

Sodexo's approach to the reduction and prevention of the use of plastics

May 2018



Overview

Sodexo is committed to reducing our impact on the environment and is looking to make any improvements it can in relation to the reducing, and where possible preventing, the use of plastic in its operations. This includes single use plastic products and packaging.

We are working towards a situation where all our packaging is widely recycled and within our global Better Tomorrow 2025, our big-picture targets in relation to waste in the UK and Ireland includes:

- by 2020 70% of waste will be recycled or reused, rising to 90% by 2025
- by 2020, 60% of all sites will tackle food waste rising to 100% by 2025

Any improvements we can make in this area, we will. This will not only help us meet our environmental targets but more importantly, it will go some way to reduce the impact plastic is having on the environment.

Approach

We will always endeavour to prevent waste where we can. However, where disposables are still necessary we will discuss viable environmentally friendly alternatives with our clients.

Actions:

- From June 2018 the purchase of plastic straws and stirrers is banned.
- Since March 2018 all Sodexo outlets have been able to accept any brand of reusable cup (see below for more on reusable coffee cups).
- Single use plastic bags and polystyrene foam items such as cups, lids and food containers will be phased out by 2020.
- Guidance document for managers on sustainable food packaging. Includes steps which can be taken to prevent waste; how to select the most sustainable option as well as the waste management system required to ensure correct treatment of used disposables.
- Environmentally friendly alternatives to plastic disposables are widely available.
- In 2017 Sodexo became supply chain members of Simply Cups scheme, the UK's only collection and recycling service dedicated to turning paper and plastic cups into second-life materials.

Reusable coffee cups

We continue to encourage our customers to use reusable cups wherever possible, and in some of our contracts we offer price reductions and levies to encourage movement from disposable to reusable cups.

We are introducing the innovative rCup, a reusable cup made from used disposal cups treated by Simply Cups, for our customers to buy. Together Sodexo and Simply Cups are increasing the number of cups and lids that can have a second life.

Deposit return scheme for plastic drinks bottle

We are working with a major drinks retailer trialling a deposit return scheme within a number of our sites – this will involve installing reverse vending machines, whereby people put their plastic bottle into a machine and get their deposit back – placing a value on waste.