

INFLUENCE!

Inspiration and insight to change
minds and policy

19 - 20

June 2019

University of Manchester



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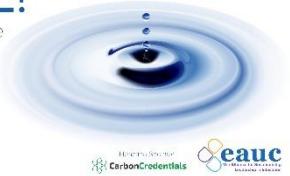
#2023
PLASTIC
FREE

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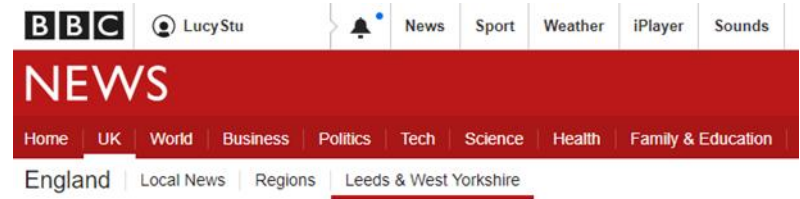


The Pledge Launch – November 2018

Collaborative pledge between University of Leeds and Leeds University Union

Committed to phasing out single-use plastic over the next 5 years:

- Offices and catering by 2020
- Whole University by 2023



University of Leeds plans to stop using plastics by 2023

7 November 2018



About 300 million tonnes of plastic waste is generated every year, according to UN Environment

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1. Operational changes

The following departments have taken it upon themselves to make the following changes:

- Alumni & Development team replaced plastic packaging on annual magazine – **920 kg of plastic**
- Leeds University Union bars switched to reusable plastic cups – **9,000 plastic cups per month**
- The Cohen Laboratory replaced pre-racked centrifuge racks with reusable racks – **50,000 centrifuge racks annually**



In keeping with the University of Leeds and Leeds University Union joint pledge to be single-use plastic free by 2023 we have replaced our plastic packaging with paper envelopes



2. Research and Innovation

We currently have over 20 research projects with a value of over £6 million:

- Researching processes to produce the next generation of biodegradable bioplastics - **School of Chemistry**
- Predicting the flow and crystallisation of polymers in plastics to improve processing and recycling - **School of Mathematics**
- Increasing understanding of how after-use plastic is managed within cities to maximise circular economy potential – **Civil Engineering**



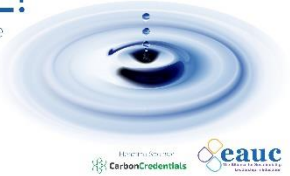
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3. Create a network

Our aim is to share knowledge and best practice, bring others along on our journey:

- Staff and students
- Stakeholders
- Higher Education Institutions
- Organisations across Leeds



The SDG Accord

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