

Minutes
Retail Forum Working Group
Future of Retail – Green Transition
Meeting 4
29 NOVEMBER 2022
CHATHAM HOUSE RULES APPLY

Attendees: Appendix A

Minutes: The minutes from this meeting are to be agreed under Silence Procedure and will be available on www.enterprise.gov.ie

The following specific actions for the Green Transition Working Group in the Retail Forum Work Programme 2022/2023 are now complete

- **Action 15** *Identify and raise awareness of sustainability supports available to the retail sector*
- **Action 19** *Provide stakeholder input to the SEAI Retail Sector Energy Guide*

Comments arising under the remaining three actions

- **Action 16** *Identify barriers to engagement in sustainability programmes for retailers - in particular SME retailers*

Comments Arising

Green for Micro Programme

- *Feedback is positive but there is low uptake of the Scheme*
- *The lack of financial incentive to implement consultant recommendations could be a deterrent for applicants.*

- **Action 17** *Explore the feasibility of a pilot mentoring programme in relation to sustainability*

Comments Arising

- *Proposed that a separate meeting with interested members be arranged*

- **Action 18** *Monitor the roll out of the Deposit Return Scheme*

Comments Arising

- *Next meeting of the DRSI Board is on 05 December 2022 - which Retail Forum are represented on*
- *Guidelines required for manual handling returns*
- *Scheme needs to be cost neutral for smaller retailers*
- *Not an 'all Ireland approach' – don't want to lose competitive advantage*

Other Points Arising

- **Consultation on draft regulations to introduce an environmental levy on single-use disposable cups**
 - *Retail Representative bodies encouraged members to participate in the consultation*
 - *Retail Representative bodies also made submissions*
 - *Plastic cup and compostable cups treated the same in legislation*
 - *Customer behaviour change needs to be supported*

Actions:

Members to contact their networks to highlight the Green for Micro Programme and revert with any points of feedback (the Secretariat issued information about the Green for Micro Programme to Working Group members on 14 December to share with their networks)

An update on the DRS to be given at the December 2022 Retail Forum meeting. Further updates to be provided by the Department of Environment, Climate and Communications.

Date of next meeting to be forwarded to the Working Group in early 2023

Department of Enterprise, Trade and Employment
December 2022

Appendix A
Retail Forum Working Group
Future of Retail – Green Transition

Attendees

Organisation	First Name	Surname
Department of Enterprise, Trade and Employment (Chair)	Deborah	Dignam
Chambers Ireland	James	Kiernan
CSNA	Vincent	Jennings
Hardware Association Ireland	Aoife	Kinsella
Retail Excellence	Sharon	Yourell
Retail Ireland	Samira	Nicolo
RGDATA	Tara	Buckley
SEAI	Ali	Donnellan

Apologies

Organisation	First Name	Surname
Primark	Emma	Ormond