
Appendix 2: Proposed Local Pledge

County Durham Single Use Plastics Pledge

We the undersigned, pledge to significantly reduce and work towards ultimately removing the use of unnecessary single use plastics from our operations, and will also encourage and enable partners, schools, businesses and the residents of County Durham to play their part.

Plastic pollution is an international scourge on our environment, and the scenes of harm it does to our beaches, oceans and wildlife bring a sense of collective shame. The consequences, are much more than visual as plastics enter the food chain and can eventually reach the whole ecosystem including us.

The UK government estimates that there are currently more than 150m tonnes of plastic in the world's oceans, and that some 100,000 sea mammals and one million birds die from eating or becoming tangled in plastic waste each year.

We will work towards significantly reducing use of unnecessary single-use plastics across our own operations and services and work with partners to maximise the effectiveness of this approach throughout County Durham. We will also work to maximise the reuse and recycling of other plastics to conserve resources minimise pollution.

To support this aim, signatory partner organisations commit to:

- Work in our respective organisations to ensure that unnecessary single use plastics are reduced and ultimately eliminated across our offices and service buildings, and from activities (where provided) such as catering and events.
- Where opportunity arises, promote and support the activities of schools, communities and residents in their efforts to reduce unnecessary single use plastics.
- Support the establishment of a Single Use Plastics network within the County, to disseminate good practice and ensure the good work and pledge commitments are maintained.