



Plastic Pioneers Wanted !



Who watched Blue Planet II and was inspired to tackle plastics ?

Since December 2017, Environment Plymouth, the city's strategic 'green' network has been leading action to tackle the impact of single use plastics on our local environment. Used only once and then, often, disposed of irresponsibly, these plastics are a particular threat to our marine environment; to the wildlife we share it with, to our enjoyment of local beaches and to the valuable habitats we enjoy.

We have over 60 years of plastic waste to address – much of it takes over 500 years to decompose and, even then, it becomes the micro-plastics that are increasingly contaminating our fish and seafood. We also have the challenge of finding alternatives that are cost effective and recyclable.

This is a challenge that Plymouth is particularly suited to. We are already home to some of the world's leading marine research institutes, scientific teams and innovative businesses – from boat builders to pastry makers.

This award winning¹ project has already recruited over 80 varied businesses as Plastic Free Pioneers and, in doing so, secured Plastic Free Waterfront Community status from Surfers Against Sewage in June 2018. We are currently working towards extending this accolade to the whole city and that's where we need your help. We need to extend involvement beyond the Waterfront and City Centre.

I should add that we are not demonising plastic. In the right circumstances it has its place and, when recycled, can be reused again and again. For example, Derriford Hospital is one of our Pioneers – here plastic saves lives and we wouldn't dream of restricting its use in this respect. It's the single use 'stuff' that we are keen to reduce as it is unnecessary and easily discarded.

Nor do you have to stop using plastic in your products – unless, of course, we can help you find alternatives that are more eco friendly. Please do not hesitate to ask if we can help with this.

Most of our Pioneers have targeted their canteens and daily activities and addressed items such as plastic cups, straws, sauce sachets, carrier bags and packaging – replacing them with paper, card, bamboo, rice-paper or reusable mugs or eliminating them completely. In almost every case employees have been right behind these moves.....it is a popular thing to do at the moment and one of the easiest campaigns to support. It helps to meet your Environmental Policy targets and your commitments to Corporate Social Responsibility....and, in some cases, can save you money !

All we are asking you to do is to identify three items of single use plastic that you can eliminate from your everyday activities and, then, a further three actions you'd like to take in the future. Our pledge form is easily available – see attached – and can be sent back to Jackie Young, Campaign Co-ordinator, at jyoung.urbanagenda@gmail.com.

Being a part of the project will gain you a certificate and a plaque to recognise your commitment and access to further information, a plastics workshop, a website (in development) full of information and alternatives and access to related projects around the region.

WE WOULD WELCOME YOUR INTEREST AND SUPPORT !



LOTTERY FUNDED

PLASTIC FREE PLYMOUTH PLEDGE



We would welcome your support for this first step.....

Name :

Organisation/Business :

Contact email :

(We accept that our email will be retained for the purpose of developing Plymouth's Plastic Free Plymouth Sound Action Plan and its associated events and understand that we can request its removal at any point

Please tick.)

The three Single-Use-Plastic items we have removed or replaced are :

1.

2.

3.

The additional action we are seeking to take is :

1.

2.

3.

Please return to jyoung.urbanagenda@gmail.com

¹ The Groundwork National Community Awards 2018 – Best Contribution to Environmental Sustainability by a Community Group.