

Reducing Plastic across North Ayrshire Council and Communities

Case studies

School Cafeterias

In 2020/21 school year, instead of purchasing single use plastic or polystyrene items the Council's Facilities Management Teams sourced sustainable recyclable alternatives which are detailed in this list:

- 125,000 biodegradable takeaway dishes
- 83,000 biodegradable forks
- 60,000 biodegradable knives
- 55,000 biodegradable spoons
- 3,000 biodegradable teaspoons

We also removed plastic straws in all our education and commercial settings during 2020/21. We no longer purchase any drinks cartons with single use plastic straws, and only buy drinks with biodegradable straws from manufacturers.

Birth to Potty Scheme

The Council launched a Birth to Potty Scheme in October 2019 to coincide with Challenge Poverty Week and Scottish Climate Week. The scheme offers parents and carers an enhanced Real Nappy Incentive Scheme – becoming the first council in the UK to provide free real nappy packs from “birth to potty”.

The scheme can save families up to £1,300 per child on the cost of disposable nappies, whilst reducing the environmental impact of nappies by 40 per cent and the need for plastic in disposable nappies.

Parents and carers can request a trial pack to see what suits their baby best. This pack consists of three free reusable nappies in various styles, two waterproof wraps, biodegradable liners and a handy laundry bag.

Those who want to continue can request the full ‘Birth to Potty’ pack, containing 20 nappies, biodegradable liners and a laundry bag free of charge.

On average a baby will go through around 5,000 disposable nappies before they come out of nappies which will mean over 1 million nappies containing harmful plastic will be diverted from final disposal. Making the switch to reusable nappies can save a significant amount of money in the longer term - however the initial outlay can be costly. Our ‘Birth to Potty’ scheme removes this cost and the impact of disposable nappy waste. The Council has seen over 200 families ~~that~~ use real nappies via the scheme.

Right Stuff Right Bin

By putting the right stuff in the right bin, you can increase recycling and help the environment. On North Ayrshire's mainland your PURPLE bin is for glass, cans and plastics, your BLUE bin is for paper and card, your BROWN bin is for food and garden waste and your GREY bin should only be used for items which cannot be recycled. If you are unsure what goes in what bin you can find handy information at this [link](#) you

can also find out what day your bin is due for collection [at this link](#). On Arran, services are slightly different, but plastic can still be recycled at the kerbside, [to find out more follow this link](#). For 2020, the last published Scottish household waste recycling rate. Scotland recycled 42% of its waste. In 2020, despite covid challenges North Ayrshire Council recycled 52.1% of our waste and still remain in the top quartile of authorities. We are ranked 7th out of 32 Councils for recycling performance. This is a great achievement and a credit to the dedication and commitment of residents and services to continue to collect and recycle waste.

Plastic Straw Reduction Initiatives

To protect our environment, the Council has stopped using plastic straws within Council owned cafes by increasing use of more sustainable re-usable and recyclable alternatives.

In 2018, the Council also took part in the Final Straw Campaign, [and details of this can be found at this link](#), while on Arran pupils took part in the national NaeStrawAtAw campaign which can be found at this [link](#). The campaigns focussed on removing single use plastic straws and encouraging use of more sustainable re-usable recyclable alternatives. The Final Straw' campaign received national media interest following the airing of the BBC series 'Blue Planet II' which raised the awareness of the harm plastic is doing to our oceans.

Think About Plastic Arran (TAP) - First Plastic Free Community in Scotland

The Isle of Arran became Scotland's first community to join a network of communities across the UK that are leading the way on tackling throw away plastic.

In recognition of the island's work with local businesses, community groups and North Ayrshire Council, to reduce the impact of single-use plastic on the environment, the island was awarded Plastic Free Community status by the national marine conservation charity Surfers Against Sewage (SAS) and further details can be found at this [link](#).

We all use items made of plastic and the aim of TAP is to get people thinking about what they can do to move away from the use of disposable plastic. Having gained this accreditation from SAS, TAP continue to expand the campaign to include more businesses and get the message out to the many visitors as possible. You can find out more information or Individuals and businesses can sign up to join TAP-Arran on their web page [by clicking this link](#).

Cumbræ Beecology Millport, Isle of Cumbræ

Cumbræ Beecology is an environmental group raising awareness of plastic reduction on the island. Other projects include Bee keeping, litter picks, and community tree and flower planting. If you want to find out more - contact the group or follow their progress, you can do this at this [link](#) to their Facebook page :.