

# Scotland's Deposit Return Scheme

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Scottish  
Government  
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# About Zero Waste Scotland

Zero Waste Scotland focus on where, as a society, we can have the greatest impact on climate change by using products and services to get the maximum life and value from the natural resources used to make them.

Using evidence and insight, our goal is to inform policy, and motivate individuals and businesses to embrace the environmental, economic, and social benefits of a circular economy.

We are a not-for-profit environmental organisation, funded by the Scottish Government and European Regional Development Fund.



# Zero Waste Scotland – Our Role

Zero Waste Scotland is advising the Scottish Government on scheme design and is supporting government and industry on its implementation.

We have consulted, and continue to engage with, hundreds of organisations – from retailers and manufacturers to councils and community groups – and learned from countries that already operate a deposit return scheme.

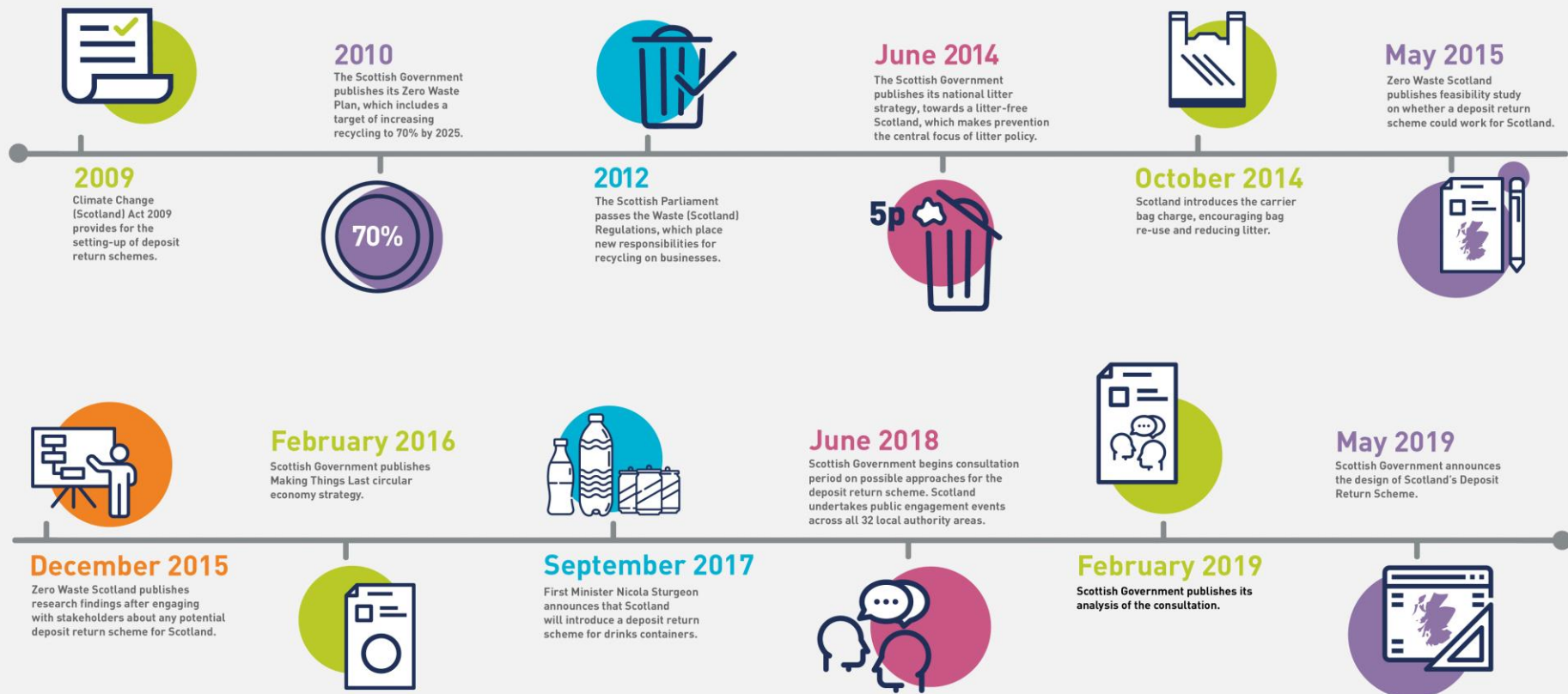


**Scotland was the  
first UK nation  
to commit to the  
introduction of  
a deposit return  
scheme for drinks  
containers.**

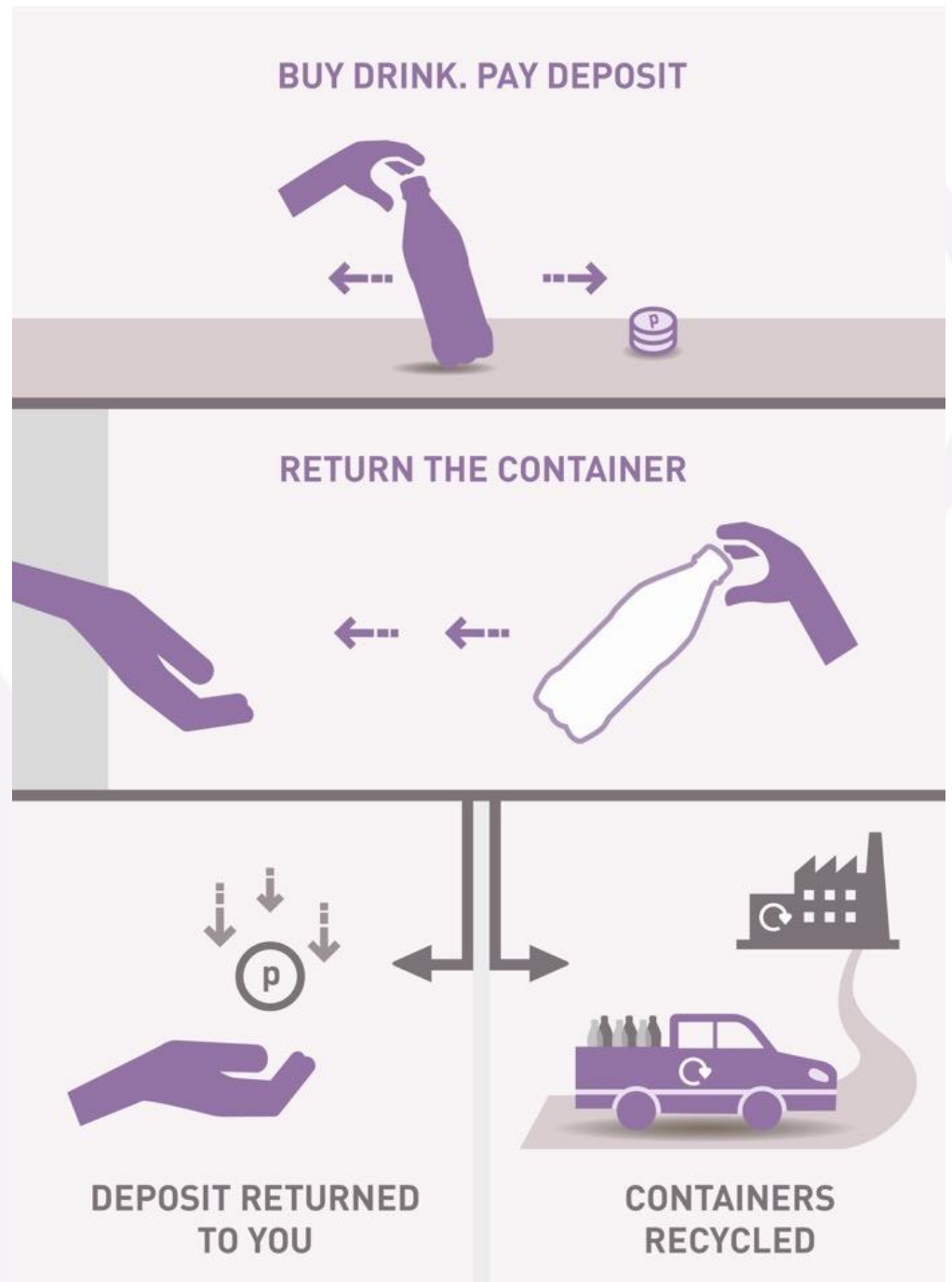




# Timeline

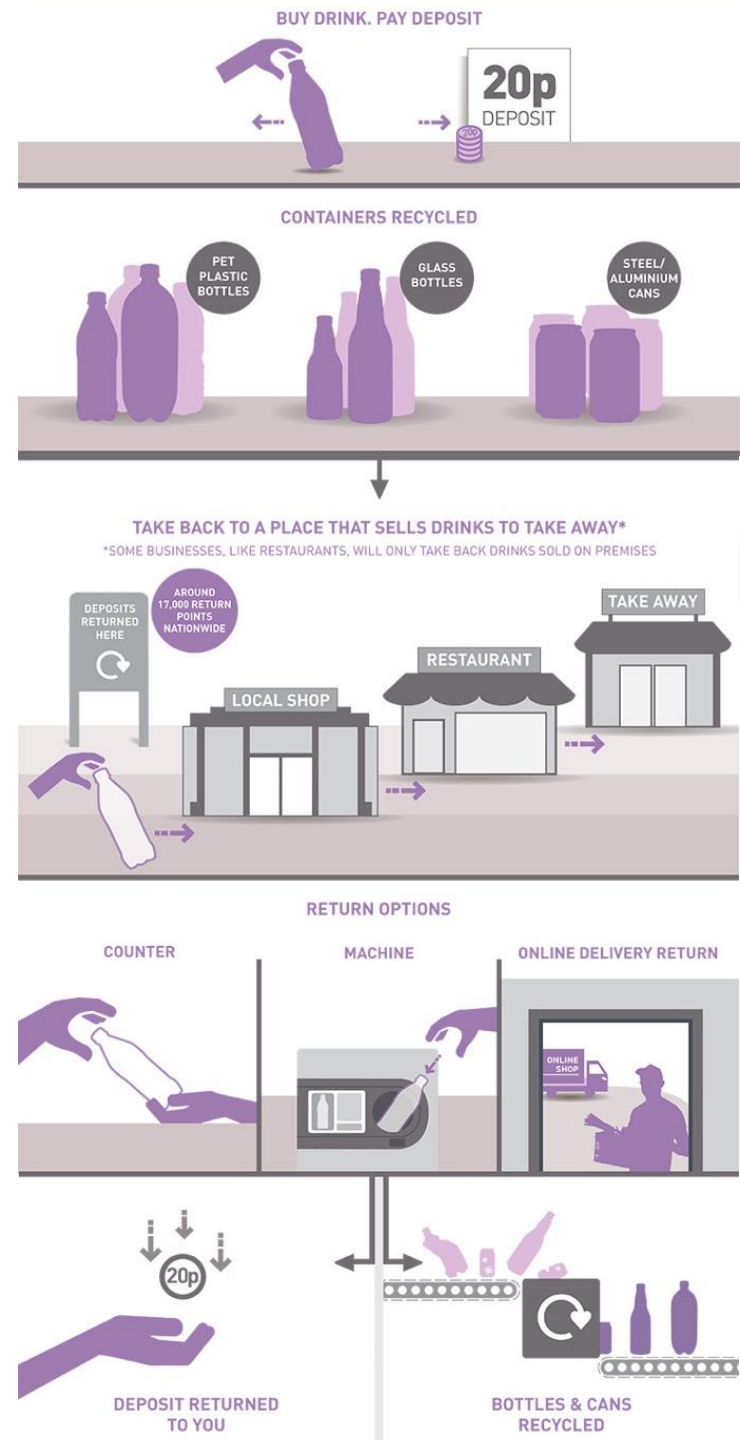


# What is a deposit return scheme?

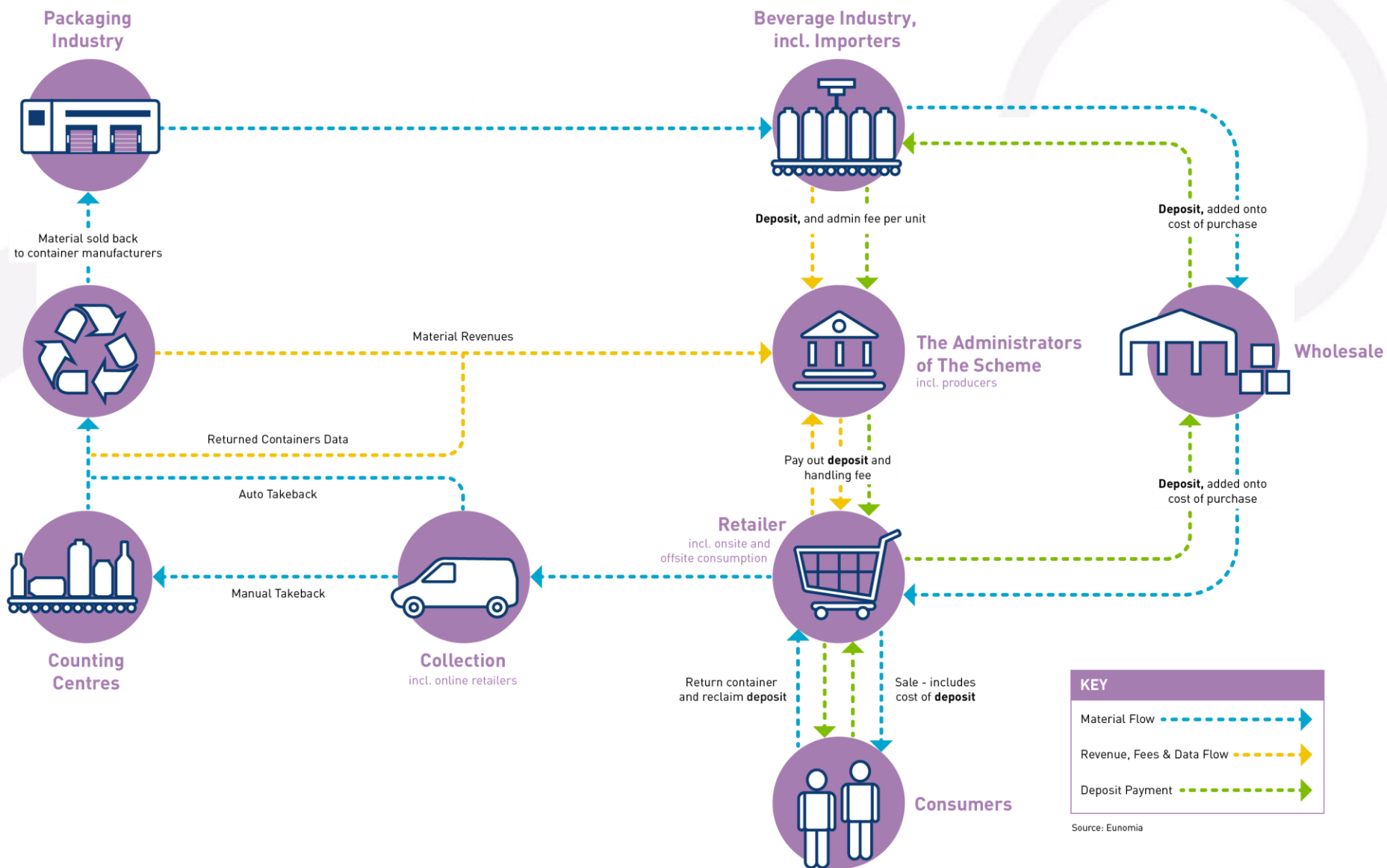


# Scotland's Deposit Return Scheme

Deposit return is a crucial part of the strategy planned by the Scottish Government to tackle climate change and the problems created by single-use items. It will help us all to change our throwaway culture.



# Scotland's Deposit Return Scheme





# Benefits

**The economy**

**Social  
benefits**

**Behaviour  
change**

**Recycling  
quality**

**Recycling  
quantity**

**Litter  
prevention**

**Tackling  
climate  
change**

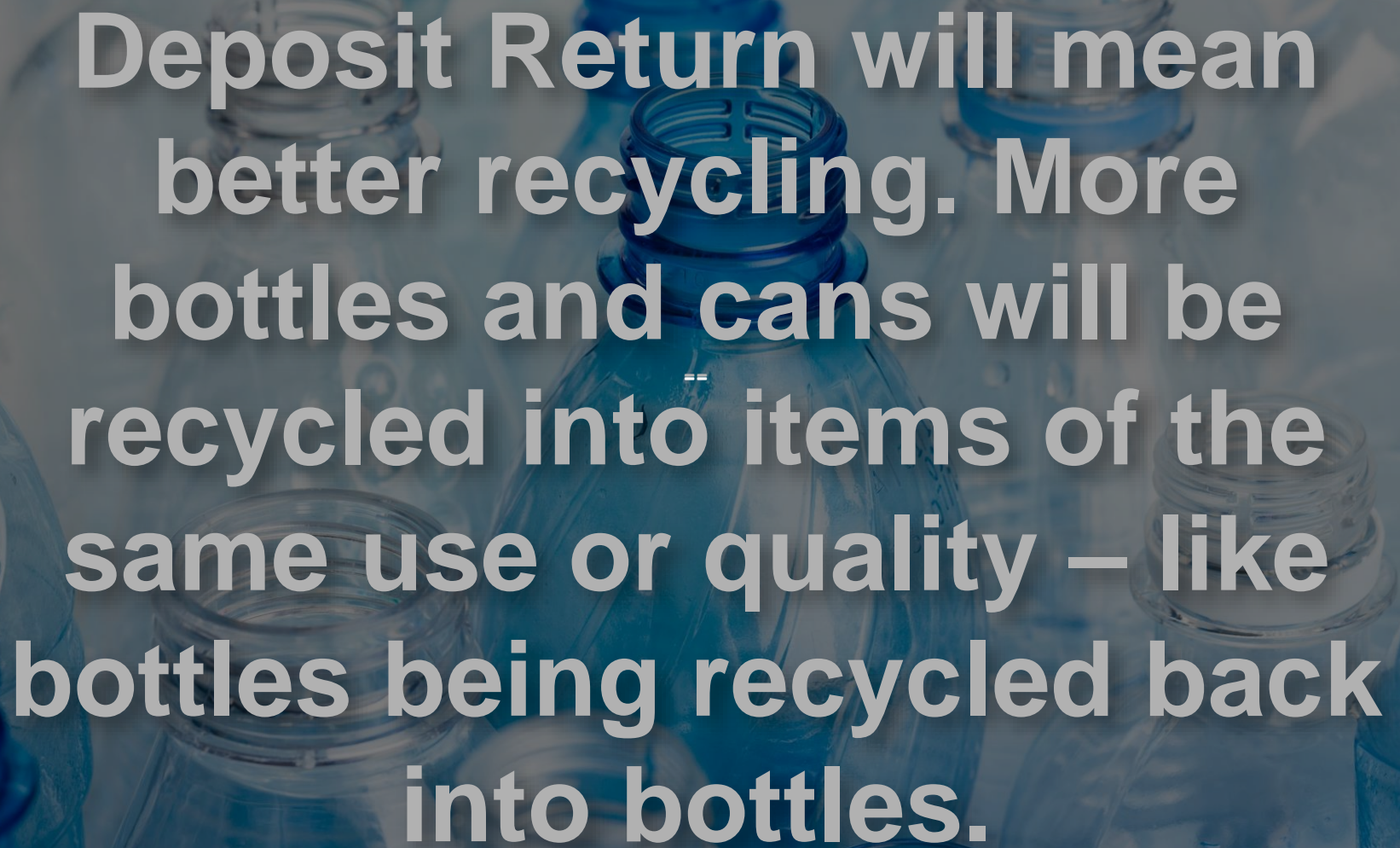
**Currently, Scotland recycles just  
over half of drinks containers**




**Scotland's deposit return scheme aims to capture at least 90% of target containers for recycling.**







**Deposit Return will mean better recycling. More bottles and cans will be recycled into items of the same use or quality – like bottles being recycled back into bottles.**



**That's an average of  
around 160,000 tonnes  
of CO<sub>2</sub>eq each year, the  
equivalent of taking  
85,500 cars off the road**



**Scotland's Deposit  
Return Scheme is  
expected to reduce  
the impacts of litter  
in Scotland by  
an estimated  
£61 million  
a year**







# CLIMATE EMERGENCY

The background image shows a dense crowd of people, primarily young adults, at what appears to be a climate change demonstration. They are holding up numerous handmade signs with various messages. Visible signs include: 'LOCK TICKING' (partially visible), 'WE'RE GASSED FOR SOME', 'THIS PLANET NEEDS TO GIVE A SHIT', 'MORE THAN 80% OF NATURAL DISASTERS ARE CLIMATE RELATED', 'WHY AREN'T WE CHANGING?', 'SEA LEVELS ARE SO ARE', 'OUR EARTH MATTERS', 'EARTH NEEDS YOU TO GIVE A SHIT', 'GO HOT', and 'WHAT I ST'. Some signs also feature images, such as a globe and a person's face. The overall atmosphere is one of active participation in a social movement.

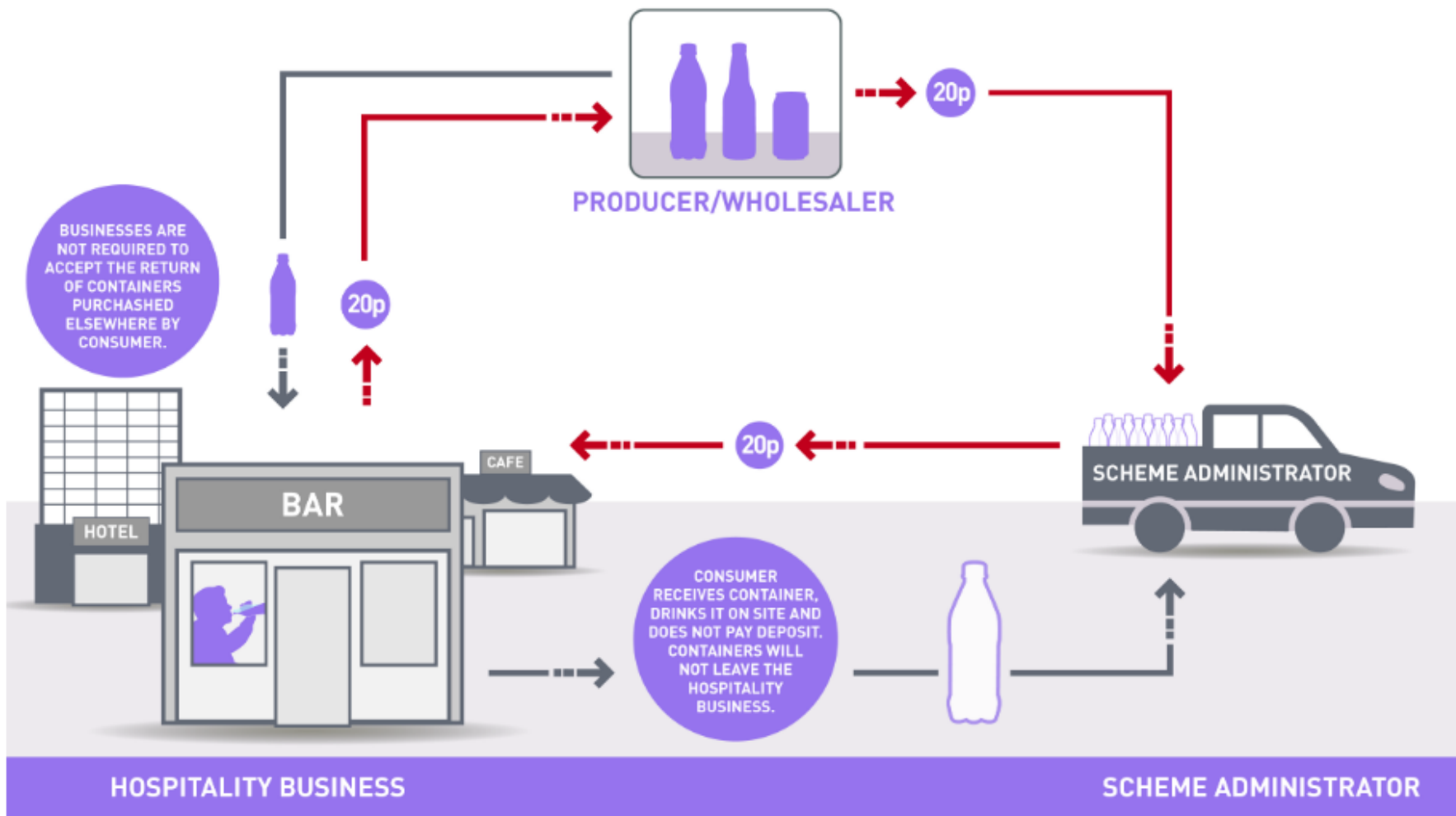
# Retailers and return points

- Retailers can choose either to install an RVM machine on their premises, or alternatively to accept returns manually.
- Retailers will receive a handling fee on a per container basis, making their obligation in the scheme cost neutral. This payment will compensate things such as shop space and staff time.
- The deposit must be included in the product price of in-scope materials.
- Shops will have to display the deposit separately to the price of the drink on their in-store price points.
- Return points must accept containers and refund deposits to consumers. They must keep the containers for collection by the scheme administrator.
- Businesses that sell drinks to be opened and consumed on-site, will not have to charge the deposit to the public and will only have to return the containers they sell on their own premises.

# On-site Consumption



## TREATMENT OF HOSPITALITY – ON SITE CONSUMPTION

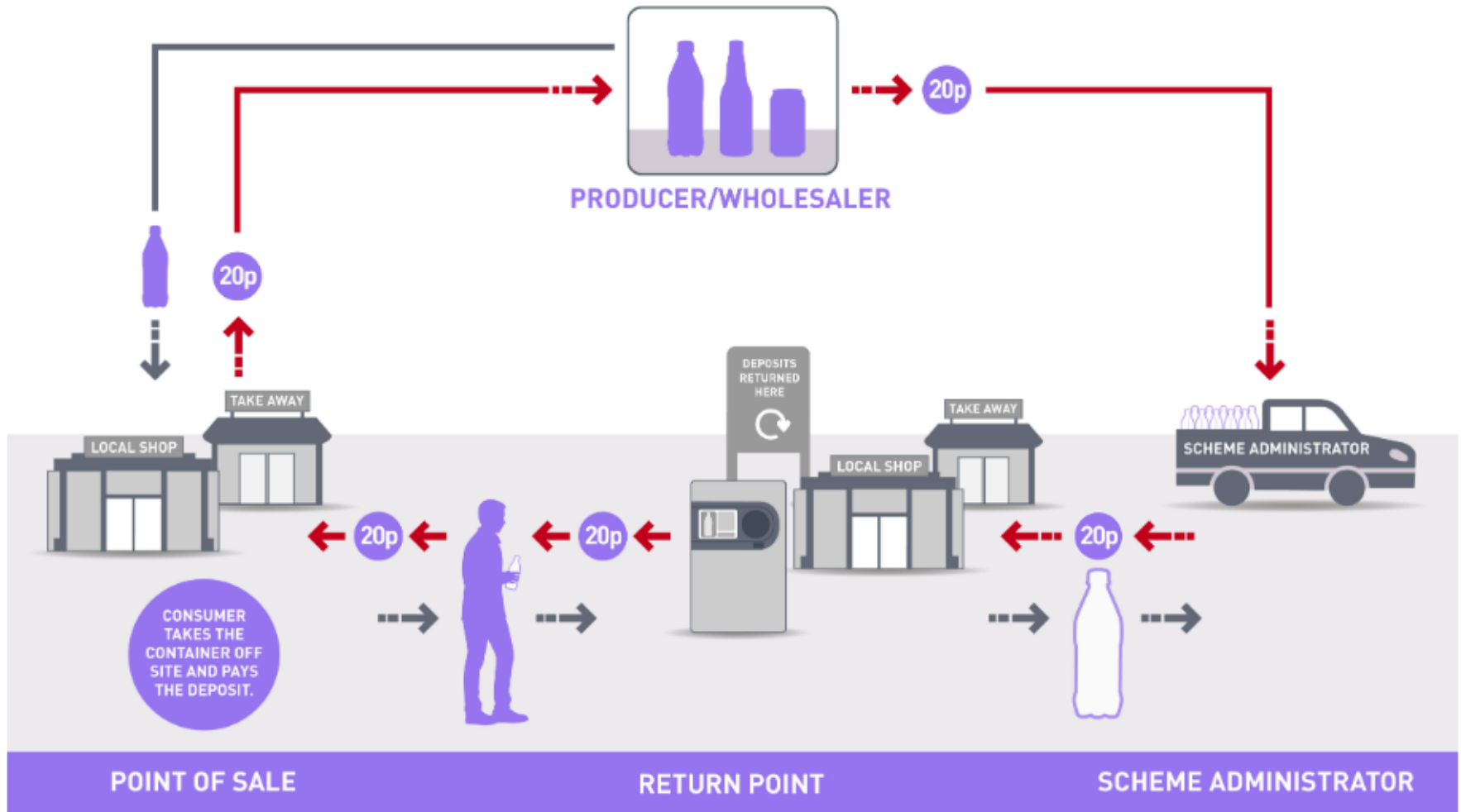




# Off-site Consumption



## TREATMENT OF HOSPITALITY – OFF SITE CONSUMPTION



# Producers

- For their drinks to be sold in Scotland, all producers must register with SEPA.
- Producers must include a deposit in the sale price of products sold in scheme articles.
- Producers will be charged a producer fee for each container they place on the market. It is this fee that partly funds the DRS.
- Producers can appoint a scheme administrator to operate the Deposit Return Scheme on their behalf.
- The appointed scheme administrator will be responsible for collecting scheme containers from retailers and return points.
- The scheme administrator, under the appointment of producers, will be required to meet annual collection targets for recycling.

# Next steps

Draft Regulations were introduced to Scottish Parliament on 10 September 2019, under the Climate Change Act. Under parliamentary procedure, the draft regulations will sit for comment for 90 days.

Following a pause for any required revisions, the final regulations will then be laid for 54 days, at the end of which there will be a final vote by MSPs. The Island Communities Impact Assessment will be published at the same time.

**Once the legislation process is complete, businesses will have a minimum of 12 months to get ready before the scheme becomes operational.**



# Thank you

For more information, including a comprehensive list of FAQs, please visit:

**Depositreturn.scot**

**@ZeroWasteScot**

**#DepositReturn**

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[www.facebook.com/zerowastescotland](http://www.facebook.com/zerowastescotland)

We issue a regular stakeholder newsletter.

To sign up, contact:

<https://depositreturnscheme.zerowastescotland.org.uk/contact>