Net Zero Committee:

Appendix 1: Plastics Reduction Strategy Action Plan Update

APPENDIX 1 - PLASTIC REDUCTION ACTION PLAN UPDATE					
ACTION NO	**SPECIFIC ACTION**	**TARGET**	**OWNERS**	**UPDATE**	**RAG**
GLASGOW'S PLASTIC DECLARATION					
Action 1	Glasgow City Council formally signs the EUROCITIES Environment Forum declaration on Curbing Plastic Waste and Littering.	To sign this declaration by the next meeting of the Environment Forum. By April 2020.	Glasgow City Council - NRS.	The action has been completed.	Complete
NATIONAL ACTION					
Action 2	Establish a working group to make representation to the Scottish Government on wider plastics issues including plastic bags and plastic packaging.	Prepare a City wide working group to raise local plastics issues with the Scottish Government for further consideration.	Glasgow City Council NRS to coordinate with key city partners.	We will continue to make representation to Scottish Government on SUP. Consumption based emissions will be further explored at a city-wide level via the C40 Thriving Cities Initiative work in 23/24.	

Action 3	Explore the potential for Glasgow to act as a pilot city for the Scottish Government's proposed Deposit Return Scheme for plastic bottles, allowing the scheme to be introduced earlier to the city than across the country.	Undertake detailed discussions and feasibility studies with a view to piloting the Deposit Return Scheme. By October 2020.	Glasgow City Council – NRS, Scottish Government.	Scotland's Deposit Return Scheme (DRS) will go live for consumers on 16 August 2023. Under the scheme, retailers that sell drinks will have a legal requirement to accept returns of empty drinks containers for recycling. Due to the national challenges around the timing of the roll out of DRS there is no longer an option to pilot. This action has been closed.	Closed
CITY WIDE REDUCTION					
Action 4	Undertake a feasibility study with a view to a city-wide ban on specific SUP items (namely plastic straws, stirrers, cutlery, and takeaway boxes). This will take account of the legislative context, as well as the need for relevant exemptions for disabled citizens.	Feasibility report concluded by October 2020. By October 2020.	Glasgow City Council - NRS.	The action has been completed.	Complete
Action 5	Provide support to businesses, caterers, licensed premises and event organisers on how to reduce SUPs in day-to day operations.	Prepare and circulate Best Practice guides to business by April 2020. Undertake two focussed workshop sessions to discuss reduction of plastics in businesses by Oct 2020.	Glasgow City Council – DRS Business Advisors, Licensing,	NRS are working with the GCC Events Team, Major Events suppliers and Glasgow Life to develop Sustainable Events Guidance for event's organisers. This guidance will be trialled for major events in 23/24.	

			Glasgow Chamber of Commerce.	Thirty businesses have signed up to The Sustainable Glasgow Business Charter. The Council is exploring a relaunch in early summer 2023 to encourage more signatories to pledge their commitment to Glasgow's net-zero carbon target.	
Action 6	Continue to support the work of Best Bar None Glasgow to recognise and support licensed premises and venues which reduce plastics usage.	Continue to provide support and expand this annual awards scheme to ensure licensed premises and venues receive extra credits for the reduction of unnecessary single-use plastics. By November 2020.	Glasgow City Council NRS, Best Bar None Glasgow.	The awards are a voluntary National initiative, delivered locally by GCC, where licenced premises are assessed on how sustainable they are. The scheme took a renewed approach towards reducing the consumption of single use plastics in 2021/22 to allow additional points for premises who can demonstrate positive plastics action. The SEC Hydro won the award in 2022. Ongoing support for this is under review.	

Action 7	Work to integrate the actions of the Plastics Reduction strategy with the forthcoming Circular Glasgow Routemap to identify overlap and opportunities between them.	Ensure integration of the plastics reduction strategy with the upcoming Circular Glasgow Routemap. By May 2020.	Glasgow City Council – NRS, Glasgow Chamber of Commerce.	The action has been completed.	Complete

Action 8	Increase the number of top up taps in the city, which aim to be a catalyst to encourage more people to carry a refillable bottle.	Work with city partners, in particular Scottish Water and its "Your Water, Your Life" campaign, to increase the number of top up taps available across the City. Aim to have installed two additional top up taps by October 2020.	Glasgow City Council working with Scottish Water.	There are 6 Top Up Tap locations in Glasgow, which have dispensed 167.6K litres the equivalent of 508,000 330ml plastic bottles. Consumption patterns have understandably changed since the pandemic deceasing at certain high street locations and increasing at more parks and recreational spaces. This has been factored into proposed three new site selections.	
Action 9	Take initial steps in developing the first plastic free shopping area in Glasgow.	Work with city partners to undertake a baseline survey on the quantity and type of plastics used by the retail and commercial shopping sectors. By October 2020.	Glasgow Chamber of Commerce, Glasgow City Council, ZWS. .	On hold due to lack of staff capacity with lead partner. GCC is working with the lead partner to restart this action.	
INTERNAL ACTION – LEADING THE WAY					
Action 10	The Council will work to explore options to deliver a more sustainable approach to school meals.	This will include consideration and feasibility of options to address the changes needed to move towards plastic-free school catering. By October 2020.	Glasgow City Council Encore.	Glasgow schools are fully compliant with the new SUP legislation. Secondary schools now utilise paper-based cartons and bamboo cutlery. Primary schools utilise paper cups and flight-trays. Primary schools have stopped using bottled water for school dinners. Catering and Facilities Management (Financial Services) are looking at innovative ways to further reduce SUP plastic containers used for portion sizes in primary schools with six schools are piloting the use of large bowls to serve fruit and vegetables.	

				They are also currently exploring the implementation of a Deposit Return Scheme for plastic bottles and cans in secondary schools, which goes live in August 2023.	

Action 11	The Council will continue to participate in the Glasgow Cup Movement initiative in order to reduce the use of single-use plastic coffee cups and recycle those which are in the system.	An assessment of newly established recycling infrastructure will be undertaken. Consideration will be given to opportunities for the further roll out of additional infrastructure and a significant push towards reusable cups. By May 2020.	Glasgow City Council – NRS, KSB.	This initiative was extremely successful. Over 55,000 single-use cups were collected and recycled from Glasgow City Council's Estate between September 2019 and April 2020. This initiative was relaunched on 6th October 2021 with a focus on the "Take-it-back" message It is anticipated that this intervention will revive an increase in cup reuse and recycling rates across the city. Consumers are encouraged to "Choose to Reuse" when consuming on the go, or otherwise, if using a single-use cup, to "Take It Back" to be recycled at 114 participating stores across the Glasgow area.	
Action 12	The Council will continue to undertake clean ups to support the Upstream Battle campaign and prevent marine plastics reaching the River Clyde.	Continue to co-ordinate clean ups that address the issue of plastics in the River Clyde and its tributaries. By October 2020.	Glasgow City Council – NRS, KSB.	On the 22nd of February 2023 young people designed creative innovations to tackle marine litter through the STEM the Flow Engineering Challenge at the Riverside Museum in Glasgow as part of our Upstream Battle campaign to either reduce the amount of litter already in the River Clyde or prevent it entering the watercourses in the first place. The competition was open to pupils from P6-S3 across the city region and the event was attended by 12 schools showcasing their projects. The winning entries can be viewed here.	

Action 13	Undertake focused engagement with young people to discuss the impact of plastics as part of a climate emergency conversation, with a view to establishing Glasgow's first SUP free school. This will be extended to an early years establishment, as well as primary and secondary schools.	Prepare and deliver an engagement exercise to reach young people and foster a plastic reduction conversation. By October 2020.	Glasgow City Council - NRS and Education Services.	The Plastic Free Schools accreditation process has been initiated. The schools participating will be externally audited and validated by the UK based charity "Surfers Against Sewage".	

Action 14	Undertake focused engagement with communities (including faith and equalities groups) about the impact of plastics to ensure that their voices are heard as part of a wider community climate conversation.	Prepare and deliver an engagement piece to reach a maximum number of residents and foster a plastic reduction conversation across communities. By October 2020.	Glasgow City Council – NRS.	Community engagement will be addressed as part of the C40 Thriving Cities Initiative, which aims to address consumption-based emissions in active engagement with Glasgow's citizens during 2023/24.	

Action 15	Ensure that procurement policy pays reference to the need for plastics reduction in the context of supplier sustainability credentials.	Sustainability qualification information to be provided in tenders to encourage suppliers to address and improve their sustainability credentials particularly in relation to plastic reduction. By May 2020.	Glasgow City Council Procurement, Scotland Excel, City partner agencies.	The CPU continue to utilise the Scottish Government Sustainable Tools as part of our tender sourcing strategy approach, this allows the CPU and Service Areas to shape and influence specifications, pre selection and aware criteria within our tenders to ensure our needs and council policies are met. For example, the recent award the Supply and Delivery of Catering Disposables products has resulted in a reduction of our core products. The council previously had 476 core products and this was reduced to 196 products, 280 single use plastic products were removed due to our sourcing strategy approach, use of the sustainable tools and ensuring compliance with the new Scottish Government single use plastic policy. A working group has also been formed to allow the CPU and Service areas to ensure we are ready for the introduction of the Deposit Return scheme.	
Action 16	Undertake a refresh of the provision of information to citizens on recycling bins, and the transport and disposal of plastic waste. This will be undertaken as part of a wider communication strategy around waste management and recycling.	Provide information to citizens in relation to plastic recycling. By May 2020.	Glasgow City Council – NRS.	This action is being delivered through the recently published Resource and Recycling Strategy. Residents across Glasgow are benefitting from an improved recycling service. The fund will support the introduction of a Twin Stream collection service for kerbside properties (own front/back door who present bins to pavement), which will be introduced later in 2023. This will increase the tonnage and quality of materials collected for recycling. A similar service is being piloted within c.2,000 flatted properties, whereby bins will be	

				removed from tenement backcourts and located to the front of properties within housing units.	

Action 17	Continue to explore options to remove all SUP items used within Council and Encore cafes and increase the use of sustainable alternatives.	This will include consideration and feasibility of options to address the changes needed to move towards single-use plastic free catering. By October 2020.	Encore.	CPU will continue to work closely with Catering and Facilities Management (Financial Services) and NRS to remove or reduce single use plastic where possible in our council and Encore cafes. A trial is currently under way with our catering supplier on reusable cups. A trial is also underway for the use of reusable plastic pint glasses at the Royal Concert hall and reusable plastic coffee/tea mugs in a number of cafes.	
Action 18	The Council will encourage staff to work towards plastics reduction and look to influence other partners.	Prepare a GOLD course to encourage Council staff to work towards plastics reduction as employees and citizens. By May 2020.	Glasgow City Council – NRS, other city partners Glasgow Chamber of Commerce.	KSB are looking at the potential for on street collection of plastic cups at transport hubs for both Local Government and retailers. A Good example of re-useable cup scheme is being rolled out in Highlands sponsored by Starbucks, creating a 'cup library'. There is an ongoing national discussion on a disposable cup charge. Work is ongoing on the development of a GOLD course.	
BEHAVIOUR CHANGE					
Action 19	Support behaviour change action by learning from best	Undertake a series of case studies on events held in the city which carry out best practice on plastics	Glasgow City Council – NRS,	Engagement is ongoing across city-wide networks to continue to share best practice.	

	practice in SUP minimisation at events held across the city.	reduction, in order to inform policy and practice for future events. This will build on innovative practice in the circular economy, including work with the SEC. By October 2020.	Glasgow Chamber of Commerce.	NRS are working with the GCC Events Team, Major Events suppliers and Glasgow Life to develop sustainability guidance for Events organisers. The guidance will include targets to reduce SUP and consumption-based emissions.	

Action 20	Support pilot projects, research and development on SUP alternatives and promote circular practices across the city with on plastics.	Support pilot projects to address the issue of plastics. This will include supporting a pilot of the innovative "Bubble Barrier" in the River Clyde. Continue to support pilot projects looking to SUP alternatives. Seek funding, where available, to support research and/or pilot projects for circular work with regards to plastics. Ongoing.	Glasgow City Council – NS, Glasgow Chamber of Commerce, University Sector.	Bubble Barrier: In May 2023 a new MS fund will become available and GCC will seek to progress this project and update on progress through the next Plastic Reduction Strategy update to Committee. This action is being supported in part through actions 5 and 11 within the Circular Economy Action Plan.	
Action 21	Design and undertake a targeted communications campaign designed to inform and educate citizens and visitors on how to reduce, reuse and recycle their individual plastic use.	A targeted communication campaign to be delivered in support of the vision of this strategy. This will be focused on both residents and visitors to the city. Ongoing.	Glasgow City Council, KSB, Visit Scotland.	This action is being delivered through the Resource and Recycling Strategy.	

Action 22	Undertake research on the viability of smart recycling schemes that offer incentives for positive recycling practices.	Prepare and produce a detailed report on the viability of a smart recycling scheme that offers incentives to members of the public. By May 2020.	Glasgow City Council – NRS, Scottish Government, ZWS.	This report has been postponed to ensure that the impacts of the delayed Deposit Return Scheme can be considered.	
Action 23	Promote and endorse the Refill initiative across the city.	Develop a communications campaign which highlights opportunities to refill water bottles. By May 2020.	Glasgow City Council – NRS, Refill, Visit Scotland.	The action has been completed.	Complete
Action 24	Support the delivery of a COP that incorporates plastic-free principles and eliminates single use plastics.	Work with the organisers of COP26 in Glasgow. By November 2020.	Glasgow City Council - Corporate Services, COP organisers.	The action has been completed.	Complete