



Comhairle Cathrach & Contae Phort Láirge
Waterford City & County Council

DO: GACH BALL DE CHOMHAIRLE CATHRACH AGUS CONTAE PHORT LÁIRGE
TO: EACH MEMBER OF WATERFORD CITY AND COUNTY COUNCIL

Draft Single Use Plastics Policy

A Mhéara agus a Chomhairleoirí,

In January 2018, the European Commission adopted the first-ever Europe-wide strategy on plastics. The strategy envisages that all plastic packaging on the EU market will be recyclable by 2030, the consumption of single-use plastics will be reduced and the intentional use of micro plastics will be restricted. This strategy will transform the way products are designed, produced, used, and recycled in the EU. One of the first key legislative proposals to emerge on foot of the EU Plastics Strategy was the "Proposal for a Directive of the European Parliament and of the Council on the reduction of the impact of certain plastic products on the environment", which was published on 28 May 2018.

In January 2019, the Minister for Communications, Climate Action and the Environment, Minister Richard Bruton T.D. announced that government departments, public bodies, and schools will lead the way in the response to cutting down on single use plastics, with a number of measures, including no longer purchasing single-use plastic cups, cutlery and straws for use within their offices.

The single-use plastics directive which was adopted in May 2019 builds on the EU's existing waste legislation but goes further by setting stricter rules for those types of products and packaging which are among the top ten most frequently found items polluting European beaches. The new rules ban the use of certain throwaway plastic products for which alternatives exist. In addition, specific measures are introduced to reduce the use of the most frequently littered plastic products. Ireland has supported the ambition of this proposal throughout all the negotiations.

The SPC for Environment, Climate Action and Biodiversity has examined this matter and drafted the attached policy which will result in the elimination of single use plastics from all Council buildings, hired venues, catering and all events organised by Waterford City & County Council. In addition all events licensed or funded by Waterford City & County Council will be required to demonstrate measures to eliminate single use plastics and segregation of waste during and after the event and subsequent disposal.

The SPC recommends the adoption of the Single Use Plastics Policy by the Council.

Is mise, le meas,

Fergus Galvin, Director of Services
Roads, Water & Environment



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Single Use Plastics Policy



Single Use Plastics Policy's Aim

This policy has been developed to correspond with the Government's Policy to reduce/eliminate single use plastic from Government Departments, Waterford City & County Council's Climate Adaptation Strategy and the EU's Directive on Single Use Plastics. Waterford City & County Council have a key role to play in leading by example in this respect and demonstrating to the community of County Waterford that the reduction/elimination of single use plastics is feasible. This plan is effective immediately; this is the reason that no timeframe is provided for actions.

Plastic Policy in all Waterford City and County Council Buildings

Single use plastic will be phased out of in all buildings operated by Waterford City and County Council in the short to medium term.

Procurement: Waterford City & County Council will request during the procurement phase that all products shall be supplied without single use plastics. Plastic wrapping should also be avoided.

Single Use Water Cups: Staff should not use any disposable cup. Disposable cups at drinking stations will be switched from plastic to compostable and are strictly for visitor use only. Composting bins will be provided at each drinking station for the disposal of these cups.

Single Use Plastic Bottles: Waterford City & County Council will cease the purchase of these items and once current stocks have been used, single use plastic bottles will not be sold or provided in any building, including via vending machines. Water should be made available in reusable jugs and glasses at meetings.

Single Use Sachets: Waterford City & County Council Waterford City & County Council will cease the purchase of single serve sachets such as of sugar, sauces, jams, etc. Existing stocks will be used and no further purchases of single use sachets will be made. Larger containers will be provided instead and recycled appropriately.

Single Use Straws/Cutlery/Plates: Waterford City & County Council will cease the purchase of these items and once current stocks have been used, only reusable cups, plates and cutlery will only be provided.

Plastic Containers: All plastic containers shall be washed, dry and placed in the appropriate recycling container.

Tea/Coffee Cups: Waterford City & County Council will cease the purchase of these items and once current stocks have been used, single use cups will not be sold or provided in any building. Reusable cups or ceramic cups provided in canteens should be used.

Plastic Policy for hired venues

When procuring a venue for training, meetings, events or public meetings the venue must provide all refreshments in reusable bottle/jugs/plates or dishes. Sugar, jams, water, etc must also be provided without the use of single use packaging. If any of these can not provided by the venue, then an alternative venue must be sought.

Plastic Policy for Catering

Any business contracted to adhere to this Single Use Plastic Policy. Contracting Departments must ensure that this forms part of the procurement for these services. Any caterer must provide reusable plates, cup, glasses or cutlery. Plastic cutlery, disposable plates, bottles or single use serving sachets will not be permitted.

Plastic policy for all events organised or facilitated by Waterford City & County Council

Waterford City & County Council must complete a waste management plan for all events or festivals organised by or supported by the Council, to include our parks, car parks or other lands provided/used for any event. The provision or sale of any single use plastic product at these events will be prohibited; this includes bottles, cutlery, containers, single use sachets, plates, straws, etc. The organisers of any event shall ensure that sufficient numbers and types of bins are provided for recycling and if food is provided a food waste bin for composting must also be provided and collected separately for composting.

Policy for events licensed or funded by Waterford City & County Council

Waterford City & County Council shall ensure that an adequate waste management plan is provided before licensing any event. This plan shall detail measures to eliminate single use plastics, as well as how any waste will be appropriately source segregated during and after the event and subsequently disposed of. It will be stated in all policies, agreements and funding applications

that single use plastics must be avoided at events and compliance with this policy will be a criteria of funding.

Exemptions to the Policy

- Water provided in single use plastic containers for incidents attended by our emergency services are exempt. These containers shall be collected after use and sent for recycling.
- Single use plastics that are required for medical purposes.