



Reusable and refillable cups: the challenges and opportunities

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How big is the problem of single-use cups?



388.7 million single-use cups are used per year in Scotland



15 million single-use cups littered each year, that's over 40,000 each day!



In 2018, est. < 0.25% of lined fibre coffee cups were recycled



It is estimated that without a charge, the number of single-use cups could rise to around 450 million in 2035*



Single-use drinks cups create 5,400 tonnes of waste annually in Scotland of which 96% is landfilled*



Local authorities approx. spend £1.16m per year on waste collection & disposal, and £4k on littered cups

*CE Bill Financial memorandum agreed figure

Each year, Scotland uses

388.7

million

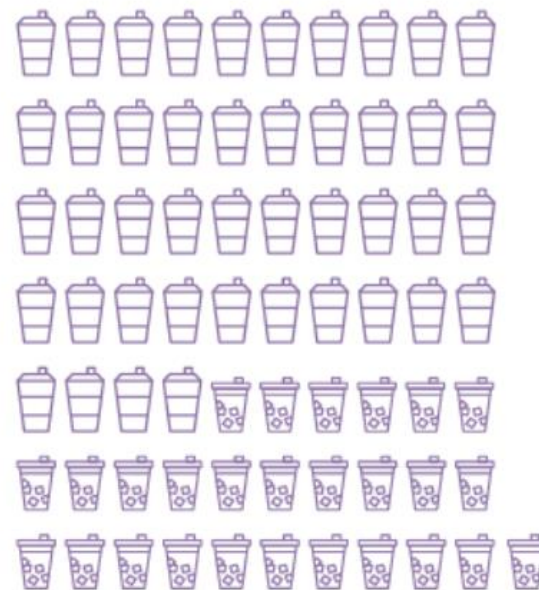
single-use beverage cups



That's about a million
cups every single day!



Of the 388.7 million single-use cups used in Scotland each year...



388.7 million single-use cups amounts to 71 cups per person, per year - one of the highest rates compared to nations in the European Union.

Single-use cups research:

In 2019, the Cups Sold Separately Field trial and evidence review of disposable cup charges study suggested that by replacing reusable cup discounts with an equivalent, cost-neutral disposable coffee cup charge, retailers could significantly increase reusable cup use without impacting sales, and with no cost increase to consumers



An environmental charge isn't a new idea..

This initiative builds on the success of the single-use carrier bag charge (2014), which effectively:

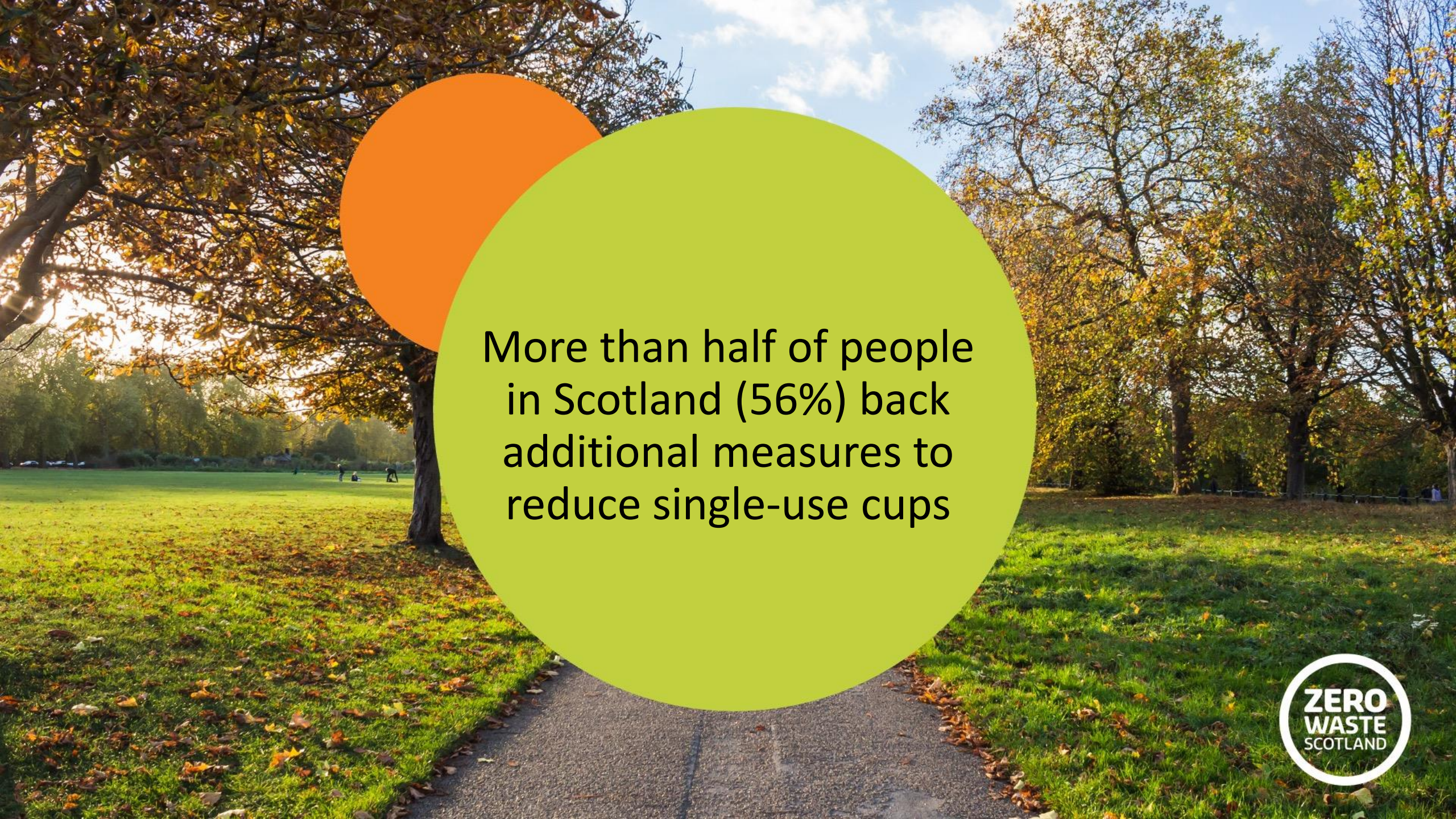
- changed consumer behaviour,
- reduced carrier bag litter (*Marine Conservation Society recently reported 80% less carrier bag litter*)
- encouraged responsible consumption




The Scottish Government consultation



- The Scottish Government recently **consulted on the proposal to introduce a minimum 25p charge** on single-use beverage cups to tackle the significant environmental impact of these items.
- It aims to reduce the consumption of single-use disposable beverage cups by **incentivising the use of reusable alternatives**.
- This **supports Scotland's transition to a circular economy**, where resources are valued and kept in use for as long as possible.



More than half of people
in Scotland (56%) back
additional measures to
reduce single-use cups



74% of people in Scotland
said a charge on single-use
cups would encourage
them to use a reusable cup
more

A summary of consultation proposals

The Scottish Government consulted on the proposal to introduce a **minimum 25p charge on single-use drinks** cups to tackle the significant environmental impact of these items.

A charge **should apply to all single-use beverage cups** when an individual buys a drink of any kind.

The charge would **apply regardless of cup material**, and therefore would include cups made of biodegradable material or bio-based plastics. These are still single-use.

There will be a **limited**



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So the ultimate goal is ... a transition to reusables/refillables

Ditching Disposables pilot 1

The Ditching Disposables initiative launched in 2021 and looked to reduce the use of disposables which was trialled across multiple businesses in Portobello.



Ditching Disposables pilot 2



Ditching Disposables [Stirling](#) trialled a city-wide scheme for reusable cups. It involved 20 cafés/shops adopting Ditching Disposables branded, reusable, returnable cups and lids. The scheme was also piloted at a smaller scale with events and bigger venues.

Across the scheme, 1,761 cups were taken by customers, and 888 returned (around 50% are still in circulation with customers).



Other reusable cup approaches

- Keep Scotland Beautiful – [Highland Community Waste Partnership](#) #ChooseToReuse & #RecycleCupsSeparately
- [OVO Hydro](#)
- [YoYo Cup](#)
- Hubbub to [launch](#) Borrow Cup in 2025 in Glasgow

Beyond Scotland

- [2gocup](#)
- [Reuser](#)
- more [here](#)





And Glasgow Caledonian University

Paulo Cruz



Mentimeter polls

- Please see recorded video for this section.






Discussion

 zerowastescotland.org.uk

 [@ZeroWasteScot](https://twitter.com/ZeroWasteScot)

 [@HowToWasteLess](https://www.instagram.com/HowToWasteLess)

   [@ZeroWasteScotland](https://www.youtube.com/@ZeroWasteScotland)



Useful links:

- 2022 study on the [Consumption of Single-use Disposable Beverage Cups in Scotland](#) examining the level of consumption of single-use disposable beverage cups in Scotland and assessing the potential impact on consumption of introducing a national mandatory charge
- 2023 [webinar](#) on how to reduce single-use cups with a focus on 5 different scenarios including cafes, events, educational establishments, towns, regions
- 2021 [pilot in Portobello](#) looking at reducing single-use items (including cups, napkins, sauce sachets etc)






Thank
you

If you want to discuss your options
further, contact;

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