

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 in order to minimise their use. 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 where possible
- 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
- remove single use plastic from key categories of spend in our supply chain by 2025.

Employees

Although we cannot ban our employees from bringing single use plastics into our offices or using them at home, we will raise awareness of the issue to encourage people to move to alternatives and reduce the amount they use.

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

This Policy was approved by Rachel Skinner, UK Director of ESG and Government Relations on 10 November 2022

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November 2022

Review Date

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