

Top plastic pollutants	The issue	What we have done	What we will achieve by the end of 2020	What we will achieve by summer 2021	Innovate and connect - what we pledge to do
<p><b>Plastic bottles</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The UK uses 38.5 million single use plastic bottles every day</li> <li>Thousands are littered each year and end up in marine systems</li> <li>Water sold is approx. 400 times more expensive for staff and students than tap water and uses up to 2000 times as much energy to produce</li> <li>Current UK recycling rate are 60%</li> <li>Each 100m of UK coastline has over 150 bottles littering it</li> <li>A plastic bottle can last 450 years in the marine environment, fragmenting into microplastics</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>All Hawthorns Hot Beverage Service is delivered in glass bottles</li> <li>All soft drinks sold to be in cans, not plastic bottles from Source Cafes and bars</li> <li>Cease sales of packaged water from delivered internal catering</li> <li>Install an external water fountain for staff and students in Royal Fort Gardens</li> <li>Change all Hot Beverage Service and internal Fresh Range ordering of milk to glass options where a pick-up is available</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Cease sales of packaged water from vending machines</li> <li>Install an additional external drinking water fountain at the University near Wills Memorial Building</li> <li>Review sales of other packaged drinks and determine if there is a way for them to be more sustainable involving a holistic measure of their carbon emissions</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Cease sales of packaged water from 3rd party event and delivered catering suppliers</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Cease sales of packaged water from University Source Cafes</li> <li>Continue to communicate the 300+ refill stations at UoB which supports City to Sea</li> <li>Continue to sell at cost, sustainable stainless steel BPA free water bottles to staff and students</li> <li>External water fountains to be considered as part of our processes to agree facilities for all new buildings including TQEC</li> <li>Continue to improve sustainability of vending machine options</li> <li>Start a 'plastic offsetting scheme'. For example for every tonne of plastic recycled the University carries out a beach clean event, litter pick event etc</li> </ul>
<p><b>Hot drinks cups</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>7 million disposable coffee cups are used in the UK each day</li> <li>Difficult to recycle – the UK waste management infrastructure is currently insufficient; only 1% of the 2.5 billion coffee cups used in the UK each year are recycled</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Vegware compostable brand introduced in 2014</li> <li>Increased the levy on disposable cups at Source Cafes to 30p on the 1st September 2019</li> <li>As of 1st August 2019, single-use coffee cups are no longer used by UoB delivered catering</li> <li>Introduced Husk Up, plastic reusable cup</li> <li>Remove disposable cups as an option for Hawthorns internal delivered catering</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Remove all hot drink vending machines unless they are compatible with reusable cups</li> <li>Introduce reuse cup deposit schemes when this is safe to do so</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Work with our delivered catering suppliers and meeting organisers to promote reusable containers for meetings over disposables</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>We will continue to promote, reuse and increase the % hot drinks sold in reusable containers from 61% in 2019 to 75% in 2020</li> <li>Install washing facilities for staff and students to wash cups and reusable containers in all new cafe facilities we develop</li> <li>Consider eliminating all single use coffee cups and rely on customers bringing either their own reusable cups or borrowing one as part of a deposit scheme when it is safe to do so</li> </ul>
<p><b>Plastic straws</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>8.5 billion straws are used every year in the UK</li> <li>According to Surfers Against Sewage research, plastic straws are in the top 10 items polluting the ocean and harming marine life</li> <li>Used for, on average, 20 minutes then takes hundreds of years to degrade, into microplastics</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Ban on plastic straws in February 2018. Straws replaced with Vegware in a few locations</li> <li>Halls catering eliminated the use of all straws in April 2019</li> <li>All straws to be Vegware and on request only</li> </ul>	N/A	N/A	N/A
<p><b>Single use plastic utensils</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Beach clean ups find, on average, 138 pieces of food and drink waste litter on every 100m of beach. The plastic thrown into our oceans is an immediate danger to wildlife and a longer term danger for humanity</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Changed to Vegware in 2014</li> <li>Ensure reusable options are in place where food is eaten in situ</li> <li>Introduce wooden cutlery for single use</li> </ul>	N/A	N/A	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>We will continue to encourage customers to bring their own reusable cutlery</li> </ul>
<p><b>Plastic drinks cups</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>In the UK, 2.5 billion plastic cups are thrown away each year</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Changed to Vegware in cafes and some bars in 2016/2017</li> <li>Ensured Vegware is available as an immediate option and at the same time review the need for disposables</li> </ul>	N/A	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Encourage students and staff to bring their own cups whenever possible</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Continue to encourage staff to bring their own containers</li> <li>Ban use of disposables completely by implementing a deposit scheme when it is safe to do so</li> <li>Revert to reusable glasses or serviced reusable plastic containers (festival cups)</li> </ul>
<p><b>Takeaway containers</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Often made from difficult to recycle materials or contaminated with food, these can be rejected from recycling systems</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>We don't use take away containers widely at the University and where we do they are Vegware and not plastic</li> </ul>	N/A	N/A	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Zero waste facilities for all new build projects</li> <li>Promote use of reusable containers where possible by a discount on reusables and a levy on disposables when it is safe to do so</li> <li>Be a Zero Waste facility using plastic or bamboo lunch boxes instead of take away or pre-packaged means</li> </ul>
<p><b>Condiment sachets</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Condiment sachets cannot be easily recycled, they can rarely be down cycled but this is a resource intensive option and not a long term sustainable solution</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Eliminated from halls in 2015</li> </ul>	N/A	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Due to the Coronavirus condiment sachets have had to be reintroduced into halls and will remain until government guidance changes</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Continue to find alternatives for single use plastic and other material food items where a better solution is available</li> </ul>
<p><b>Single wrapped biscuit wrappers</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Single wrapped biscuit wrappers cannot be easily recycled, they can rarely be down cycled but this is a resource intensive option and not a long term sustainable solution</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Fresh Range have already eliminated plastic inserts from multi pack biscuits</li> <li>Stopped using single packaged biscuits</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Continue market testing for waste management contracts who will take this plastic type to recycle, instead of to utilise for energy from waste</li> <li>NOTE this plastic type can go into the University's plastics recycling bins at present, but this is segregated at SUEZ MRF facility in Avonmouth and is used to create a heat source as there is no UK recycling market for it</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Sustainability to implement a Terracycle scheme for biscuit wrappers where multipacks are sold. <a href="https://www.terracycle.com/en-GB/brigades/pladis">https://www.terracycle.com/en-GB/brigades/pladis</a>.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Educate staff and students about best practice to avoid contamination of the bins and reach a high rate of recycling</li> </ul>