# Scotland Passes Circular Economy Bill to Boost Recycling and Reduce Waste



Scotland has passed new legislation aimed at reducing waste and improving recycling practices. The Circular Economy (Scotland) Bill was unanimously approved by Members of the Scottish Parliament (MSPs) with a vote of 116 to zero. This law introduces measures such as fines for incorrect recycling and a levy on single-use items like paper coffee cups and vapes.

Recycling fines, ranging between £60 and £80, will be imposed on repeat offenders who fail to dispose of plastics, cans, and paper correctly. Climate Action Minister Gillian Martin emphasized that these penalties are not intended for individuals who make occasional mistakes but for persistent violators.

The Bill also includes a "latte levy" which would add approximately 25p to the cost of a takeaway coffee. In addition, local authorities will gain enforcement powers to address fly-tipping and littering from cars. A Tory amendment ensures that victims of fly-tipping are no longer responsible for removal costs.

Another significant measure is the ban on the disposal of unsold goods, thereby preventing them from being sent to landfill. The legislation grants ministers the authority to set local recycling targets.

The Bill received criticism from some MSPs for lacking ambition. Scottish Conservative MSP Maurice Golden and Labour MSP Sarah Boyack expressed concerns that the Bill focuses more on recycling and waste management rather than fully embracing a circular economy strategy.