



# WHERE DO **AUSTRIANS** STAND ON A DEPOSIT RETURN SCHEME?

Public opinion poll in Austria

## Background

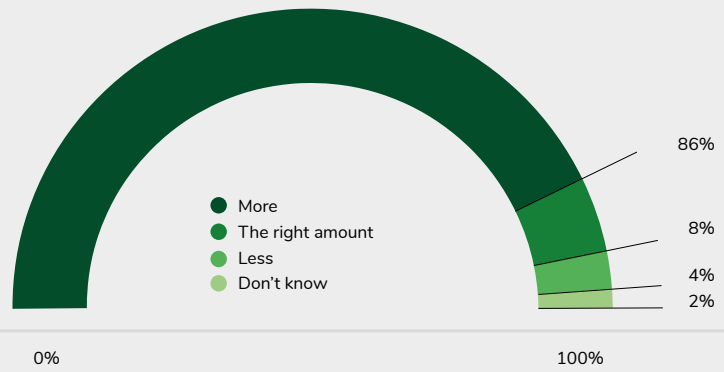
The EU Single-Use Plastic Directive that entered into force in July 2019 requires member states to legislate to establish Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR) schemes and put systems in place to ensure that, by 2029, 90% of beverage bottles put on the market are collected separately. Austria is looking into how to implement this and the ministry of environment has commissioned a study on how Austria will achieve these targets. The results from this study support the introduction of a Deposit Return Scheme as the best and most cost-effective way to achieve the collection rates target set by the European Commission and reduce plastic waste. Currently, the Austrian government is considering whether

to put in place a deposit return system to improve waste management and increase collection rates.

Support for greater action and accountability for plastic pollution is also supported by the Austrian public, according to the results of a recent opinion poll conducted by YouGov for the Changing Markets Foundation between 4-11 February 2020. The opinion poll was undertaken online with a total sample size of 1000 Austrian adults. The survey was carried out online for Changing Markets by YouGov. The figures have been weighted and are representative of all Austrian adults (aged 18+). All figures, unless stated otherwise, are from YouGov Plc.

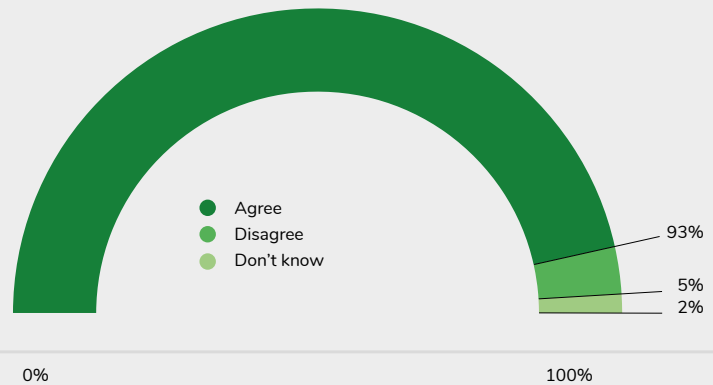
**Figure 1:** Generally, do you think more or less should be done to reduce plastic pollution, or is the right amount currently being done?

All Austrian adults 18+ (n=1,000)



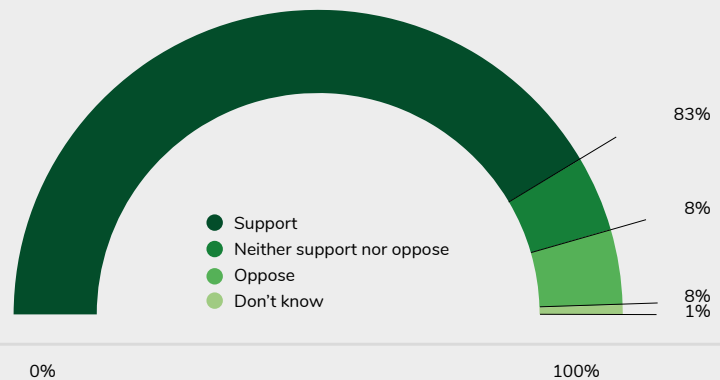
**Figure 2:** To what extent do you agree or disagree that the producers of plastics (e.g. manufacturers, businesses who sell products packaged in plastic etc.) should contribute to managing plastic waste?

All Austrian adults 18+ (n=1,000)



**Figure 3:** To what extent do you support or oppose the introduction of a deposit return scheme in Austria?

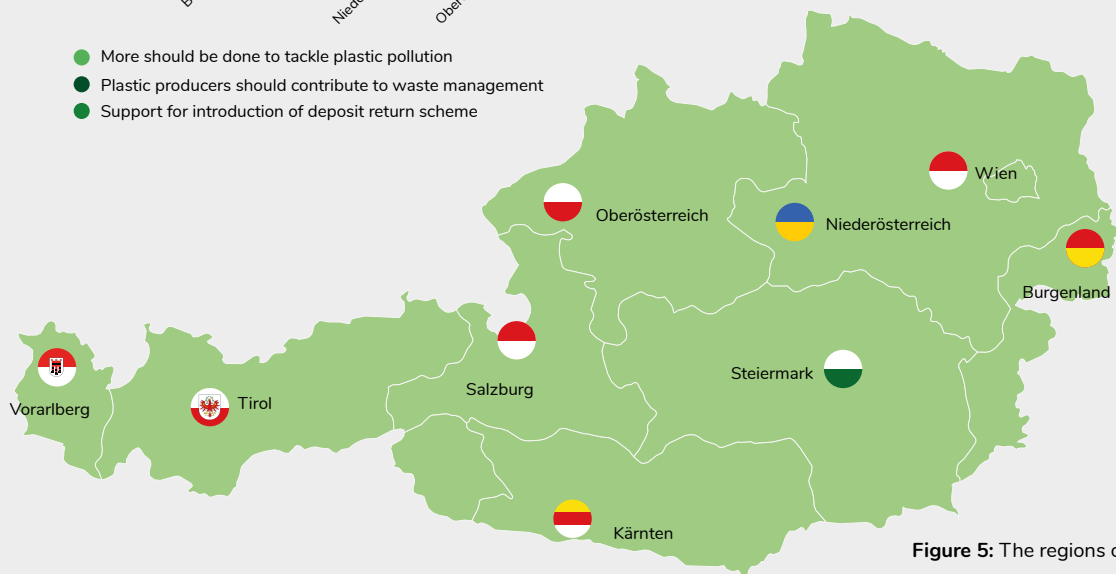
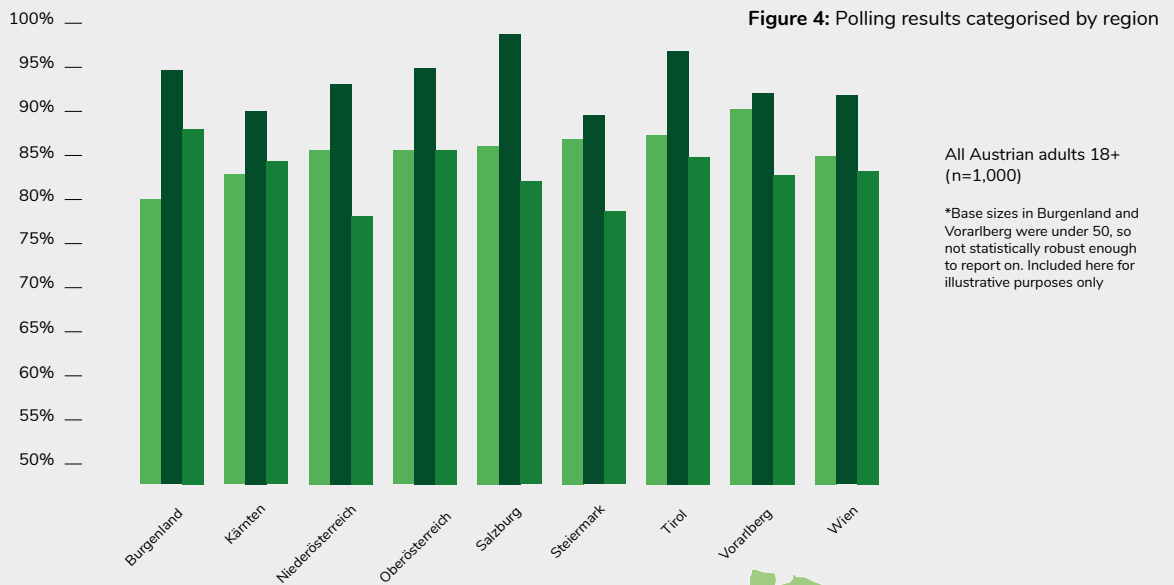
All Austrian adults 18+ (n=1,000)



## Results

### 1. Overall results:

- 86% of Austrian adults felt that more needs to be done to reduce plastic pollution.
- A full 93% agreed that the producers of plastics, such as manufacturers and businesses who sell products packaged in plastic, should contribute to managing plastic waste.
- When asked about the introduction of a deposit return scheme in Austria, 83% of adults showed support for the system.

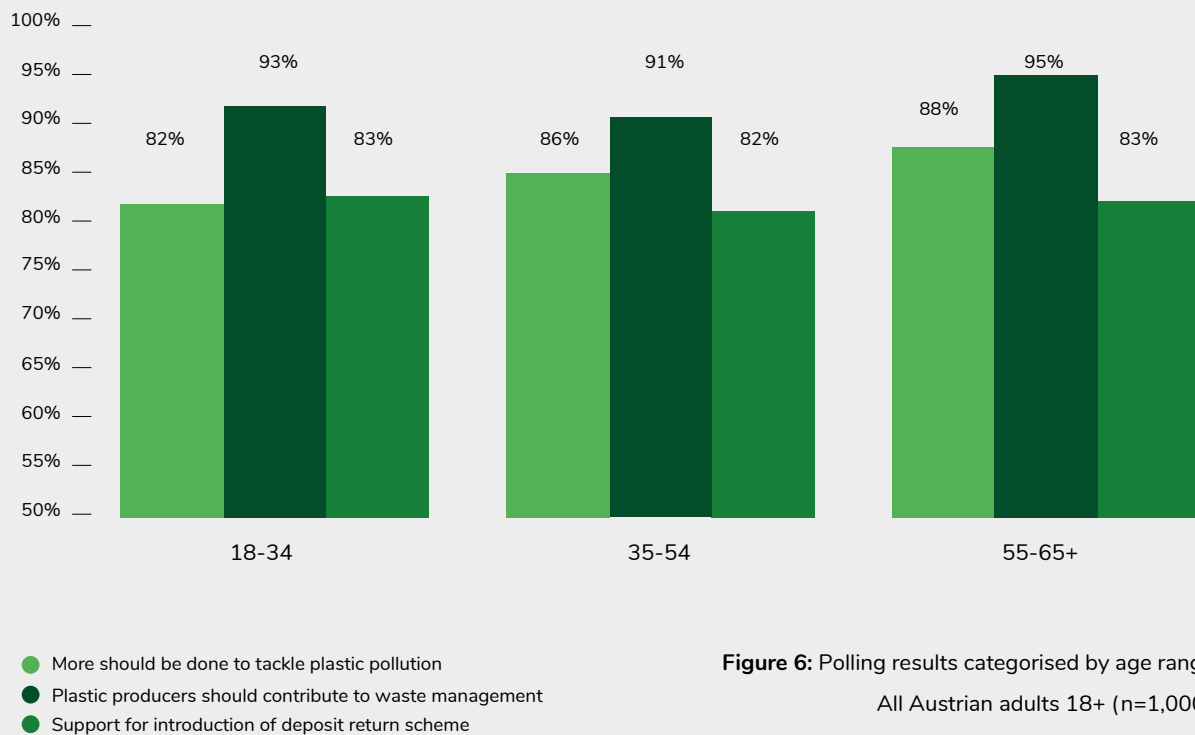


## 2. Results by region

- All regions of Austria signaled that more should be done to tackle plastic pollution. Of those with highest base sizes to analyse, Tirol was the region where the greatest percentage of population (88%) believe more should be done to tackle plastic pollution.
- Salzburg was most supportive of plastic producers contributing to the management of plastic waste, with 98% agreeing with the statement.
- Oberösterreich was the region that most favoured the introduction of a deposit return scheme with 86% of adults supporting the system. Tirol also gave a support rate of 85%.
- The most supportive region on average was Tirol, at 90% across the polling questions.

## 3. Results by age

- In general, all age ranges surveyed think more should be done to tackle plastic pollution, are supportive of the introduction of a deposit return scheme, and believe that producers of plastic should contribute to waste management.
- Austrians feel strongly about the responsibility of plastic producers in managing plastic waste, with those aged 55 and older most in favour.
- This age group was also the most supportive of more being done about tackling plastic pollution.
- All ages were more or less equally supportive of the introduction of a deposit return scheme.



**Figure 6:** Polling results categorised by age range  
All Austrian adults 18+ (n=1,000)

## Conclusion

Austria plays a crucial role in the ongoing discussions regarding how to implement mandatory collection rates above 90% as set out in article 9 of the Single-Use Plastic Directive across Europe. The opinion poll results show strong support amongst Austrians of all ages and all regions for more action on plastic pollution and introduction of DRS. This sends a strong signal to the new government that they should seize an opportunity to act on this issue and implement ambitious legislation to deal with plastic pollution.