

Dear Scrutiny Panel,

My family and I will be re-locating back to live in Jersey later this month, having been living in Hong Kong for 4 years. We love Jersey and so I was pleased to hear about the opportunity to provide my views on recycling / single use plastic to the Panel.

One of our main drivers for deciding to return home to live in Jersey is the wonderful environment we have on the Island. However, my family spent 5 weeks of the Summer holidays back in Jersey and were saddened to find our expectation of how it was likely to be more 'forward thinking' regarding single use plastic than Hong Kong was not a reality!

I saw the Documentary 'Plastic Oceans' recently (<https://plasticoceans.org/about-a-plastic-ocean/>) with that in mind I read with interest (attached) the letter to the JEP from a visitor to the Island (Andrew Coles) who's experience very much reflected my own.

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[About A Plastic Ocean | Plasticoceans.org](https://plasticoceans.org/about-a-plastic-ocean/)

[plasticoceans.org](https://plasticoceans.org)

A Plastic Ocean is an award-winning documentary film from Plastic Oceans. It is directed by Craig Leeson and has one over a dozen prestigious awards.

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I would love to see Jersey being at the forefront of the focus for reduced single use plastics (and other items) and recycling and have outlined below a few of my views that I hope may provide a contribution to the discussion.

**Improved Policy to prevent Single Use Plastic (and Single Use items in general) entering our supply chain:**

I consider that Jersey is ideally positioned, being an Island community where it is possible to largely control what enters the Island, to make changes that reduce the amount of single use plastic/ single use items that enter our environment in the first place.

Preventing these items entering the supply chain would go some way to reducing the heavy reliance on changing attitudes at an individual level.

I agree with the following section included in the report of the Wildlife and Countryside link (<https://www.wcl.org.uk/docs/Wildlife%20and%20Countryside%20Link%20submission%20to%20tackling%20the%20plastic%20problem%20consultation.pdf>)...

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[Tackling the plastic problem: Using the tax system or ...](https://www.wcl.org.uk/docs/Wildlife%20and%20Countryside%20Link%20submission%20to%20tackling%20the%20plastic%20problem%20consultation.pdf)

[www.wcl.org.uk](https://www.wcl.org.uk)

2 SUMMARY OF KEY RECOMMENDATIONS Plastic pollution is an environmental emergency and the Government need to treat it as such. Up to 12 million metric tonnes of plastic leak into the oceans each year, a figure

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'Policy should be designed according to waste hierarchy principles so that, in the following order:

1. Producers and retailers remove unnecessary plastics, without substitution, and supply chains are (re)designed to reduce, so far as is possible, the need for single use plastics in the first place

2. Where (a) is not viable, single-use items are replaced with reusable alternatives, and supply chains are (re)designed to increase the viability of the most sustainable, reusable alternatives
3. Where (b) is not viable, single-use plastics are substituted with alternative materials which are themselves subject to tightened sustainability regulations'

The current resolution of Plastic Free Jersey seems to me very 'soft' and I feel that a stronger commitment must be considered as it does not currently seem to have the momentum and drive for the necessary change needed on the Island.

Jersey has an opportunity to introduce and enforce schemes across the Island that are adopted from best practice in other countries (one example might be the 'Deposit Return Scheme's seen in Germany, (<https://www.theguardian.com/environment/2017/jun/29/could-a-money-back-scheme-clean-up-the-uks-plastic-bottle-plague>).

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[Could a money-back scheme clean up the UK's plastic bottle ...](#)

[www.theguardian.com](http://www.theguardian.com)

Deposit return schemes for plastic bottles have been shown to cut litter and increase recycling in many countries – but not everyone agrees they're a good idea

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I was initially encouraged by the 'Straws suck' initiative in Jersey but all too often these seem to rely on individuals taking action. I found retailers and cafes still offering (seemingly without thought) a huge volume of single use plastic - from straws to bags to packaging on food and few people I observed seemed to be considering the impact as they 'accepted' these items.

Surely there should be collective consultation and action with key bodies across the Island, such as the Jersey Retail Association and Jersey Hospitality Association, to adopt a best practice approach to resolve this - and where necessary the Government should then put in place measures to enforce Policy with appropriate action.

Whilst I would love to see Single Use plastic reduced significantly by reducing it entering the supply chain there also needs to be improvement to the recycling opportunities and facilities across the Island.

### **The Policy on recycling needs to be consistent across all Parishes.**

How can it be that across the Island different Parishes have a different approach to recycling?

Whilst it is excellent that there is a central recycling area, it seems to me that if every member of the wider community must play a part in sustainable waste management then the recycling opportunities must be equally available and easily accessible to all.

As a personal example, I was staying at Samares Manor for 5 weeks during the Summer holidays. Because this was self-catering accommodation I continued to separate my rubbish for recycling when I first arrived but, upon asking, found only glass is collected now from the site and no longer plastic. I understand that this particular Parish has changed it approach to re-cycling for commercial businesses - why?

### **Increased education and awareness of all Stakeholders:**

Perhaps there is a lack of awareness of the short and long term impacts of Single Use plastics that is an issue for both businesses and individuals on the Island and halting the need for urgent change?

Hong Kong also has a very long way to go to reduce single use plastic but there is more visible public advertising of Government initiatives.

(One recent focus was on reducing disposable cutlery on beaches:

<https://www.info.gov.hk/gia/general/201807/19/P2018071900259.htm>)

There are also action groups such as: DB GREEN [www.dbgreen.org](http://www.dbgreen.org) and Plastic Free Seas: <https://plasticfreeseas.org/index.html> , which co-ordinate beach clean up's, fundraising and other initiatives to raise awareness of the impact. This increased publicity does seem to lead to community action and drives change.

Also at individual level there could be more focus on understanding and one area of education of the public is on the practicalities of successful recycling!

For example, the 'rules' of recycling (example of '4 Golden Rules of recycling' from DB green). At FB fields I found:

- The recycling only took glass, paper, cardboard and plastic bottles - but not other hard plastics. Why not?
- Upon looking in the recycling bins a number had 'mixed up' materials.

In conclusion, my view is that the current Plastic Free Jersey is not going far enough!

We need better 'joined up' Policy across the island, improved collaboration with key bodies, better education and awareness and appropriate incentives and (where necessary) enforcement to ensure the Island leads the way in protecting both our local environment and being an example of a leading jurisdiction for management of our single use plastic waste.

The Wildlife and Countryside link outlines an aim which I agree needs to also be adopted in Jersey.

'As a general set of principles any taxes, charges or bans should aim to reduce single- use items both at production and point of consumption, reduce the number of polymers on the market, encourage increased recycling rates and increased recycled content, prioritise actual recycling of items before down-cycling and focus on easy and cost- effective recycling'

I look forward to seeing the outcome of consultation from the Public from the Scrutiny Panel and very much hope to see positive change initiated in Jersey in the very near future.

Kind Regards,

Clare Humpleby



# Plastic problem

● From Andrew Coles.

AS regular visitors to your beautiful Island, I wanted to express my sadness at the apparent lack of action to tackle the over reliance on single-use plastic in Jersey.

We stayed at the Merton Hotel, as we do most years, and were disappointed that nothing had changed since our last visit.

There were still plastic straws and stirrers on all the bars and plastic sauce sachets and plastic tubs of jam in the restaurant. All totally unnecessary and avoidable.

While out and about, large numbers of people were still carrying single-use coffee cups. Staff at the Cineworld cinema in St Helier were completely bemused when I brought in my own reusable cup for a drink and said they would still need to use one of their own throw-away cups to accurately measure my drink.

It's as if the huge public outcry of the damage being done by single-use plastic has completely passed Jersey by.

It's surprising that greater efforts aren't being made, with Jersey being a small island that is reliant on a healthy marine environment for so much – including its popular tourist trade. Hotels, restaurants, businesses and individuals must all take responsibility for the scourge of plastic pollution – we will all ultimately benefit.

34 Farmington Drive, Witney, Oxfordshire.

## Complaints procedure

The Jersey Evening Post is committed to fair, accurate and...



**NO PLASTIC  
BAGS or STRAWS,  
THANKS!**

**走膠袋、唔該！  
飲管咁唔該！**

Hong Kong  
Sustainable  
City



Partner  
伙伴

Sustainable  
City

To help protect the environment, plastic food bags<sup>#</sup> and disposable straws / cutlery will be provided upon request only. Thank you for your support!

為響應環保，本店將不主動提供塑膠食物袋<sup>#</sup>、即棄飲管<sup>\*</sup>及餐具。如有需要，請向店員提出。感謝您的支持。

<sup>#</sup>Excluding Fresh, Frozen, unpackaged food with hygiene concern  
<sup>#</sup>盛載新鮮、冷凍、無包裝、有衛生關注之食物







**Plastigau a chaniau**  
**Plastics and cans**

**Glass**  
**Gwyrdr**



# 4 GOLDEN RULES OF RECYCLING

## KEEP IT CLEAN

No liquid and food residue.

## DON'T BAG IT

Recycling should be loose -  
never in a plastic bag.

## SEPARATE IT

Put the right item in the right bin.  
Separate the parts too - like lids  
off jars and bottles!

## KNOW YOUR DO'S AND DON'TS

Different cities recycle different  
things.



Check overleaf for Discovery Bay's recycling rules





## DO

- ✓ Recycle all paper, cardboard, glass and most plastics.
- ✓ Recycle all metals including food tins, tin foil, foil trays & pie plates.
- ✓ Take rechargeable batteries, fluorescent light bulbs and small electronics to your local management office.
- ✓ Keep an eye out for DB Waste Electronic pick up dates (WEEE days).
- ✓ **REDUCE** 1st, **REUSE** 2nd and then **RECYCLE**.
- ✓ Avoid single use plastic. Unlike other items, plastic is not truly recyclable - only downcycled - and it **NEVER** biodegrades.



## DON'T RECYCLE

- ✗ Tetra-pak style milk cartons, juice boxes and pouches.
- ✗ Single use coffee cups and paper cups with a plastic lining.
- ✗ Polystyrene/foam containers and packaging. Avoid using them.
- ✗ Anything contaminated with food, oil or grease.
- ✗ Crockery, plates, mirrors. Don't put light bulbs in glass recycling.
- ✗ Aerosol cans and anything containing toxic materials i.e. paint, thinner, pesticides...

DB Green

For more information go to [www.dbgreen.org](http://www.dbgreen.org)