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From: [Redacted]
Sent: 12 November 2020 11:46
To: wastecomments
Subject: Deposit scheme consultation

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I implore you to introduce a deposit scheme on recyclable containers in Ireland having seen the positive effect that such a scheme has in Cologne, Germany.

I visited Cologne twice in 2018 and was highly impressed at the cleanliness of the town due to the operation of a deposit scheme, mainly on drinks containers. There, the locals were consciously recycling vessels such as aluminium cans, glass bottles and plastic bottles in order to receive the refund of their deposit. Also, many locals were collecting containers and vessels around the town, almost acting as refuse collectors, in order to generate a small income. As tourists we were more than happy to give our containers to these individuals, resulting in no waste being left in the city.

In Ireland during the Covid19 pandemic I have witnessed huge volumes of rubbish being left at local parks and beaches by people who have brought drinks to these areas but neglected to clean up after themselves. If a monetary sum was available for the safe return of such containers I can guarantee that the mess would not be left behind, as either the individuals would bring the containers back for their refund, or an enterprising individual would collect the rubbish and return it for an income.

I have also witnessed these schemes in operation in Hamilton Island (Australia) and several countries in South America and again it contributed greatly to a cleaner public environment.

I would suggest that the Irish public would have no issue with paying an additional charge on a glass bottle or aluminium can in order to bring this scheme into operation. I know of many coffee shops that were offering 20c discounts for those who brought reusable coffee cups (pre COVID19) and still witnessed the vast majority neglecting to use this option, proving that a minor charge for environmental purposes is not a deterrant to the Irish public.

Please bring Ireland in line with many other countries and introduce this scheme as soon as possible in an effort to clean our country and change recycling habits.

Regards,
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