

# Student Council Motion Proposal

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Your Policy Motion Title Goes Here:

<b>Policy Number:</b>	2018-19_006	<b>Policy Date</b>	31.01.19
<b>Policy Proposer: (Include name and student number)</b>	Shannon Bolton 16016037		
<b>Policy Seconder: (Include name and student number)</b>	Euan Morrison VP Education		

## Summary:

**Please give a summary of your policy motion here:**

This policy motion is to ban single use plastics within the SU and University. This includes and extends to plastic straws, plastic cups, plastic cutlery, plastic bags and water sold in single use bottles. This motion we provide us with the formal standing to say alongside the University and Worcester City Council that we are signing up and helping 'Plastic Free Worcester'. Within this policy, I would like to see plastic straws and cups removed from the campus shop, so students and staff can longer purchase on campus. The desire is for these to be removed from the onsite coffee shops, The Hangar and the canteen, with an alternative of metal straws or an equally sustainable straw. There will be individuals who for medical reasons may require straws, therefore we should ensure there is always some available on request. The removal of plastic cutlery removed from the canteen, encouraging students/staff to bring their own or use the metal cutlery provided. Finally I would like to prevent the sale of single use bottles of water from the campus shop and other possible outlets on site.

## Student Council Notes the Following Facts:

**Please outline the facts as they stand:**

We use plastic every day, but people are not recycling it correctly and therefore we are seeing a negative impact on us globally and individually.

A small percentage of the plastic we use on a daily basic is recycled but the majority of it will end up in our oceans, therefore polluting our oceans and killing marine life and birds. If this is not enough to see why the use of single use plastic needs to be prevented at any possibility, recent studies have shown that micro plastics, has been found in traces of human stool samples. Based on this study the researches have estimated that "more than 50% of the world population might have microplastics in their stools".

Single use plastics are made from fossil fuels and carry a huge carbon footprint! Not only will this type of plastic still be on the Earth in hundreds of years, it affects our hormones, as well as leaks toxins into what we are drinking when using single use water bottles.

Ocean pollution is severe. There are five separate gyres of swirling smog's of toxic plastic in our oceans which is proving impossible to clean up. We have to prevent this in any way we can.

### **Student Council Holds the Viewpoint That:**

**Noting the facts above why is change needed? Insert in here what you want to change and why:**

Change is drastically needed. Worldwide single use plastic is becoming an increasing problem. Recently a sperm whale was found beached in Indonesia. Its stomach contained 115 plastic cups, 25 plastic bags, 4 plastic bottles and 1000+ pieces of plastic.

The University of Gloucestershire has recently taken a stand on single use plastics and has banned the use of it across their campuses. This includes working with their onsite catering company Baxter Storey and within their bars. Gloucester is a similar sized university to Worcester and it demonstrates that change is possible and it is time we followed suit.

Change in behaviour is crucial. With us taking a stand, we can encourage students and staff to make that change to their behaviour, although this is a worldwide problem, small groups of people can achieve significant results. We can be that small group that makes a change.

### **Student Council Resolves to Take the Following Action(s):**

**Please write in here what actions Student Council will undertake/mandate the Union to undertake, should this motion pass:**

Should this motion pass we would be agreeing to join the University and Worcester City Council is saying we are signing up with 'Plastic Free Worcester'.

Working alongside the university, we can work together to look at the removal of plastic straws and cups from the campus shop, so students and staff can no longer purchase them on campus. The desire is for these to be removed from, The Hangar, onsite coffee shops and the canteen, with an alternative of metal straws or an equally sustainable straw. There will be individuals who for medical reasons may require straws, therefore we should ensure there is always some available on request.

The removal of plastic cutlery removed from the canteen, encouraging students/staff to bring their own or use the metal cutlery provided. Finally I would like to prevent the sale of single use bottles of water from the campus shop and other possible outlets on site.

All drinks served in The Hangar to be served in glasses or possible alternatives found for those busy periods and those wishing to drink outside, that don't involve the use of single use plastic.

Finally, plastic bags should be replaced with recycled paper bags and students/staff encouraged to use their own reusable bags.

By working with the universities Sustainability Team, Hospitality and Aramark (or other external catering providers) we can create a change together that will work for everyone. Conversations are already in place amongst these departments to figure out solutions to how we can move forward together, with this policy in place this will encourage that change to happen now.