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From: [REDACTED]
Sent: 11 November 2020 13:36
To: wastecomments
Subject: submission for deposit return scheme consultation
Attachments: SAUTI-Youth submission for DRS.docx

Categories: Consultation Submission

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To whom it might concern,
please find attached submission for the deposit return scheme consultation
Best regards

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

Youth Work Ireland Galway

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
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SAUTI-Youth

SAUTI-YOUTH SUBMISSION FOR DEPOSIT RETURN SCHEME CONSULTATION

Introduction

SAUTI-Youth (Sustainable Accountability Uniting Tanzanian and Irish Youth) is a new initiative funded by the European Commission; a collaboration between World Vision Ireland, Youth Work Ireland Galway and World Vision Tanzania.

The project is a youth led monitoring of local government commitments on climate action linking Galway and Tanga (Tanzania). Young people will be empowered to dialog with local authorities so that young people's voice is taken into consideration while decisions about their future are made.

SAUTI-Youth welcomes the opportunity to submit its feedback, notes and views in relation to the deposit return scheme

Firstly, we think the **Deposit return scheme (DRS) should be more ambitious** and include more beverage containers, in particular, **glass bottles**. Not only would this be more beneficial to the scheme, but it would encourage more people to recycle their glass bottles rather than incorrectly disposing them. This is happening in Scotland so we don't see why it cannot be replicated in Ireland.

The DRS study proposes a deposit per container of €0.20. Do you think this is appropriate? If not should it be higher or lower or should different deposit rates apply depending on container size?

We think that a flat rate of €0.20 per bottle is not appropriate, rather it would be better that bottles are charged based on their size. For example 300ml-500ml will return €0.10 while 1l-3l will return €0.20. In addition to this, greater consideration should be given to **multipack cans**. A flat rate per can will mean a significant upfront cost for household budgets and it might influence purchasing habits, with the unwanted consequence of an increase consumption of plastic bottles instead of aluminium cans.

Consumers need to know about a DRS long before it becomes operational. Do you have any suggestions as to how best the introduction of a DRS can be communicated to the public?

To be successful the DRS needs to be properly communicated to the public. The message needs to be clear: why the DRS is necessary and what difference it will make for the environment. You should explain to people what the lifecycle of the beverage container is, from the resources needed to the amount of time to naturally

decompose if sent to landfill. For example not everyone knows that plastic is made of oil.

In relation to how to spread the message lessons can be learned from the very successful COVID 19 media campaign.

The promotion of the DRS has to be done through a variety of media such as social media, pamphlets and newspaper ads to cover different target audience. For example, pamphlets would target the older audience who do not use social media. Social media and newspaper ads would target a younger to middle aged audience such as students and workers. Short radio ads could also be of use. To ensure the public knows which beverage containers are involved in the scheme a sticker 'Deposit Return friendly' should be used.

In the beginning to incentivise people to take part in the DRS we suggest having a discount on the deposit but the same return rate. In other words you might pay €0.10 when you purchase the beverage container but you get back € 0.20 when it is returned.. This suggestion is just for the first 1or 2 months, it will encourage people and once the habit is created it won't be necessary anymore.

Other suggestions

It will be interesting to explore the possibility of linking with banks so that the **return money will go automatically in a saving account**, in this way people might be incentivised to take part in the scheme. Another possibility is to **top up your public transport card** with the return money.

To facilitate the return of the beverage containers, DRS machines should be placed in public areas where the beverages are consumed such as public parks and beaches, this hopefully will reduce littering.