

Reducing Single Use Plastics in Catering at Newcastle Hospitals

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HCWH Towards Plastic-Free Healthcare



Healthcare at its best
with people at our heart

Introduction to Newcastle Hospitals



Seven main sites and community services serving a population of up to **3million** people



1st NHS Trust to declare a climate emergency



New Trust Strategy commits to **Carbon Neutrality by 2040**



Recycled 43% of non-clinical waste



14,725
Staff



108 wards
1500
acute beds





Energy

Using energy more efficiently and transitioning to lower carbon energy sources



Waste

Moving up the waste hierarchy: dispose of less, reuse and recycle more



Water

Eliminating wasteful use of this precious resource



Buildings & Land

Providing healthy and biodiverse spaces for patient and staff wellbeing



Journeys

Encouraging active and sustainable travel for all



Purchasing

Working with our supply chain to deliver ethical and sustainable procurement



Care

Developing low carbon care pathways and adapting our services with climate change in mind



People

Inspiring, empowering and motivating our people to embrace sustainable healthcare



NHS Single Use Plastic Pledge

By April 2020: no longer purchase single-use plastic stirrers and straws

By April 2021: no longer purchase single-use plastic cutlery, plates or cups made of expanded polystyrene or oxo-degradable plastics

By April 2021: go beyond these commitments in reducing single-use plastic food containers and other plastic cups for beverages

<https://www.engage.england.nhs.uk/survey/dee161d9/>



Staff and Visitor Catering

- Over 340,000 visits to the Freeman restaurant each year
- Two staff-only Bistros



Patient Catering

Spread across 2 main sites we have approximately:

- 1800 beds
- 100 wards
- 2 million patient meals served per year



Re-Use and Disposables

We are moving away from disposables and back to re-use where possible

- Reusable coffee cups and drinks bottles for sale
- Incentives for re-use
- No plastic straws
- Sugar cane take away boxes
- Wooden cutlery (take away only)



Coffee Cups

- First drink free + 25p discount thereafter
- Made from rice husk, a waste material – not adding more cheap plastic to the problem
- Introduced in combination with information about single use coffee cups
- Income generation
- Promotion opportunity



RVI Patient Catering – Single Use Plastic Reduction Project

- Wards received reusable plates, bowls and cutlery for use at breakfast time
- Reusable bowls for soup and desserts
- The initial outlay = £12k; savings achieved = £80K annually
- Payback of just 2 months



RVI Patient Catering

Single use plastic items avoided annually:

- 513,600 polypropylene bowls
- 490,800 polypropylene lids for bowls
- 312,000 polystyrene bowls
- 371,000 plastic spoons
- 216,000 plastic knives



Future Plans



- NHS Plastic Pledge commitments
- Work with the food outlets in our hospitals to reduce their plastic use
- Increase options for drinks in cans
- Remove single use coffee cups from staff Bistro altogether

Contact Details

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