

PLASTICS POLICY

Statement of Intent

Introduction

At 1st Machine Tool Accessories Limited we aim to reduce our impact on the natural world. We're committed to consuming fewer resources and managing these resources responsibly, as outlined in our Environmental Policy. We adopt 'reduce, reuse, recycle' principles across all of our waste streams and procurement decisions, where practical.

We acknowledge, however, that our use of plastic requires special consideration. It's particularly persistent in the environment if not managed correctly, and waste management is complex due to the large range of plastic types, the presence of composite products and the inconsistency of treatment solutions available. Furthermore, there's a lack of market-ready alternatives.

Our Plastics Policy sets out our specific commitments in this area, covering all 'business-as-usual' plastic use, including stationery, IT, corporate merchandise, cleaning and maintenance.

Commitments

- Continuously evaluate and adopt solutions – including technology – that minimise our plastic impacts, wherever possible (based on volume, 'hierarchy of harm' and life-cycle implications)
- Reduce the amount of plastic we use, especially single-use items where better solutions are available, and reuse plastic products wherever feasible
- Improve end-of-life solutions and traceability for our plastic waste, wherever possible
- Raise awareness to employees the impacts of plastic waste and encourage them to adopt best practice behaviours
- Partner with third parties to support market-level improvements associated with plastic, accelerating the transition to a new plastics economy.

Actions

To meet our commitments, we will:

Reduce

- Identify and eliminate unnecessary in-bound and in-office plastic materials
- Continue the rollout of our programme to digitise documents, reducing unnecessary associated plastic stationery
- Streamline the number of plastic items available in the stationery cupboard
- Trial and adopt the best available solutions for consumable products in our offices (i.e., beverage and milk containers,) Staff have their own personal mugs/cups and 1mta provide additional company crockery and cutlery.
- Substitute plastic water bottles with reusable glass ones in our client meeting rooms and encourage the use of reusable water bottles topping them up by using the provided water machine.
- Minimise plastic detergent bottle waste by increasing bottle sizes and using detergent-free cleaning solutions, wherever possible
- Reuse or refurbish IT equipment, where applicable.
- Collect and reuse unwanted stationery items, when preparing for destruction.
- Refill containers (e.g., Hand Soaps, Sanitisers and hand towels) to reduce plastic consumption, wherever possible

Recycle

- Proactively manage our plastic waste to maximise the amount of plastic we recycle, working with suppliers to minimise contamination, and encourage responsible downstream treatment

Encourage 'redesign'

- Substitute plastic items for reusable or recyclable alternatives, where this makes sense
- Switch to more sustainable plastic items (e.g., more durable, fewer resources)
- Encourage the use of recycled materials within the products we buy to create demand for secondary plastics

Share and collaborate

- Encourage staff to adopt behaviours that limit the impacts of plastic, both at work and at home
- Collaborate with key suppliers to minimise plastic pollution.
- Share our knowledge through our external networks to accelerate change

Implementation

We will review this again for relevance and effectiveness at a later date and make improvements, as necessary. It is accessible to our staff by the 'K' Drive and to other interested parties via our website.