

Rochford District Council

Single-use Plastics Policy

Plastic waste is one of the greatest environmental challenges facing the world today. 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.

The council will work towards minimising use of single-use plastics across its own operations and services and by all staff and pro-actively work with partners to find positive solutions for reducing unnecessary waste plastics across the District.

What are single-use plastics?

Single-use plastics can include any disposable plastic item which is designed to be used only once e.g. plastic bags, disposable utensils, beverage containers, coffee capsules, wet wipes, razor blades, plastic drinks bottles, food wrappers, bottle tops, straws, stirrers and plastic lids.

The council commits to:

- Work with staff to ensure that single-use plastics are eliminated across our offices
- Work with our event organisers to eliminate single-use plastics across all District events held on council land and share guidance for this more widely
- Support communities and litter-pick initiatives to ensure our parks, open spaces are free from plastic litter
- Use government legislation that regulates against the use of single-use plastics to support our efforts where we can
- Require all our suppliers to minimise the use of single-use plastics in their service provision and find sustainable alternatives (where appropriate)
- Where the use of plastics is unavoidable, the council will encourage the use of recycled plastics, where practicable, and support manufacturers that make products from locally sourced waste plastics
- Work with partners in joint ventures and innovative projects for reducing single-use plastic waste
- Share best practice and information about plastic free initiatives, to residents, businesses, visitors and beyond through the council's social media and communication channels

The council will work to embed these commitments into the sustainable events guidance, sustainable procurement policy, and into other key council strategies, policies and plans.