Our Objectives
Single use plastics are acknowledged to be a major source of marine litter, causing significant environmental damage and harm to wildlife. This includes light weight plastic bags, disposable utensils, coffee cups, drinks bottles, straws, food containers and beverage containers.

An average employee can use over 1,000 pieces of single use plastic per year at work alone. In the UK, the amount of single use plastic waste every year would fill 1,000 Royal Albert Halls. It takes at least 450 years for a plastic bottle to degrade. As concern about plastic waste rises, we are increasingly being asked by Clients and employees what our standpoint is on single use plastics, which this policy outlines.

Our Commitments
We have committed to stop the use of single use plastics at WSP, or where this is not practical seek to identify less harmful alternatives. This approach is in line with the waste hierarchy.

Single Use Plastic Steps
→ Stop purchases of specified items.
→ Remove stock of specified items.
→ Source alternative products, where available.
→ Reuse products where possible.
→ Deliver an awareness campaign to employees.
→ Agree a letter/policy to engage the support of Clients and suppliers.

Our Single Use Plastics policy includes the following commitments to:
→ review what we purchase to identify opportunities to reduce plastic waste
→ work with our suppliers to reduce packaging including plastic
→ prevent the use of plastic water bottles
→ switch to low plastic/zero plastic cleaning products
→ work with catering suppliers who can work with us to reduce plastic packaging, single use cutlery and cups
→ operate a stationery recycling scheme
→ work with staff to ensure single use plastics are eliminated across our offices

Employees
Although we cannot control what single use plastic employees bring into the office we will encourage them to reduce the amount they use.

We will review and update this policy on an annual basis, or more frequently if necessary.

Claire Gott
UK Head of Corporate Responsibility

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