

Plastics Policy

Statement of Intent

Introduction

At PricewaterhouseCoopers LLP (henceforth "PwC"), we aim to reduce our impact on the natural world. We're committed to consuming fewer resources and managing these resources responsibly, as outlined in our Environmental Policy. We adopt 'reduce, reuse, recycle' principles across all of our waste streams and procurement decisions, and apply circular economy principles, where practical - in line with Sustainable Development Goal 12 (Responsible Consumption and Production) and 14 (Life Below Water).

We acknowledge, however, that our use of plastic requires special consideration. It's particularly persistent in the environment if not managed correctly, and waste management is complex due to the large range of plastic types, the presence of composite products and the inconsistency of treatment solutions available. Furthermore, there's a lack of market-ready alternatives.

Our Plastics Policy sets out our specific commitments in this area, covering all 'business-as-usual' plastic use, including stationery, catering, IT, corporate merchandise, cleaning and maintenance.

Commitments

- Continuously evaluate and adopt solutions – including technology – that minimise our plastic impacts, wherever possible (based on volume, 'hierarchy of harm' and life-cycle implications)
- Reduce the amount of plastic we use, especially single-use items where better solutions are available, and reuse plastic products wherever feasible
- Improve end-of-life solutions and traceability for our plastic waste, wherever possible
- Educate our people on the impacts of plastic waste and encourage them to adopt best practice behaviours to support our goals
- Partner with third parties to support market-level improvements associated with plastic, accelerating the transition to a new plastics economy

Actions

To meet our commitments we will:

Reduce

- Identify and eliminate unnecessary in-bound and in-office plastic materials
- Continue the rollout of our programme to digitise documents, reducing unnecessary associated plastic stationery
- Streamline the number of plastic items available in the stationery cupboards on our practice floors
- Trial and adopt the best available solutions for consumable products in our offices (i.e. coffee cups, milk containers, stirrers)
- Substitute plastic water bottles with reusable glass ones in our client meeting rooms and encourage the use of reusable water bottles by our people
- Minimise plastic detergent bottle waste by increasing bottle sizes and using detergent-free cleaning solutions, wherever possible

Reuse

- Reuse or refurbish IT equipment, where applicable, in line with our broader Going Circular programme
- Collect and reuse unwanted stationery items from our practice floors
- Refill containers (e.g. cleaning fluids and cooking condiments) to reduce plastic consumption, wherever possible

Recycle

- Proactively segregate, measure and manage our plastic waste to maximise the amount of plastic we recycle, working with our people and suppliers to minimise contamination, and encourage responsible downstream treatment
- Trial and implement innovative solutions for 'hard-to-treat' waste streams (e.g. composites, laminates, films)

Encourage 'redesign'

- Substitute plastic items for reusable or recyclable alternatives, where this makes sense
- Switch to more sustainable plastic items (e.g. more durable, fewer resources, designed for disassembly or end-of-life treatment)
- Encourage the use of recycled materials within the products we buy to create demand for secondary plastics

Share and collaborate

- Help our people to experience first-hand the impact of plastic waste on the environment through volunteering
- Run campaigns to encourage our people to adopt behaviours that limit the impacts of plastic, both at work and at home
- Collaborate with key suppliers to minimise plastic pollution, especially catering
- Share our knowledge through our external networks to accelerate change

Implementation

Emma Cox, Head of Purpose, is responsible for this policy. We'll review it again for relevance and effectiveness in January 2022 and make improvements, as necessary. It is accessible to our staff and partners via the PwC portal, and to other interested parties via our Corporate Sustainability website.



Emma Cox
Head of Purpose
PricewaterhouseCoopers LLP
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