

MULTIPLEX

CASE STUDY: Multiplex – 48 Carey Street Project’s Drive To Reduce Plastic Pollution

In line with Multiplex’s drive to deliver zero waste on construction sites, the latest initiative has been to influence behavioural change and to eliminate all avoidable plastic waste from our sites and offices. We aim to achieve these goals by educating our employees, identifying opportunities, and implementing best practice.

At 48 Carey Street, the Multiplex project team has undertaken a lasting drive to beat plastic pollution with a ban on single-use plastic across the site’s canteen and offices. 48 Carey Street is a new residential development in Holborn, comprising 221 luxury apartments over nine floors. The site workforce is typically made up of 450 Multiplex employees and subcontractors and are served by canteen facilities provided by Café Des Amis.

The highly environmentally aware and well informed project team are proud to have been the first single-use, plastic free, Multiplex project – an achievement which was enabled through the following initiatives:

- Using biodegradable water cups, coffee cups, lids, and takeaway boxes.
- Replacing single-use plastic water bottles with cardboard boxed water.
- Replacing single-use plastic milk bottles with glass containers.
- Supplying plastic free or zero packaging for fresh fruits provided.
- Banning plastic cutlery from the canteen and replacing them with wooden or steel alternatives.
- Conducting spot checks on welfare personal care products supplied by Multiplex for microbeads.

As a result, the canteen does not sell any single-use plastic items with all replacement products being non-plastic and often biodegradable alternatives. The site team has also provisioned for plastic recycling, with four bins placed in the canteen, offices, and site entrance in case plastic is brought onto site externally.

The project has consistently delivered high sustainability performance, in part enabled through its strong environmental messaging. The single-use plastic ban has been passed to and embraced by the whole workforce, further increasing general awareness and driving innovation.

As part of 48 Carey Street’s banning plastic communication strategy, the following has been integral:

- A poster campaign.
- Site inductions.
- Subcontractor toolbox talks.



Examples of our awareness posters at 48 Carey Street and our recycling bins with biodegradable bags if project staff accidentally bring plastic items on site.



Posters displayed across the projects informing the workforce of the initiative.

48 Carey Street reached its plastic milestone on 5th June 2018, celebrating in line with World Environment Day in which this year's theme was '**Beat Plastic Pollution**'. Our project also won the Multiplex Sustainability Photo Competition, which rewarded projects who designed the best initiatives to reduce plastic use on site.

The project team continues its innovative approach with new initiatives (for example, we are currently focusing on crisp packaging returns) and has led the way for other Multiplex sites to conduct plastic audits and to tackle plastic pollution.

Across Multiplex, 'Beating Plastic Pollution' was our topic for the United Nations World Environment Day. On the day, we invited an expert on this topic, Jon Khoo, Innovation Partner at Interface who delivered an inspiring expert talk and webcast to colleagues across Multiplex. Jon delivered background informed on the issue, the need to control plastic pollution and the innovation in the construction sector.

Across Multiplex, our goal is to deliver zero waste construction projects. For this reason, our stringent procedures target potential waste at the design stage and at the source, before diverting any remaining waste from landfill. This is in accordance with the waste hierarchy of prevention, reduction, reuse, recycling, recovery of energy and lastly, disposal.

In addition, all Multiplex projects conduct '**Design out Waste**' workshops with their design teams, cascading the resulting ideas and actions throughout the project and down to our supply chain. As part of our '**Beating Plastics**' campaign in 2017, we reduced our plastic waste by 34% compared to 2016, while we ensure all of our events, including our huge summer festival, are compliant with our single-use plastics ban.

Our drive continues! To find out more about Multiplex, please click [here](#) to visit our website.