



## What can your business do to help stop our seas from choking?

Below are lists of suggestions of how your business can reduce its impact on Yorkshire's seas. These are listed in different difficulty levels, with bronze being easiest to implement and gold being most difficult to implement.

### BRONZE LEVEL

- Ensure your office has full recycling facilities
- Carry out a single use & plastic packaging audit within your business to identify what products can be changed
- Do not automatically give customers single use products, such as coffee cup lids or straws, unless they ask for it
- TerraCycle is a company that recycles the 'non-recyclable'. Become a TerraCycle collection point and help to divert millions of pounds of waste from landfills and incinerators each month
- Advocate for a Deposit Return Scheme for plastic bottles to be introduced in the UK and encourage your customers to do the same
- If you have a customer toilet within your business, put up signage explaining what should and shouldn't be flushed
- Ensure you are disposing of oil correctly and not pouring it directly down the sink
- Include signage within your establishment to educate customers about the issue and how you are helping to reduce it
- Switch to plastic-free teabags in your communal kitchen (Yorkshire Tea are a good option!)
- Share good practice and promote our work on your website
- Send an email or update to your employees with hints and tips, such as joining a beach clean with their family
- Elect a Marine Pollution Champion within your organisation
- Encourage employees to wear a fabric face mask



### SILVER LEVEL

- Change to suppliers who use less plastic packaging
- Swap single use plastic items to less harmful materials such as wood
- Become a Refill station and stop selling bottled water. If you sell reusable bottles or coffee cups, provide discounts to customers who bring them in
- Provide water fountains and reusable bottles/mugs in offices for employees
- If you sell clothes or washing machines, also include or sell a 'microfibre catcher' to ensure these are not leaching into our waters after every wash
- Invite your employees & colleagues to take part in a litter pick with Yorkshire Wildlife Trust. We can organise one specifically for your group
- Use your status as an organisation to encourage good practice in the industry
- Email conference organisers to encourage them to switch to plastic-free alternatives – use your voice as a customer
- Organise talks for your employees regarding marine pollution and how to tackle it
- Encourage employees to take a reusable cup if you visit coffee shops regularly – perhaps provide a free coffee a month if you do so
- Keep a stock of branded reusable cups (also cutlery) in your office



### GOLD LEVEL

- Increase the price of single use products that you provide to deter customers from using them (the plastic bag 5p charge introduced in October 2015 throughout England reduced plastic bag consumption by 83%)
- Host a litter picking board. These A-frame boards contain litter pickers and bags and can be placed in front of your business. This allows anyone to borrow the equipment and do a quick litter pick
- Pledge to support Yorkshire Wildlife Trust as a business member or donate to Give Seas a Chance
- Become a single-use free office or organisation (within parameters)
- Fund bins at nature reserves local to your organisation to encourage people to dispose of litter correctly
- Host one of our marine themed donation boxes to raise money to help protect Yorkshire's seas

