# Wrexham Glyndwr Students’ Union

Plastic Policy

1. PURPOSE:

Wrexham Glyndwr Students’ union is committed to providing a workplace where staff and students are encouraged and supported to reduce their use of single plastics where possible. Wrexham Glyndwr Students’ Union understands that the use of single use plastics is not sustainable, and wherever possible Wrexham Glyndwr Students’ Union will not provide single use plastics to staff or students. Wrexham Glyndwr Students’ Union will also support any subcontractors to minimize or omit their use of single use plastics.

**WHY NOT USING SINGLE USE PLASTICS IS IMPORTANT?**

Single use plastics in our oceans has, and still is a global concern. Plastic represents a collective problem: it is an integral part to the majority of major industries and is used to maintain the lifespan of products. However, the use of single use plastics need to be considered when there are more sustainable option available at a similar cost. Thought should also be given to what the function of the plastic is, and if this is needed at all.

Straws have an average lifetime of 500 years, with its usefulness only lasting about 20 munities, because of this over 500 million straws are used and discarded every day in the United States alone – that’s 175 billion a year filtering into landfills and littering our waterways and oceans, this needs to change. Hundreds of thousands of seabirds, marine mammals and sea turtles die every year when they ingest or get entangled in plastic pollution – 80% of which comes from the discarded single use plastics we use everyday

1. THE STUDENT UNIONN NOTES:
2. Help us spread the word by sharing the graphics below on Twitter using #TheLastStraw.
3. See if there are local environmental organisations that you can work in partnership with.
4. WREXHAM GLYNDWR STUDENTS’ UNION BELIEVES:

The union believes that single use plastic is a current, major global concern and that the Students Union should be addressing/tackling this issue and not aiding it. It should be noted that even though there are items that are biodegradable – this is still wasteful and it is more sustainable to provide items that would not cause as much waste. Students have raised this concern verbally and through email.

1. WREXHAM GLYNDWR STUDENTS’ UNION RESOLVES
2. That plastic carrier bags will not be sold, promoted or given away at the SU shop and plastic cups will not be provided for the water dispenser. The Unions Sustainability Officer and the Retail and Finance manager will be responsible for costing up paper cups or will put up a sign to encourage students to bring their own water bottles.
3. The Union will lease with its sub-contractor to ensure that when the Lazy Lion pop up bar is in operation it will not provide plastic straws and to introduce paper cups or other sustainable measures for providing drinks.
4. To encourage the university to become more sustainable in its use of single use plastics and to mandate the President of Wrexham Glyndwr Students’ Union to work with the Union’s Sustainability Officer going forward with this motion

POLICY HISTORY

This policy is up for review annually