

Warwick District Council - Our Plastics Policy

Plastics can be very useful in every day life, but there is increasing evidence that plastics are seriously harming our environment both on land and in particular the marine life in our seas. As plastics may take centuries to degrade, these environmental impacts could be very long lasting.

Warwick District Council is concerned about plastics and we have developed this policy to set out how we will reduce our own impact on the environment and encourage others to do the same. Our commitments are set out below and will be incorporated into our 'Sustainability Approach' which is our strategic direction on the sustainability agenda.

With regards to this Policy, "Plastic" has a particular focus on the elimination of the use of single use plastics.

Reducing Our Impact

Procurement
<ul style="list-style-type: none">- We will wherever possible avoid the procurement of single-use plastics in relation to eating and drinking, such as straws, water bottles, disposable cutlery and plastic cups and source practical alternatives. Where we cannot avoid single-use plastics, we will aim to ensure these contain recycled plastic and can be easily recycled.- We will minimise plastic from the goods that are procured where available and challenge suppliers in this area.- We will avoid plastic bottle use in relation to the election count.- We will include plastic avoidance requirements in procurement guidance.- We will procure items made from recycled plastic where plastic cannot be avoided.
Tender Contracts
<ul style="list-style-type: none">- We will include plastic avoidance requirements in tender contracts if applicable.
Staff Awareness
<ul style="list-style-type: none">- We will explore further opportunities to recycle more types of plastic from our own buildings and provide clear guidance to staff on the types of plastic that can be recycled.- We will ensure Staff are aware of the environmental impacts of plastic use and provide guidance on how to reduce their impact at home and at work.
Monitoring our Performance
<ul style="list-style-type: none">- We will monitor the number of single-use plastic items avoided.- We will monitor the number of new plastic recycling streams introduced.

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Community Leadership

Raising Awareness

- We will work with Birmingham Commonwealth Games Organising Committee in relation to the Commonwealth Games in Leamington Spa to avoid the use of single-use plastics.
- Warwick District, as an area will be supported in achieving plastic free status.

Litter & Recycling

- We will continue to support Clean Up Britain on the 'Now or Never' scheme to reduce litter.
- We will support the implementation of the National 'Re-fill' scheme across the District.
- We will continue to collect recycling from bring sites located in various public places across the District.

Events

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- Where events take place on Warwick District Council land, these should be single-use plastic free where reasonability practicable and authority will be delegated to the Head of Development Services, in consultation with the Portfolio Holder for Environment & Business to introduce guidance for events on this.
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Adopted: 12 November 2018

Amended: 13 September 2019