



Resource: Resource 3 - How big is Scotland's litter problem?
Text: This quiz encourages you to think about waste and Scotland's litter problem. It includes science, literacy and social science.
Suitable for: S1-S2
Approximate time: 15 minutes
Curriculum links: SOC 3-08a, SCN 2-20b
Meta-skills: Focussing: Sorting, Attention.

Sustainable Development Goal links:





Scotland collects
50 Kelpies' worth
of litter every year

x50



Or, in other words...

475

items of litter dropped
every minute.



The amount of litter in Scotland

That is equal to:



15,000
tonnes



250 million
items



50 pieces
of litter
per person in Scotland

What's on our streets?

The most commonly littered items in Scotland:



Gum
and gum
wrappers



Cigarette
butts and
packaging



Drinks
containers



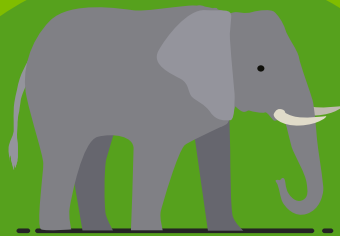
Food
and food
packaging



Other

Source: Composition of litter in Scotland 2016, Keep Scotland Beautiful report.

15,000 tonnes of litter is equivalent to:



2,777
Adult male Asian elephants



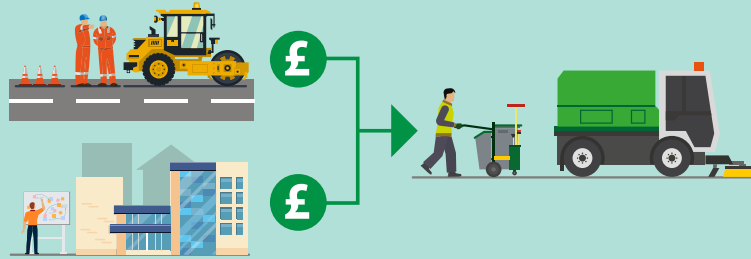
10,791
European passenger cars



200,000
washing machines



Litter on our streets forces local authorities to divert public money away from other public services like schools and roads.



Every year Scotland spends at least **£46 million** cleaning up after our litterers...

Litter:
we're all
paying for
the clean-up

...that's around £20.00 for each taxpayer.



How big is Scotland's litter problem?

Questions:

Each year, Scotland's cleaning teams collect _____ tonnes of litter.

That's:

the same weight as _____ individual Kelpies.

around _____ items of litter.

enough to fill _____ wheelie bins.

around _____ pieces of litter for every person in Scotland (on average).

_____ items dropped every minute (on average).

Local authorities have to spend millions cleaning up litter – at least _____ each year, around _____ per taxpayer.

Answers:

Each year, Scotland's cleaning teams collect **15,000 tonnes** of litter.

That's:

the same weight as **50** individual Kelpies.

around **250 million** items of litter.

enough to fill **570,000** wheelie bins.

around **50** pieces of litter for every person in Scotland (on average).

Out of lockdown, **475** items dropped every minute (on average).

Local authorities have to spend millions cleaning up litter – at least **£46 million** each year, around **£20** per taxpayer.