



## Impact on the Environment

### Winner

#### Project Ceres Plastics Reduction, ISS with a Big Four Professional Services Firm

In 2018, ISS entered into a project partnership with a 'Big Four' professional services firm to reduce plastic consumption across the firm's twenty-three UK offices.

Together they created the 'Project Ceres' team, founded upon ISS's ThinkForward@ISS Corporate Social Responsibility Strategy, which commits to reducing carbon emissions, recycling and reducing waste and procuring sustainable products and services and the Big Four collaborator's UK Environmental Policy, which commits to 'the prevention of pollution' and 'purchasing environmentally sustainable products'

### Results

ISS cut out 7.7 million items (6.5 million disposable cups and 1.2 million catering consumables, equal to 57 tonnes) of single use plastic in a year and eliminated 91 per cent of the items within eight months of the project's start.

The Big Four collaborator no longer stocks branded plastic bags and now uses cardboard boxes for branded sweets and business cards as well as using stationary such as 100 per cent recycled fibre padded envelopes instead of bubble wrap.

The initiative has increased awareness of environmental issues for both partners.

### Best practice

1. Introduced 'Green Tariffs'

From July 2018, disposable cups made from biodegradable Vegware are used at the Big Four firm's in-house coffee shops. Additionally, there's a £0.40 surcharge for each drink bought in a disposable cup. Half of that surcharge is donated to the Marine Conservation Society. ISS chose a surcharge that

exceeds those of most external retailers to serve as a financial penalty to discourage customers using disposable cups.

The scheme has caused a jump from seven to 56 per cent of drinks being purchased with reusable cups and more than £8,000 paid to the Marine Conservation Society.

## 2. Reduced disposable cups consumption and waste production

ISS removed disposable cups from vending machines and kitchenettes, replacing them with reusable travel cups and water bottles for each of the Big Four collaborator's employee.

At the London Bridge office, the number of disposable cups per week dropped from seventeen thousand to fifty, all of which are now made from Vegware biodegradable plant-based plastic. The Canary Wharf office saw a similar drop from fourteen thousand disposable cups a week to fifty.

On average, total waste at both sites has fallen by 15 per cent, resulting in significant environmental, reputational and financial benefits.