independent Convenience Stores, scheduled for **10th June at 6pm, in-person at the Scottish Parliament, committee room 2.**

The meeting will focus on environmental regulations that are currently impacting the convenience sector. It will discuss retailer's responsibilities to four specific policies, including the single-use vape ban, which will have been effective for 9 days at the time of the meeting. The topics and speakers are:

- Single-use vape ban - Christopher Bell, Trading Standards.
- Waste Electrical and Electronic Equipment regulations (WEEE) - Chris Trotter or Nigel Tomlinson, Gap-Group UK.
- Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR) - George Atkinson, Valpak.
- Deposit Return Scheme (DRS) - Rebecca Oliver-Mooney, Co-op.

Following the presentations, there will be an opportunity for a Q&A session with our speakers and MSPs present.

SGF would greatly value your participation in what promises to be an interesting discussion. Please gather in the Parliament visitor reception before proceeding to the event room.

Please confirm your attendance, or that of a colleague, by emailing aidans@sgfscot.co.uk.

Retail under attack: Build your cyber resilience

Join Cyber and Fraud Centre Scotland on **Wednesday 14th May at 12noon** for a **FREE** webinar exploring how cyber criminals are targeting retailers, and what your business can do to stay one step ahead. From phishing scams and ransomware attacks to payment system breaches and supply chain vulnerabilities, we'll review the most common tactics used to access customer data and disrupt operations.

Designed for retailers of all sizes, this session will share practical advice and low-cost actions you can take today to protect your systems, staff and customers.

Don't wait for an attack to find your weak spot, join us and get ahead of threats.

- Overview of high-profile attacks e.g. POS breaches, ransomware, insider threats, and why retail is a target.
- Common cyber attack weaknesses in retail.
- Practical steps to improve resilience.
- Q&A.

[Sign up today to improve your cyber culture.](#)

UK DMO begins work to deliver Deposit Return Schemes

UK Deposit Management Organisation Ltd (UK DMO) has today been announced as the operator of the new Deposit Return Schemes for single-use plastic and metal drinks containers in England, Northern Ireland and Scotland.

The appointment has been made by the UK Government and DAERA. In Scotland, Scottish Ministers have also decided that UK DMO should be designated as the DRS scheme administrator.*

UK DMO is a business-led, not-for-profit organisation created to deliver one of the most significant environmental infrastructure programmes in a generation across England, Northern Ireland and Scotland. Once launched, the Deposit Return Schemes will cut litter, boost recycling and reduce carbon emissions.

According to a report from The Countryside Charity, introducing DRS is expected to create up to 4,000 jobs across the UK and will bring significant investment in infrastructure required to deliver the scheme including storage, logistics, and reprocessing.

UK DMO will now begin engaging with partners including the three governments, business, including drinks producers and retailers, consumer and environmental groups to design and operate a scheme which works for everyone. Producers, retailers and other interested parties are encouraged to visit the UK DMO website and register their interest in getting updates at <https://ukdmo.co.uk>

Built by business, working for everyone

UK DMO is governed by a Board that brings together voices from across the drinks and retail sector across all three nations. Members have been nominated by trade associations representing both large and small producers, major supermarkets, small convenience stores and wholesalers from across England, Northern Ireland and Scotland. Recruitment is also underway for an independent Chair and non-executive directors.

The Board includes highly experienced figures from companies including Shepley Spring, Radnor Hills, Coca-Cola Europacific Partners, Heineken UK, Lidl, Tesco and Co-op. Many of the Board members bring experience working in international markets where deposit return schemes are already in place.



UK DMO is responsible for designing and operating the systems that make the scheme work – from producer registration to logistics, finance, fraud prevention and public communications.

A landmark scheme

UK DMO has been tasked by the three governments with delivering a Deposit Return Scheme to go live in October 2027. From that date, when people buy drinks containers made from PET plastic, steel and aluminium between 150ml and 3 litres, they will pay a small deposit – which they will get back in full when they return the empty container for recycling.

Every year, 6.5 billion drinks containers are discarded across England, Scotland and Northern Ireland, contributing to 43% of all litter. The scheme aims to reduce this significantly while increasing recycling rates and reducing emissions.

**The appointment of UK DMO as the scheme administrator in Scotland is subject to the approval of the Scottish Parliament. The draft [Deposit and Return Scheme for Scotland \(Amendment Regulations\) 2025](#) and draft [Deposit and Return Scheme for Scotland \(Designation of Scheme Administrator\) Order 2025](#) have now been laid in the Scottish Parliament and will be voted on in due course.*

[Read the full release here.](#)

Answering 10 pressing questions about plastic pollution

The world generated an estimated 400 million tonnes of plastic waste last year. This torrent of water and shampoo bottles, dispensing containers, polyester shirts, PVC piping and other plastic products is part and parcel of a plastic pollution crisis that experts say is ravaging ecosystems, exposing people to potentially harmful pollutants and stoking climate change.

“Plastic pollution is one of the gravest environmental threats facing the Earth but it’s a problem we can solve,” said Elisa Tonda, Chief of the Resources and Markets Branch of the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP).

Countries worldwide are now negotiating an international legally binding agreement to end plastic pollution. Against that backdrop, this year’s World Environment Day will focus on ways to prevent plastic waste from escaping into the environment, such as curbing pollution from single-use plastic products and redesigning plastic products so they last longer.

Ahead of World Environment Day, the UN environment programme has taken a closer look at what plastic pollution is, why it’s such a problem and what can be done about it.

[Read more here.](#)



The dawn of electrified trucking

Electrically powered trucks will largely replace conventional trucks in large parts of the world within the next 15 years. As early as 2030, zero emission vehicles (ZEVs) powered by batteries or fuel cells will account for one-third of all trucks in Europe, North America and Greater China. By 2035, their share in these markets will rise to around 80%.

The change is being accelerated by increasingly strict regulatory requirements and simultaneously decreasing total cost of ownership (TCO) for ZEVs. In Europe, the war in Ukraine is also increasing the pressure for transformation: many governments are currently realigning their energy policies and reducing their dependence on fossil fuels.



[Download the FREE PwC report here.](#)

Nature Connections Partnership - Perth & Kinross: latest newsletter issued

The May 2025 edition of the Nature Connections Partnership - Perth & Kinross newsletter has been issued and includes updates on:

- Name change
- Guardians of our Rivers
- Nature Restoration Fund (NRF) Grants
- The Pando Tree – the World’s largest living organism?
- Gaelic in the rural Landscape
- Tay Catchment Salmon Alliance
- Scottish Badgers
- Crofting’s coming South?

Read the newsletter [here](#).

Previous editions can be found [here](#).



Biodiversity Pulse

The latest edition of Biodiversity Pulse, Carbon Pulse’s free newsletter on the biodiversity market, has been issued. Topics of interest include:

- Biodiversity credits need higher prices to support global targets, study finds
- Stacking biodiversity and carbon credits for marine animal forests a “necessity” - report
- INTERVIEW: Monetary benefits secondary to relationships to land, says Canadian financial conservation expert
- Push to weaken EU Habitats directive may go well beyond wolves
- Biodiversity remains threatened by extensive and intensive farming -study

View this edition [here](#) or subscribe to future editions [here](#).



Latest edition of Defra's Circular Economy newsletter issued

The latest edition of Defra's **Circular Economy newsletter** has been issued, and includes updates on:

- Circular Economy Strategy
- Single-use Vapes
- Deposit Return Scheme
- Extended Producer Responsibility for Packaging (pEPR) Updates
- PackUK Update
- Waste Crime Update
- Environmental Improvement Plan
- Circular Economy Engagement

[View the latest edition here.](#)



Introducing the UK Textiles Pact from WRAP

Textiles 2030 is evolving into the UK Textiles Pact, a move which will bring the agreement in line with WRAP's other flagship voluntary agreements, the UK Food & Drink Pact and the UK Plastics Pact.

Launched in April 2021, Textiles 2030 builds on the success of the Sustainable Clothing Action Plan 2020 (SCAP 2020) which came before it.

The UK Textiles Pact is a central member in WRAP's wider Textiles Action Network which unites national and regional textiles initiatives worldwide to exchange knowledge, share best practice, and work collectively to put the textiles industry on a trajectory to achieve net zero carbon emissions through the transition to a circular economy.

[Read the full article here.](#)

Trekking Scotland's Wilderness for PADS

The team at Nicki Souter Associates are embarking on an epic Highland adventure – trekking from Glenfinnan to one of the last great wildernesses of Scotland – Knoydart!

Over 43 kilometres, this challenging hike will take us through some of Scotland's most spectacular landscapes, over bog, burns, and alongside pristine lochs.

Every step is aimed at raising vital funds for Perthshire Abandoned Dogs Society (PADS), which gives care and shelter for abandoned and stray dogs ultimately finding them loving homes. Funds are crucial for PADS to provide veterinary care, food, and a warm and comfortable environment for dogs in need.

Your support will not only fuel our determination when the Scottish weather tests our resolve but will make a difference to PADS to continue looking after their dogs.

[Join us on this remarkable journey by donating today!](#)

contractfinder

Deadline May 2025

Title: Recycling and Waste Management Services

Buyer: Scottish Parliamentary Corporate Body

Deadline: 19th May 2025

[Find out more here.](#)

Title: Resource Mapping for Scotland's Clean Heat Transition

Buyer: Zero Waste Scotland

Deadline: 28th May 2025

[Find out more here.](#)

Title: The purchase and maintenance of Shredders for pre-treating Bulky Waste

Buyer: The Highland Council

Deadline: 29th May 2025

[Find out more here.](#)

Future Opportunities

Title: Waste Treatment and Haulage Services for Commercial and Demolition Waste

Buyer: Scottish Borders Council

Published: 8th April 2025

[Find out more here.](#)

Title: Removal and Disposal of Asbestos Materials with subsequent Reinstatement and Remedial Works

Buyer: South Lanarkshire Council

Published: 25th April 2025

[Find out more here.](#)

Title: Legio Blocks for Waste Transfer Stations

Buyer: The City of Edinburgh Council

Published: 9th April 2025

[Find out more here.](#)

eventspotlight

20 - 22 May 2025

Online & London

Festival of Circular Economy

Join changemakers and thought leaders from around the globe for three dynamic days of virtual live-streams and in-person connections. Dive into practical insights and inspiring use cases from the built environment and textiles sectors - two of the most resource-intensive industries. Gain strategies from sector trailblazers, explore innovative business models, and connect with circularity champions, policymakers, and innovators.

[Find out more and buy your ticket here.](#)



1 Oct 2025

Edinburgh

46th TB Macaulay Lecture with Kate Raworth

The Macaulay Development Trust is excited to announce that the 46th TB Macaulay lecture will be delivered by renowned economist and creator of the 'doughnut of social and planetary boundaries' concept, Kate Raworth.

Presented in partnership with The James Hutton Institute, this annual lecture brings academia and the public together to focus on the critical issues facing Scotland's land and people.

Kate is best known for her unique "doughnut economics" model, which emphasises the need to balance humanity's needs with the health of the planet.

[Secure your FREE ticket here.](#)



12 Nov 2025

Glasgow

Circular Communities Scotland's 2025 Annual Conference

This conference is open to members, supporter members and stakeholders, as well as everyone involved and interested in the circular third sector in Scotland.

Save the date - more information coming soon.



RMAStalendar

29 Apr Online Webinar A Groundbreaking Waste Management Approach with Dr Stephen Wise from Advetec Request invite here	16 May Knutsford Site Visit CRJ Services Request invite here	16 Jun Online Webinar Market Trends Request invite here
18 Jun Perth Site Visit Binn Group Eco Park Request invite here	24 Jun Online Webinar Hargreaves Environmental Services Request invite here	23 Jul Belfast Site Visit CDE Monkstown Facility Request invite here

If you would like to host a site visit or webinar please email nicki@nickisouterassociates.co.uk



Watch this space for
more RMASt events
announcements

eventcalendar

14 May | Online

Cyber and Fraud Centre Scotland

Retail under attack: Build your cyber resilience webinar

[Book here](#)

20 - 22 May | Online

Circular Economy Institute

Festival of Circular Economy

[Book here](#)

22 May | Online

Circular Communities Scotland

Circular Manifesto Consultation

[Book here](#)

29 May | Edinburgh

Adjudication Society

Annual Case Law Update by The Hon. Lord Richardson

[Book here](#)

4 Jun | London

ESA

2025 Conference

[Book here](#)

4 Jun | Edinburgh

Public Contracts Scotland

Meet the Buyer Event

[Book here](#)

5 Jun | London

LetsRecycle

The London Conference

[Book here](#)

10 Jun | London

LetsRecycle

National Green Skills Conference

[Book here](#)

10 Jun | Edinburgh

Scottish Grocers' Federation

CPG on Independent Convenience Stores: Environmental Regulations

[Book here](#)

9 - 10 Jul | Birmingham

AD & Biogas Industry

Awards and Gala Dinner

[Book here](#)

24 Sep | Peterborough

RECOUP

Awards & Networking Dinner

[Book here](#)

25 Sep | Peterborough

RECOUP

RECOUP Conference

[Book here](#)