



Kunsilli Lokali

Local Councils' Association Malta

350 plastic bottle return machines to be stationed around Malta and Gozo – LCA reactions



**Assoċjazzjoni
Kunsilli Lokali**

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The Local Councils Association takes note of the **bottle return scheme and the installation of 350 plastic bottle return machines to be stationed around Malta and Gozo. Project launched by the Minister for the Environment, Climate Change and Planning.**

The Local Councils Association supports and encourages all initiatives, policies and regulations which promotes, incentive and support the increase of sustainability in its localities.

The Local Councils' Association invites Minister for the Environment, Climate Change and Planning, to engage in discussion with the Association before pressing ahead with the installation of such machines. The Association can work alongside with the Local Councils and the Ministry to identify areas where such machines can be installed. The Association will also advocate and promotes this initiative.

Local Councils will require the operators to remove or relocate their equipment according to operating terms and conditions of agreement and assess penalties for non-compliance.

Local Councils will require the operators to abide with the locality's existing and future policies and procedures in case of extreme weather, emergencies, special local events, maintenance, and cleaning schedules, etc.

Local Councils will require companies to assign a locally based manager who can immediately and efficiently respond to the local Council's requests and emergencies.

Local Councils will require all operators to create and maintain locality specific information on their website and social media platform. Information shall include terms of service, including user instructions, privacy policies, in all languages required by the Local Councils. It requires the operator to place a customer service contact number which connects the public to the operational team.

The LCA also highlight the following:

- Such machines will not be installed in a way that they will obstruct access for pedestrians or reduce accessibility.



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- There will be partnership with business to use spaces in supermarkets, private car parks and other commercial establishments.
- Exploring the possibility of a drive-through station.

Data Provision

- Operators must provide local councils and local government with accurate, complete, and timely data about the use of such machines.
- Local Councils shall have the right to request and retain aggregated reports on system use, compliance, and other aspects of operations.

The LCA will give full support to this initiative as it promotes the continual use of resources while implying a reduction in waste generated. Hence, creating further value of used plastic bottles.

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President



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