

Response submitted to
Plastics.Consultation@defra.gov.uk

10th Feb 2022

Dear Sir/Madam,

Please find below our response on the following consultation.

- Consultation on proposals to ban commonly littered single-use plastic items in England

EAUC – The Alliance for Sustainability Leadership in Education:

Response on behalf of our Members (United Kingdom and Ireland)

About the EAUC

Our passion is to create a world with sustainability at its heart. That's our vision. We exist to lead and empower the post-16 education sector to make sustainability 'just good business'.

The membership of the EAUC comprises higher and further educational institutions, with a combined budget of some £43 billion, responsible for educating over 4.5 million students supported by over half a million staff.

We have regional and country chapters, with member institutions connected deeply with business, industry, health and civic bodies at local levels, with reach internationally via their research, innovation and student mobility.

We believe

- That UK and Irish education should be a global leader in sustainability
- That educational institutions have a responsibility as anchors in their communities to be agents of change
- That education has a unique opportunity to transform lives and communities
- That education is at the heart of global sustainability
- That every student should have access to sustainability education
- That education should reflect best practice in operational sustainability
- In being flexible and adaptable to find solutions for a resilient future
- In the value of international collaboration

Our values

- Pioneering - driving sustainability through innovation
- Independence - our own unique voice
- Collaboration - together we go further
- Role Model - leading by example
- Empowering - supporting and inspiring our members

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Response to the consultation:

We have responded to various DEFRA recycling and plastics consultations including; Recycling Consistency in England (July 2021), Introducing a Deposit Return Scheme in England, Wales and Northern Ireland (June 2021) and the Extended Producer Responsibility for Packaging (June 2021). We welcome the opportunity to respond to this consultation.

The Higher and Further Education (HFE) sector recognises the significant negative environmental, social and economic impacts of single-use plastic. EAUC are in favour of the proposals to ban the supply of all the plastic products listed in the consultation. We would like the Government to go beyond the single use plastics mentioned and consider further market restrictions including plastic wet wipes and plastic tampon applicators. Alternatives to these items are available (please see [here](#) for further information). It is imperative that any additional costs are not pushed onto the consumer as tampons and sanitary pads are a necessity not a luxury.

Other items should also be considered. For example, Ireland is banning plastic condiment sachets, wet wipes and plastic hotel toiletries. France is banning plastic confetti, plastic toys being supplied with menus and plastic teabags. Canada will ban plastic grocery bags and six-pack rings.

We understand notice is required to prepare industry and the infrastructure for the bans but we feel that the proposed implementation date of April 2023 should be the latest date and there should be no delays.

Many universities and colleges have already recognised plastic and other single use items for the increasingly problematic issue that they are and are pioneering in their fight against single use products on their campuses. We would encourage the Government to engage with the further and higher education sector to discuss research into plastic alternatives.

Yours sincerely



Iain Patton
CEO

Get in touch!

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