

Plastic Free Scilly

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@PlasticFreeIoS



On December 8th 2017 I was accepted as Community Leader by Surfers Against Sewage for their Plastic Free Coastlines Campaign and Plastic Free Scilly was born! Since this time we've been very busy beavering away at the Isles of Scilly Wildlife Trust coming up with a plan of action and solutions to the problem which individuals and businesses find themselves faced with at almost every turn on our small Islands...Single-Use Plastic.

What is Plastic Free Scilly...?

Plastic Free Scilly is a community project being led by the Isles of Scilly Wildlife Trust (IoSWT) and supported by the Isles of Scilly Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB). The initial aim is to gather support and evidence from the local and visiting community to complete five objectives, set out by the Plastic Free Coastlines Campaign, in order to achieve Plastic Free Coastline Status. But, why stop there?



The residents of Scilly do a fantastic amount of work when it comes to looking after our environment and now that recycling has come to the Islands we can do a whole lot more; but we can't and shouldn't rely on recycling.

Recycling should be seen as the last step in a process that starts with refusing and then moves through reducing and reusing, before ending up at recycling.

Why Plastic Free Scilly...?

Here in Scilly we know only too well about the amount of man-made debris in our seas; every walk along the beach, every stroll around the coastline, every big storm shows us something new and sees us having to deal with more.

The Isles of Scilly Wildlife Trust has been advocating and organising beach cleans and encouraging people to reduce their use of single-use plastic and recycle for some time now; but sometimes living on an Island can complicate matters and make it slightly harder.

Consequently, it can seem quite daunting, but there are so many things that individuals and businesses are already doing or can start to do; little changes that can make a whole world of difference when added to the combined effort.

We have come up with a few simple things that everyone can do to help reduce their plastic "boot-print". We are also hoping to meet with individuals and businesses across the Islands, later in February, to look at how they can do things differently and encourage their family, friends and customers to do the same.

Once we've got the small simple things sussed we can then move on to looking at the larger harder aspects of Island life and single-use plastics!

Did you know?

Since the introduction of the 5p plastic bag charge the number of plastic bags found on UK beaches has more than halved!

So what can you do to support...?

Over the coming weeks we will be gathering evidence of individual and community actions completed for submission to Surfers Against Sewage in order for Scilly to achieve Plastic Free Coastline Status; so, if you've already made a change, or two, let us know and we'll add you to the list.

FIVE simple changes you can make to reduce your single-use plastic "footprint"



Similarly, if you want to do something but don't know what, or where to start, get in touch and have a chat.

There are a number of different ways that you can get involved and many different options in terms of supporting the project; below are just a handful:

ReFILL

ReFILL is a national practical tap water campaign that aims to make refilling re-usable drinks bottles as easy, convenient and cheap as possible by introducing ReFILL points in as many locations as possible.

Participating cafes, pubs, restaurants, banks, galleries, museums and other businesses simply put a sticker in their window – alerting passers-by to the fact they're welcome to come on in and fill up their bottle – for free!

ReFILL is accompanied by an App that individuals can download to find their nearest ReFILL point and also add new places. We will be receiving a stock of ReFILL window stickers very soon for any businesses wishing to participate and encourage reusable drinks containers.

Did you know?

38.5 million single-use plastic bottles are used every day in the UK; less than 60% of these are currently recycled.



#2MinuteBeachClean

That's all the commitment it takes - 2 minutes - and it does what it says on the tin! We have partnered up with #2MinuteBeachClean and are awaiting delivery of a number of #2MinuteBeachClean Boards.

Once they've arrived we'll be looking for some Guardians across the Islands to look after those boards. It's not a huge commitment; you just need to have a business/property near a beach and be willing to put an A-board out each day, bring it in at night and let us know if there are any problems with it. Think you can help? Let us know!

Keep Cups

In addition to the boards we are also going to have bamboo, reusable coffee cups; dual branded with #2MinuteBeachClean. They will be available from the Isles of Scilly Wildlife Trust initially; but we hope that they will become available at other locations!



The Great Scilly Spring Clean



Keep an eye out for posters and Social Media posts regarding the upcoming Great Scilly Spring Clean which is scheduled for 2nd, 3rd & 4th March 2018; where the community comes together to clean up our beaches and coastline following the winter storms.

Want to know more? Follow us on Twitter + Facebook @plasticFreeIOS

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Isles of Scilly Wildlife Trust registered charity number 1097807
www.ios-wildlifetrust.org.uk

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