

SCP012- Plastic Straws Policy

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Secunder- Rebecca Chapman

Policy Owner- SU Vice President Union Development

1. This Council Notes

State the facts surrounding the policy proposal

The Union currently stocks plastic single use plastic straws. These are kept on the counter in both the Park SU and Avenue SU bar.

Plastic straws became popular in the early 1900's, and have been used more frequently due to an ever changing lifestyle to eating out more etc. However unlike a paper straw which was invented at the end of the nineteenth century, plastic straws are not biodegradable and so they are likely to end up in landfill sites, or to be consumed by animals in the ocean along with other options. Energy is needed to create straws, and they are not likely to be used again.

2. This Council Believes

State the facts surround the for amendment

That using single use plastic straws is a waste, and does not impact on the environment in a positive way. This council also believes there are more environmentally friendly alternatives and that by switching to this alternative will be better for the environment, and is not overly expensive or difficult to do.


3. This Council Resolves


State the facts surrounding what the policy resolves


That the SU should switch to a more environmentally friendly alternative, and that all straws are placed behind the counter for people to ask for it if and when needed. This would also mean the Students Union is taking part in the NUS campaign The Last Straw, which aims to reduce the use of single plastics starting with straws.


APPENDIX (if applicable)

ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACTS

 **Extracting Resources**
 More plastic means more oil and gas extraction and more electricity to power plastic production.

 **Polluting Oceans**
 Straws are ingested by marine animals and are among the top 10 plastic debris found during coastal cleanups. ⁴

 **Crowding Landfills**
 Between 22 and 43 percent of plastic goes to landfills, where its resources are wasted, it takes up valuable space, and it blights communities. ⁵



End to end, straws used in the United States in a single day could circle the planet more than two-and-a-half times. ⁶

(World watch, 2016)

World watch (2016) Plastic straws: a life cycle [online] <http://blogs.worldwatch.org/plastic-straws-a-life-cycle/> [accessed on 30/05/17]

Thousands of seabirds, marine mammals and sea turtles die every year when they ingest or get entangled in plastic pollution

Sign our pledge and say 'NO' to single-use straws

#TheLastStraw



nus