



Single-use Plastics Policy Statement

Our commitment

Belfast Harbour is committed to environmental protection, including supporting the circular economy, preventing pollution arising from our activities and embedding best practices for corporate sustainability.

Single-use plastics, or disposable plastics, are typically used only once before they are thrown away or recycled. These items include plastic bags, straws, coffee stirrers, soft drink and water bottles, plastic cups and most food packaging.

We recognise that poorly managed waste plastics pose a threat to the global marine environment. Therefore, within the context of our Environmental Policy we commit to minimising our use of plastics, to reducing the environmental impact of waste plastics and to surpass the UK target of eliminating avoidable single-use plastic waste before 2025 rather than the end of 2042. Our philosophy is simple: we want to **reduce, reuse and recycle** – with the focus on reducing wherever possible and only looking at reusing and recycling where no alternative is available.

The Leadership Team is accountable for this policy. All employees share responsibility for its delivery. To achieve this, we have established a number of objectives:

- We will replace composite vending machine cups and actively discourage employees from using any single use cups.
- We will minimise single-use plastics in our premises and operations. Where this is not currently feasible, we will ensure such plastics can and will be recycled or composted and will provide infrastructure to facilitate this by 2020
- We will remove all expanded polystyrene from our welfare facilities and kitchen

- We provide free re-useable cups and bottles to our people as an alternative to single-use plastics where appropriate
- We will provide recycling facilities for 'shop bought' cups for our people
- We will seek to prevent plastic waste entering our waters and implement initiatives to collect and recycle such waste wherever possible
- We will measure and audit our use of single-use plastics and set targets for reduction by the end of 2020, to identify future areas of improvement
- We will work with our suppliers to remove single use and expanded polystyrene from equipment deliveries
- We will work with employees and suppliers to encourage and enable them to take practical steps to reduce the use of single-use plastics
- We will support and encourage employee and community initiatives to remove plastic waste and litter from the environment
- We will seek innovative recycling opportunities for the plastic waste we and our supply chain partners produce in our buildings and from our activities and operations
- We will continue to promote community initiatives and communicate the importance of protecting our urban, rural and marine environments, and support and promote initiatives, and actions for reducing plastic waste
- We will work with event organisers to eliminate single-use plastics across all events held on our premises
- We will work with partners in joint ventures and innovative projects to reduce single-use plastic waste
- We will share best practice and information about plastic free initiatives, to all of our stakeholders through our social media and communication channels

We will provide annual updates on progress.



Joe O'Neill
Chief Executive