

Clyde Marine Litter Symposium – Marine Litter policy workshop summary

Field Studies Council Millport, 26th November 2016

The aim of this workshop was to:

1. Gather information on initiatives in the Clyde Marine Region contributing to [Marine Litter Strategy](#) strategic directions and to generate ideas for further action- Session one.
2. Consider the pros and cons of examples of regional marine litter policy and consider what should be taken forward, used or improved upon in developing new marine litter policy in the Clyde Marine Region – Session two.

The presentations given in the morning session are available to view [at this website](#).

Session one

Considering each of the five strategic directions from the Marine Litter Strategy, participants listed National and regional activities currently happening in the Clyde Marine Region to support them and listed proposals for what further action/initiatives can be done.



Strategic Direction 1: Improve public and business attitudes and behaviours around marine and coastal litter in co-ordination with the national litter strategy.

Current activity	Proposed activity
<p><u>National</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Carrier bag charge • Beach cleans and surveys • Citizen science programmes • Education programmes in schools, such as the Green Blue and RYA training and University Sustainability Challenge • Fishing for litter • Recycling and reuse projects • Linking Beachwatch data with pollution campaigns involving manufacturers e.g. wet wipes and cotton buds. <p><u>Regional</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Argyll and Bute beach forum • Beachwatch Bute current initiatives: storage benches and litter seal. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Recognition of efforts i.e. marine litter free town – just like fair trade. Conversely, name and shame in some cases • Similarly, more responsibility on businesses to have more accountability for their contribution to marine litter and conversely recognition for marine litter reduction activities. • Bottle deposit return scheme • Colour scheme on packaging to show how environmentally friendly packaging is (potentially how sustainable business is as a whole). • Promote more use of paper bags. • Need to be consistent and clear on packaging and how it can be recycled – improve branding and marketing and sharing good practices for better packaging. Work more closely with the manufacturing and plastics industry on this. • More campaigning to increase sensitivity and awareness amongst public. Especially in regard to more information on plastics in food chain and more involvement in secondary schools. • Make it more socially unacceptable to litter e.g. through a long sustained public awareness campaign. • Bigger and more bins.

Strategic Direction 2: Reduce marine and coastal based sources of litter, in co-ordination with land sourced litter being reduced by the national litter strategy.

Current activity	Proposed activity
<p><u>National</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • KIMO Fishing for litter project • Engagement of MCS Beachwatch with KIMO and Scottish Fishermen’s Association. • Engaging with industry to promote best practice in handling of plastic pellets on land and coastal sites (FIDRA, Great Nurdle Hunt). • Campaigns such as ‘wet wipes turn nasty’ 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Marine litter interpretation panels at marine litter hotspots (including before and after pictures) to help people make the link between terrestrial and marine litter. • Deposit return system. • More engagement with coastal and land based industry to ensure best practice is in place in all companies handling plastic pellets. • Work with producers to highlight importance of their role to reduce plastic packaging or use more sustainable or easily recycled materials. • Develop a circular economy • More advertising and engagement required to spread awareness to the whole public (not just like minded individuals). • Consider allowing landfill tax derogations for special cases (e.g. Arrochar).

Strategic Direction 3: Contribute to a low carbon economy by treating ‘waste as a resource’ and seizing the economic and environmental opportunities associated with the Zero Waste Plan.

Current activity	Proposed activity
<p><u>National</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Circular economy programmes e.g. Ellen MacArthur Foundation work. • Recycled/recyclable technical gear e.g. Henri Lloyd oil skins, Patagonia fleeces and Adidas ocean plastics trainers. • Producer pays – taxation for waste creation • Return to source schemes 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Composting seaweed mixed with litter prior to disposal. • Plastic bottle deposit return schemes. • Recycling rules are not clear to citizens – campaign to make them simpler and clearer. • Harmonise recycling among local authorities around the Clyde.

Strategic Direction 4: Improve monitoring at a Scottish scale and develop measures for strategy evaluation.

Current activity	Proposed activity
<p><u>National</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • MCS Beachwatch data • Great Nurdle Hunt data • Scottish Marine Standing Scheme • RSPB Beach bird surveys • Offshore litter monitoring by Marine Scotland Science • The Great Nurdle hunt plastic pellet monitoring • Microplastic ban in cosmetic/cleaning products. <p><u>Regional</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Orkney Pick up three pieces campaign 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Encourage more people to sign up to all existing and new beach cleans. • Get more volunteers to cover coastline targeting specific areas not covered previously. • More participation of all landowners. • Increased monitoring of recyclables from clean ups. • Collation of data and monitoring of marine litter and effort at regional plan scale. • More offshore litter research. • Link to what other EU countries already doing. • More nurdle hunts needed in Clyde and West coast. • Bring together more agencies more often.

Strategic Direction 5: Maintain and strengthen stakeholder co-ordination at the UK, EU and international scales.

Current activity	Proposed activity
<p><u>National/wider</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Marine Litter Strategy • National Marine Litter Strategy • UK high level marine policy strategy • National Marine Plan • EU Marine Strategy Framework Directive • KIMO • OSPAR litter monitoring <p><u>Regional</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Clyde Marine Planning Partnership 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • More links to research within EU (uncertainties around Brexit noted). • Action groups needed not just policies. • Allowing ownership of foreshore by the community where land owners won't maintain the areas. • Successor of MSFD in time? • Ongoing OSPAR work • Standardised data collection between organisations for collaboration with researchers. • Better enforcement of existing legislation to reduce littering in the first place.

Session two

Workshop participants then examined different marine litter policy examples, considering what can be learned from each in developing marine litter policy for the regional marine plan. It was suggested that:

- As well as new developments, policy should consider infrastructure already in place and the potential for the creation of marine litter as these age and degrade.
- Scope of policy should be broadened so that is not just developer focused.
- Wording of the policy must include social, ecological and environmental impacts and options.
- Strategic policy is more useful.
- Specific policy is more useful. Policy will be more effective if it is focussed on what can be changed and is not too wide or vague.
- Specify that developers are required to deliver waste minimisation and management plans, not just submit them.

As well as looking specifically at the policy examples, participants had broader discussions which generated practical suggestions and ideas for consideration in the development of regional policy. These have been grouped into five thematic areas and listed below.

Minimising use of plastic:

- Develop policy relating to procurement procedures to help reduce creation of marine litter.
- Policies should promote a circular economy.
- Reduce use of single-use plastics.
- Public sector should only use recyclable materials and where possible, non-plastic alternatives.
- Need to induce behavioural change through youth based education.
- Suggestions need to feed upwards to national level to ensure greatest impact.

Tackling terrestrial sources of plastic:

- Regional policy should link to and compliment national litter strategy and should consider minimising terrestrial sources (as the biggest input).
- Develop pro-active policy to work with land litterers (e.g. integrate marine and terrestrial campaigns and awareness raising activities).
- Use ferries and transport routes to raise awareness about marine litter.

- Tackle the issue from the source – start where the litter comes from.
- Support deposit return schemes.
- As 80% of marine litter is land based, consider taxing manufacturers. Taxation for manufacturers and supermarkets if products can't be recycled (e.g. Rolls Royce leasing engines to guarantee manufacturer commitment).
- Educate people about how outflows and WWT infrastructure work so there is more knowledge about what can and can't be flushed.
- Only sell plastics in local authority areas that can be recycled by that authority – make it easier for consumers to recycle. Standardise recycling across Authorities nationally.
- Improve communication from Local Authorities to consumers about what can be recycled – link this with responsibility on manufacturers.

Removal of marine litter:

- Could policy to support Scottish Water and SEPA in their efforts be created and/or encouraged?
- Talk to Scottish Water sooner rather than later to avoid problem becoming unmanageable – focus on taking action at hot spots.
- Re-design outflows/ waste water treatment infrastructure so that less waste ends up at sea
- Tyre dust and artificial pitches are large sources of microplastics. Consider how drainage policies could reduce input into the marine environment from these sources.
- Bigger bins to collect waste.
- More responsibility on manufacturers to reduce poor disposal of problem causing products – cotton buds, wipes, and bottles.
- Policy should consider the impact of storm effects and disposal at sea.
- Beachwatch Bute type model – creating funding pot through taxation.
- Consider how the 'island phenomenon' which has shown high community engagement and commitment to reducing marine litter be replicated on the mainland.
- Community enforcement against litterers – community justice teams.

Monitoring and data gathering of marine litter in the environment:

- Generate policy which supports MCS and Beachwatch beach cleans and other citizen science initiatives.
- Maintain a list of relevant marine litter projects in the Clyde that the plan supports, e.g. Beachwatch and Fishing For Litter.

Management measures to prevent creation of marine litter at a larger scale:

- Consider if waste management planning can be done at a smaller/more local level.
- High risk manufacturers (e.g. nurdles) need to have waste management plans in place. Especially for accidental spillage. See best practise guidelines 'Operation Clean Sweep' includes ports/transport.
- Bigger fines and enforcing of fines for littering.

