

Single Use Plastics Policy

Introduction

The City of London Corporation is committed to creating positive social and environmental impacts and reducing negative impact across all our activities and decisions, because it is the right thing to do and will help ensure a sustainable future – as set out in our Responsible Business Strategy 2019-2023: Towards a sustainable future.

A key priority area in the Responsible Business Strategy is reducing single use plastics (SUPs) across our internal operations, alongside our campaign engaging City businesses to create a Plastic Free City. As a leader on responsible business, we are committed to beating the national target of eliminating unnecessary plastic waste before the end of 2042, by eliminating SUPs in our operations by 2021.

Definition of Single Use Plastics

Single use plastics are defined by the City of London Corporation as ‘a plastic material that is used for a short time before being discarded as waste’. Biodegradable and recyclable plastics are also considered single use but may be used as a transitional solution.

Policy

The Responsible Business Implementation Group is responsible for delivering this policy with oversight from Summit Group. Each individual employee is responsible for the success of this policy. The policy relates to all our operations and institutions. To achieve our policy we have set out a number of commitments:

Working in our supply chains we will:

- Require all our suppliers and contractors to minimise the use of single-use plastics in their service provision and find sustainable alternatives (where practicable)
- Where the use of SUPs is unavoidable, we will require our suppliers and contractors to use biodegradable and/or recyclable plastics until a sustainable alternative is available, supported by the correct collection and disposal methods.
- Work with our suppliers to reduce plastic and polystyrene packaging and packing
- Work with our suppliers to restrict the purchasing of SUPs through online catalogues
- Work with our catering contractors to eliminate SUP take away containers and cutlery
- Carefully consider our waste streams when choosing alternatives to SUP to ensure that we have the least impact on the environment
- Investigate innovations in recycling, alternatives to SUPs and circular economy to ensure that any unavoidable plastic waste is minimised

Working with our employees we will:

- Promote the use of reusable cups, cutlery and crockery in our catering facilities, where provided, through discounts
- Encourage the use of reusable mugs and/or beakers in our staff canteen, where provided for ‘drinking in’
- Encourage the use of reusable cups in our office buildings
- Encourage our employees to reduce SUPs outside of the work environment

Working with our communities we will:

- Support our schools and residents to reduce their use of SUPs
- Encourage City Businesses to reduce their use of SUPs through the Plastic Free City campaign and Clean City Award Scheme