

CASE STUDY: Morgan Sindall – War on Plastics

Morgan Sindall offers national design, construction, and infrastructure services to private and public sector clients across a wide range of markets.

As a major UK construction and regeneration group, Morgan Sindall is committed to reducing the environmental impact of its activities and protecting the environment; this is fundamental to all its business ventures.

War on Plastics

In support of World Environment Day in June 2018, Morgan Sindall launched an internal plastic reduction campaign which focuses on reducing single-use plastics across its sites and offices. All offices were asked to support the campaign and ideas on how to reduce plastic waste were circulated around the company. Ideas included banning plastic bottle drinks in office vending machines, switching to paper cups, and providing water dispensers for the workforce to use.

In one division, all staff were asked to complete a personal plastic pledge. This served to raise awareness of plastic pollution and to allow individuals to come up with suggestions to reduce single-use plastics. All staff who completed the pledge were rewarded with a branded, stainless steel drinking water bottle.



To educate the workforce about the environmental risks associated with plastic pollution, Morgan Sindall introduced an intranet page for staff, dedicated to single-use plastic reduction, with a full suite of resources to encourage the elimination of plastic. Such resources include a narrated training presentation to use on site which has been developed to raise awareness about this issue.

War on Waste

Morgan Sindall strives to reuse and recycle waste where possible to avoid disposing of waste to landfill. In 2017, Morgan Sindall launched a '**War on Waste**' initiative which focused on working closely with two major waste management partners who account for 80% of waste handled across Morgan Sindall.

Morgan Sindall worked to improve waste management across all aspects of its business, ranging from straightforward skip housekeeping, through to innovative ways of reusing

plastic and packaging materials. At present, 89% of total waste produced is diverted from landfill, and 96% of construction waste generated is diverted from landfill.

Collaboration

Morgan Sindall works closely with waste management contractors, material suppliers, subcontractors, and joint venture partners to ensure that the challenges of minimising waste and maximising reuse and recycling are fully understood. In 2017, over 500 site visits were conducted to help reduce waste and to educate individuals about how waste can be efficiently managed.

In particular, Morgan Sindall is working with suppliers of temporary materials to explore using closed loop recycling schemes and alternative plastic free options. An example of this is for protective cover sheet materials that can be recycled back into new sheets.

A6 Manchester Airport Relief Road Project

At the Manchester Airport Relief Road project, the site team returned 30km of plastic Great Crested Newt fencing to the supplier, helping to create a circular economy. Some of the plastic newt fencing was even donated to a local wildlife trust.

This is a great example of an initiative around single-use plastic reduction that supports economic, social, and environmental sustainability.

Manchester Metropolitan University Arts and Humanities Project

At the Manchester Metropolitan University Arts and Humanities project, the site team engaged with the company's plastic reduction campaign and all committed to a plastic pledge.

To reduce its single-use plastic consumption, the site team introduced the following measures:

- Every operative at site induction was provided with a project branded reusable plastic bottle.
- The site switched from purchasing milk in plastic containers to organic milk delivered in returnable glass bottles.
- The site provided reusable hessian bags which are hung up at the site cabin entrance for use when popping out for lunch as an alternative to plastic carrier bags.
- The site removed all single-use plastic cups in the office areas and welfare cabins and replaced them with glasses.

As a result, the site has reduced its consumption of single-use plastics by 74% within the office and welfare area since the plastic pledge was introduced.

To find out more about Morgan Sindall, click [here](#) to visit their website.