



Comhairle Cathrach & Contae Phort Láirge  
Waterford City & County Council

# 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.