



SURREY

Surrey County Council

Single-Use Plastics (SUP) Policy

Plastic waste is one of the greatest environmental challenges facing the world today. The UK government estimates that there are currently more than 150 million tonnes of plastic in the world's oceans, and 100,000 sea mammals and one million birds die from eating or becoming tangled in plastic waste each year.

DEFRA has published its [25 Year Environment Plan](#), presenting their target of "achieving zero avoidable plastic waste by the end of 2042". SCC is strongly committed to take responsibility for tackling the plastic waste problem both within the local area and across the UK. With this in mind, SCC have urged the Government to bring the 2042 date forward.

SCC will reduce and work towards zero avoidable SUP across its own operations and services. SCC will also pro-actively work with partners, district & borough councils, schools, and businesses to find positive solutions to reduce unnecessary plastic waste in Surrey.

What are single-use plastics (SUP)?

- The definition for SUP according to the Institute for European Environmental Policy: "single use plastics can include any disposable plastic item which is designed to be used only once". Single use items are often used in packaging, consumer products, cosmetics and healthcare. Examples include: light-weight plastic bags, disposable utensils, stirrers, beverage containers, coffee capsules, and wet wipes.
- This policy targets to eliminate the avoidable plastic waste. SCC will initially focus on eliminating the use of the plastic drinks bottles, plastic food takeaway boxes, plastic cutlery, disposable coffee cups, plastic drink bottle caps, straws, stirrers and plastic lids.

What is our commitment for supporting Surrey to become SUP free?

1. End the sale and provision of SUP products in order to phase out SUP use across SCC estate and operations wherever possible.
2. Ensure that our procurement policy and procedures require all of our suppliers to reduce and work towards zero avoidable SUP use (wherever possible) including jointly with partners through ORBIS and at SCC run events.
3. Support greater awareness and action from our suppliers and contractors in finding sustainable SUP replacements wherever appropriate and encourage higher recycling rates across SCC estates.
4. Share best practice, raise awareness, and support SCC staff, partners, communities, schools, district and borough councils, businesses and beyond towards making their own locations avoidable plastic-free zones.
5. Work with all stakeholders including district and boroughs, schools, communities and businesses to promote, support and innovate to reduce SUP across Surrey.

Further details can be found in the SUP action plan.