

**Wotton-under-Edge
& District Chamber
of Trade**

Plastic Pledge

Our Members pledge to

Play their part in reducing our town's reliance on plastic – to refuse, reduce, reuse and recycle, switching to alternatives wherever possible.

And also to

Act as Plastic Free Community ambassadors for the Stroud district – challenging single use plastic in their own workplace/supply chain, offering consumers alternatives wherever possible, and leading by example so that others will follow.



**“Plastic is
poisoning our planet.
We have created it.
Now we must get
rid of it.”**

Sir David Attenborough, 2019



Why are we making this commitment?

Plastic is a flexible, durable material that continues to have a role to play in modern life. But greenhouse gases from the production of plastic, its disposal, and its eventual disintegration into micro-plastics, all have dramatic impacts on our environment.

The biggest issue is with single use plastics, which are used once before they are thrown away - items like plastic bags, straws, coffee stirrers, drinks bottles and most food packaging. By eliminating these, Chamber members can make a real difference to the plastic that ends up in our environment.

Leading By Example



Our members pledge to consider their workplace & supply chain, the plastics they use, and what they could do without

The following are key areas where single use plastic might be found and eliminated/reduced. A more detailed questionnaire is available to help Members audit their own plastic use (also available from Chloe at sdap@transitionstroud.org), but Members are encouraged, where relevant, to:

- Challenge suppliers to minimise plastic packaging on business inputs
- Consider any plastic used in food production, storage, vending, and cleaning of kitchen areas – could any be eliminated, refilled or swapped for a plastic free alternative? Are staff supported in making plastic free choices, such as storing homemade food on site?
- Consider any plastic used in washroom facilities and any cleaning arrangements for the workplace/other sites – could any be eliminated, refilled or swapped for a plastic free alternative?
- Consider the workplace generally – plastic used in displays and workplace decoration, staff uniforms, recycling and waste facilities – could any be eliminated, refilled or swapped for a plastic free alternative?
- Consider product and product packaging – is/are any plastic component(s) necessary? Could plastic free alternatives be used instead? Where relevant, is there scope for customers to bring their own containers, and could this be incentivised? Does or could the product range include products that support a reduced-plastic or plastic-free lifestyle?

PLASTIC FREE

STROUD DISTRICT

SURFERS AGAINST SEWAGE



Recycling has a role to play too

For plastic that can't be eliminated, the next best solution is for it to be recycled effectively.

Members are encouraged to:

- Recycle plastic wherever possible, making use of kerbside, local recycling centre and supermarket/Terracycle recycling facilities
- Offer unwanted packaging materials to the public/other businesses for reuse



Stroud District Action on Plastic

Stroud District Action on Plastic (SDAP) is a community action group, part of Transition Stroud, focused on the climate impacts of single use plastic.

SDAP is working towards making Stroud District a Plastic Free Community, with the marine conservation charity, Surfers Against Sewage. Wotton Chamber of Trade has worked with SDAP in putting together this pledge.

