



TARGETING DISPOSABLE PLASTICS & WASTE UPDATE

Progress to date and future expectations

Knights Brown's 'plastic party'* is continuing to identify new ways to meet our objective **to target disposable plastic, cut its unnecessary use, and encourage positive long-term behaviour change in our business**. In so doing, we are also looking at the wider issue of waste as a whole.

The construction industry produces 100 million tonnes of waste annually, more than one-third of the UK's total.

Here are recent changes that have taken place in our business during 2019.

100% Recyclable Temporary Site Signage

All new signage supplied by our temporary site signage supplier, First Call, will from now on be made from 100% recyclable materials. All signs will now be supplied in non PVC bubble board, which offers a hard-wearing alternative to conventional plastic and foam boards. This means they can now be sent for recycling rather than to landfill if not being reused.

Bamboo Lanyards

Several of our sites require security passes to be worn and as our offices all have door entry systems, we now stock branded lanyards. When reordering these, we chose to replace the traditional ribbed polyester option with a bamboo alternative. Made from 100% bamboo and dyed with water-based inks, the bamboo braided lanyard is comfortable, strong, durable and naturally antibacterial as well as eco-friendly.

Office Fruit Supplies

The Southern Division and Head Office weekly office fruit is now brought from a local greengrocer and as far as possible, is supplied without packaging. We also request to be supplied with locally grown fruit when in season and available.

Bean to Cup Coffee Machines

As a company we are working to phase out the use of pod-style coffee machines and switch to greener alternatives. Bean to cup coffee machines have been introduced in our offices at Ringwood, Bridgend and Port of Dover. Where pod machines are still in use, users are encouraged to recycle through the following options:

Find a Drop-off Location Near You

<https://www.terracycle.com/en-GB/brigades/the-tassimo-lor-brigade-r#how-it-works>

Buy a Zero Waste Box

https://www.terracycle.com/en-GB/zero_waste_boxes/beverage-capsules



Subcontractors' Management of Waste

A new question has been added to the Post Contract Review of Subcontractor's Performance (F636) focusing on their management of waste. It asks:

How did the subcontractor minimise waste? For example:

- Reusing or repurposing waste materials
- Separating and removing their own special waste from site,
- Minimising plastic waste, by using packaging with a high recycled content, adopting alternatives to plastic including boxes, crates, etc., running a take-back scheme, or delivering with minimal or no packaging

Site Waste Management Plans

Our head of HSQE is currently updating our procedures in relation to the provision of Site Waste Management Plans. Our intention is that these will be required by all sites of more than either one month, or 500 manhours, in duration.

We are promoting the following plastic and waste management initiatives across the business:

Plastic & Packaging E-Learning Course

The Considerate Constructors Scheme e-learning course increases understanding and raises awareness of the issue of plastic pollution in the construction industry. The course is available through the CCS Best Practice Hub and is free having registered.

Visit the Best Practice Hub and take the e-learning course:

<https://ccsbestpractice.org.uk/courses/plastics-and-packaging/>

CCS follow up to Spotlight on ... Plastics and Packaging from earlier in the year.

<https://ccsbestpractice.org.uk/entries/spotlight-on-plastics-and-packaging-follow-up-article/> including examples of best practice and innovation.

PPE Recycling Service

Greenham offer a service to dispose of PPE at end of life. Rather than being sent to landfill, unwanted clothing is collected, shredded, and sent to an energy from waste facility to be converted to Refuse Derived Fuel to generate power. The following items can be collected:

- Branded and unbranded workwear
- Helmets and accessories
- Eyewear
- Footwear – even with metal toecaps
- Ear defenders and plugs
- Respiratory

There is no minimum or maximum quantity and collections can be made from any site.

Glove and PPE Washing for Re-use Service

This service reduces waste, saves money and keeps everyone fully protected. One company providing this service is Stay Safe Solutions. The cleaning process uses an eco-friendly solution that works at low or ambient temperatures meaning not only can they achieve complete disinfection, but they also extend the life of the fabrics they launder. Visit their website for more details. <http://staysafesolutions.co.uk/>

Plastic Recycling Codes

Whether procuring products for Knights Brown or wishing to dispose of items responsibly, we encourage our people to familiarise themselves with the seven plastic recycling codes. This means where we can, we avoid buying in plastic but where it has a role, we try to avoid the difficult to dispose of types.

The biggest factor affecting recycling rates is lack of facilities. Where there are no facilities – plastic goes to landfill. Where facilities are introduced, the amount getting buried drops. All modern plastic items have a stamp on them indicating what category of plastic they fall into. The seven categories are:

Most commonly used plastics			
	What is it used for?	Next life	Ease of recycling
Polyethylene Terephthalate (PET) 	Soft drink bottles, food packaging such as punnets	Used to make more PET products	Easy
High Density Polyethylene (HDPE) 	Milk cartons, cleaning products, yoghurt pots, soap dispensers	Garden furniture, pipes and more milk cartons	Easy
Polyvinyl Chloride (PVC) 	Pipe fittings, window fittings, thermal insulation, car parts	Used to make more PVC products	Difficult
Low Density Polyethylene (LDPE) 	Food bags, shopping bags, magazine wrapping	Bin liners, plastic furniture and floor tiles	Manageable
Polypropylene (PP) 	Margarine tubs, microwave meal trays, fibres and filaments for carpet, wall coverings, vehicle upholstery	Clothing fibres, food containers, speed humps	Easy
Polystyrene (PS) 	Some yoghurt pots, takeaway boxes, plastic cutlery, protective packaging, insulation	As more packaging	Difficult
Other 	This includes other forms of plastic including composites, such as salad bags and crisp packets	Goes to landfill	Very difficult



Recyclable



Recyclable at specialist points



Not easily recyclable



Watercoolers with Causes

The importance of staying hydrated especially in hot weather is well known, which is why we continue to issue reusable water bottles. Wherever possible, we encourage sites to establish a mains fed water dispenser rather than relying on bottled supplies. Each Aquaid mains fed water dispenser brings water to four children in Africa every year, through their charitable foundation. See the range of mains fed dispensers here: <https://www.aquaidwatercoolers.co.uk/what-we-do/mains-fed-water-coolers>

Frank Water is another potential supplier and is a registered charity seeking to provide safe drinking water to 663 million people worldwide who still lack access to this basic human right. See their range of mains-fed dispensers here: <https://www.frankwater.com/watercoolersandbrandedbottles>

However drinking water is provided on site, we encourage teams to avoid using plastic or paper single use disposable cups by providing reusable alternatives. As a last resort, plant based, compostable Vegware cups are available through Greenham's.

2018

In the first 12 months of our campaign the steps we took to make a change were:

- Issuing reusable takeaway drinks cups to all employees to reduce the use of difficult to recycle disposable cups and plastic lids.
- Distributing real 'bags for life' to all employees to replace plastic carriers.
- Giving reusable water bottles to all employees to cut out single use plastic bottles and water dispenser plastic cups.
- Replacing plastic biro's with an alternative made from biodegradable materials and which is 80% decomposable.
- Switching to glass milk bottles instead of plastic cartons for our daily milk delivery.

Firmly believing that we needed our employees' support to make a real impact, after making public our commitment, we rolled out our "Single Use Plastic and Plastic Waste" survey to find out more about attitudes towards plastic waste and to understand more about the plastics most commonly found in our business.

We had a 50% response rate. 99% of those that responded agreed that Knights Brown should act to target single use plastic and plastic waste and wanted to help us do so.

'Plastic Party'

The work of our plastic party is continuing and is currently looking at solutions for construction waste such as traffic cones and road barrier. Current topics include how best to engage our subcontractors to reduce the amount of packaging and waste brought onto our sites, and alternatives to hard copy O&M manuals.

*Plastic party members:

- Andrew Bates
- Clare Payne
- Helen Custard
- Kate Cusack
- Lee Devaney
- Olav Lawrence