

# Green Impact Project Case Study

## No more single use!

### Background

Institution: The University of Sheffield

Team Name: ACS - Residence Life

No. of years participating in Green Impact: 6

### Highlights

- Delivering 10 minimal waste and zero packaging catered events whilst maintaining the satisfaction levels of our students.
- Training five Residence Life Mentors to become Zero Waste Champions for the department.
- Working with the catering department to reduce the waste and packaging produced from some of our catered events.

### Description

Historically, Residence Life has used single use products to cater meetings, training sessions and events and activities, this academic year, a substantial effort has been made, where possible, not to use any single use products and substantially reduce the amount of non-recyclable and general waste generated.

Tea leaves and coffee grounds were purchased from the package free shop in Crookes, milk has been sourced from Our Cow Molly in two pint bottles and crockery and glassware was borrowed from ACS. Food items have been sourced locally and Tupperware containers have been used to transport the goods.

Initially, 10 events were the target, which has been achieved, but buying items in bulk, using tupperware and purchasing our own hot drinks canisters has meant that although not completely waste free, other events have reduced the amount of non-recyclable and general waste produced.

The only single use product that we use regularly are herbal teas and we now buy these in bulk, by the 1000s, which incurs less packaging.

### Photographs



This was the amount of general waste produced from one of the departmental talks. Last year, at least half a black bag of waste was the norm.

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## Self Assessment

I think the project should be awarded maximum points as the aims of the project have been met:

- Purchase industrial coffee percolator, teapot and hot drinks flasks so ground coffee and loose leaf tea can but use to cater meeting, training sessions and events and activities.
- Where possible, cater some Engagement and Development events and activities with zero / minimal waste.
- Work with the Students Union to provide zero waste refreshments for two of the departmental talks during Intro.
- Reduce the amount of single-serving products used when catering meetings, training sessions and event and activities thus reducing non-recyclable and general waste.

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Team Engagement – Engagement and Development Co-ordinators, Residence Life Mentors, ACS catering staff and local businesses. The project reached the target audience that it intended to – students, staff and the local community.

Students love free food and drink so it was important to maintain student satisfaction whilst trying to reduce the department's non-recyclable and general waste and inventive ways were needed to be adopted to maintain and achieve both these goals.

Many people, businesses and organisations are trying to reduce their plastic waste so the idea isn't original but the thinking behind it is – using ground coffee and leaf tea, using Tupperware to purchase food and only choosing items that had no packaging and only using local business for food items, etc.

All project outcomes were met.

In the future, this way of catering events will be used, when possible, for all Residence Life events. Additionally, more staff and mentors will be trained on delivering events with zero or minimal waste. The department will continue not to purchase single use products (apart from bulk bought herbal tea bags).

The legacy of the project is long-term as the department will never go back to using single use products and will continue to strive to reduce the waste produced from events and activities.

Outcome – 10 events were the target as at the 9<sup>th</sup> May this will be met, however, though other events have not been catered entirely zero waste free, the amount of non-recyclable and general waste produced has dramatically reduced.