

## Plastics Pledge

### Our Pledge

Eliminate the use of unnecessary single-use plastics.

### Our Commitments

The Sustainable Development Operations Forum (SDOF) is responsible for implementing this pledge. However, in order for it to be successful all NTU employees and students share responsibility for its delivery. To achieve our aspirations to reduce the production of waste plastic across NTU, we have set out a number of commitments:

- The SDOF will oversee the discontinuation of certain single-use plastic items, beginning with items that are easiest to replace with alternatives. In 2019/20 the following single-use plastic items will be discontinued across all NTU business operations (unless proven to the SDOF to be a necessary use of that item):
  1. Water bottles
  2. Straws
  3. Non-recyclable coffee cups
  4. Drinks cups
  5. Cutlery
  6. Food containers
  7. Drink stirrers
  8. Plastic-coated paperclips
  9. Plastic bags (The Print Shop)
  10. New binders and report covers (The Print Shop)

The discontinuation of these items will be reviewed and additional items added to this list for the academic year 2020/21.

- In some cases, where there is no alternative to the single-use plastic item, but the item is not necessary then we will take appropriate steps to discontinue its use e.g. balloons.
- Where the use of single-use plastic is unavoidable, not of a practical nature and is deemed essential for business purposes, we will seek to source alternatives where possible made from recycled or recyclable plastic.
- Mains fed drinking water fountains will be considered an essential asset to invest in for all estate refurbishments and new buildings. This will be particularly important with the embargo on purchasing of plastic water bottles by the University.
- NTU Procurement will work with our suppliers to review single-use plastic within our supply chain, identify those that can be reduced and/or eliminated totally by December 2020.
- NTU Sustainable Development Team will continue to work with the waste contractor to ensure an understanding of how waste streams are treated and, where possible, alternatives to single-use plastic are introduced.
- NTU will continue to encourage its staff and students to remove plastics waste and litter from the local environment via opportunities such as the Great British Spring Clean or Plastic Patrol.
- NTU will continue to raise awareness of single-use plastic to students and staff through a series of engagement activities held throughout the year via a range of methods including social media, events (e.g. Green Week), academic (NBS Discover 2018/19) and the staff engagement platform Green Rewards.

Signed: \_\_\_\_\_



**Steve Denton, Chief Operating Officer and Registrar**

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