



Guide for the removal of single use cups, cutlery and straws for the Health Service Executive (HSE) and organisations funded by the HSE

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Sustainability Strategy for Health

Introduction

The Minister for Communications, Climate Action and the Environment, Minister Richard Bruton T.D. announced in January that Government Departments or Agencies (which includes the Health Service Executive) will not purchase single-use plastic cups, cutlery or straws after 31st March 2019.

The Government is implementing these measures ahead of broader EU Legislation, targeting the 10 most prevalent single-use plastic products found on Europe's beaches and seas, which the Government has two years to transpose into Irish law.

After 31st March 2019, Health Service Executive Managers should not purchase single-use plastic cups, cutlery and straws, except where specific public health, hygiene or safety issues arise.

This note has been prepared by the HSE's National Health Sustainability Office to offer HSE Managers guidance and advice on how to comply with this Government Decision.

It is advisable for HSE Managers, particularly Catering Managers, to contact their current contracted suppliers to determine which alternative items can be provided until the existing OGP Framework ends (see below).

Specific public health/hygiene issues

It is recognised that in some exceptional cases there may be public health, hygiene or safety issues which necessitate the purchase of disposable cups, cutlery and drinking straws. Where possible, determine if compostable alternatives could be used in place of single use plastics.

Options for replacing single use plastic

1. Reusable cups, cutlery and glassware

The first option for Health Sector sites should be to utilise reusable catering items (cups, crockery, cutlery and glassware).

The main source of single use plastic is in catering facilities or at drinking water stations. HSE catering facilities should remove single use plastic cups, crockery, cutlery and drinking straws and increase stock of reusable catering items. Reusable catering items can be purchased from the Office of Government Procurement Framework Agreement for Light Catering Equipment.



OGP Framework Agreement for Light Catering Equipment

Reference	FCT007C
Supplier	Bunzl UK LTD T/A Bunzl McLaughlin
Email	colm.trainor@bunzl.ie
Phone	0044 48 37 511999 (Armagh)
Expires	29 th September 2020

Procure by Direct Draw Down via OGP website - <https://bz.procurement.ie/contracts/3009>

2. Compostable alternatives

From a waste prevention point of view, the use of reusable catering items is always preferable, however, the procurement of single use catering items may occasionally be required in exceptional cases. In such circumstances, compostable single use catering items should be purchased.

Compostable alternative catering items (cups, cutlery and straws) can be purchased from the Office of Government Procurement Framework Agreement for Catering Consumable and Disposable Products.

Compostable products must meet the relevant EU standard which is IS EN 13432:2001 Packaging Recoverable through Composting and Biodegradation. It should be noted that paper single use beverage cups are made from a plastic and paper composite and are not compostable or recyclable.



OGP Framework for Supply of Catering Consumable Disposable Products

Reference	FCL020F
Supplier	Bunzl Irish Merchants
Email	rmolloy@irishmerchants.com
Phone	087 6895903
Expires	1st July 2020

Procure by Direct Draw Down via OGP website - <https://bz.procurement.ie/contracts/4176>

Food Waste Composting

HSE Managers should ensure that there is also a food waste composting system (i.e. a brown food waste bin) in compliance with the Waste Management (Food Waste) Regulations 2009 to facilitate correct disposal of compostable catering items. Contact your existing OGP waste management service provider to introduce a food waste composting system if not already available.



National Framework for Provision of Waste Management Services

Reference	FWF027F
Email	support@ogp.gov.ie
Phone	076 100 80 00
Expires	31 st May 2020

For more information visit <https://bz.procurement.ie/contracts/4248>

3. Drinking Water Coolers

There is an Office of Government Procurement Framework Agreement for Water Coolers which includes the supply and servicing of water coolers, both bottled coolers and point of use (mains fed) coolers.

There are no single use plastic water cups available on this Framework. However, compostable water cups can be purchased from the OGP's Catering Consumables and Disposable Products Framework (see above).

Where possible, point of use (mains fed) water coolers should be installed as they are plumbed directly into the main water supply.



OGP Framework for the Supply of Bottled Water Coolers, Water Bottles, Point of Use Coolers (Mains Fed) and Servicing of all Water Coolers

Reference	FCT048C	
Supplier	Tipperary Pure Irish Water	Glenpatrick Water Coolers
Email	lana.kelly@tipperarywater.ie	toneill@glenpatrickwater.ie
Phone	1800 492 837	01 452 3600
Expires	2 nd June 2022	

Procure by Direct Draw Down via OGP website - <https://bz.procurement.ie/contracts/4260>

4. HSE Contracted Catering and Hospitality Services

The Health Service Executive currently purchases Catering and Hospitality Services via the Office of Government Procurement Framework Agreement for Supply of Catering and Hospitality Services. Contracted Catering and Hospitality Service companies purchase single-use plastic cups, cutlery or straws from their own suppliers, for use in HSE Catering facilities.

Health Service Executive Managers should ensure that any contracted Catering and Hospitality Service companies engaged by HSE removes single use plastic catering products and replaces them with reusable items or compostable cups, cutlery and straws in exceptional circumstances.



OGP National Framework for Catering & Hospitality Services

Reference	FCT004F
Supplier	Various Suppliers
Email	support@ogp.gov.ie
Phone	076 100 80 00
Expires	31 st October 2020

For more information visit <https://bz.procurement.ie/contracts/2959>

HSE Meetings and Events

HSE meeting organisers should be conscious of single use plastic cups, cutlery and drinking straws when inviting guests and external stakeholders to HSE meetings. When organising a meeting or event, ensure that reusable catering items are provided for lunch and tea/coffee breaks, and glasses and water jugs are provided instead of plastic water cups.

External Catering Services

When booking HSE events at external locations, venues should be requested in advance to provide reusable catering items. Single use plastic catering items should be avoided as far as is possible.

Contact information

For procurement advice and information, please contact:

The Office of Government Procurement

Email: support@ogp.gov.ie

Website: www.ogp.gov.ie

HSE Procurement

Email: procurement.support@hse.ie

Website: <https://www.hse.ie/eng/about/who/healthbusinessservices/procurement/>

For sustainability advice and guidance, please contact:

National Health Sustainability Office

Email: nhso@hse.ie

Website: www.hse.ie/sustainability

References

Department of Communications, Climate Action & Environment: Removal of Single Use Plastics
Guidance Note 2019

<https://www.dccae.gov.ie/en-ie/environment/topics/sustainable-development/green-government/Pages/default.aspx>