



PRESS RELEASE

THE REFILL REVOLUTION GAINS PACE #OneLess and the Mayor of London announce new drinking water fountains across London in the fight against ocean plastic

Today (28 August 2018) the Mayor of London, the #OneLess campaign and MIW Water Cooler Experts announce the installation of three new public drinking water fountains; two in one of the country's busiest train stations, Liverpool Street, and one in Heart of Valentines Park in Redbridge. These fountains will form part of a network of initially 20 fountains, which are being installed across London over the coming weeks, with further plans to install more before the end of the year. With this summer being one of the hottest on record, these new public fountains will make it easier for Londoners to keep hydrated on the go without using single-use plastic water bottles, which could end up in the River Thames or our ocean.

The 20 fountains will go to sites through the [London Drinking Fountain Fund, which was set up by #OneLess earlier this year](#). The sites are a mixture of busy shopping areas, business districts, universities, public visitor attractions, transport hubs, community spaces and public parks. They range from iconic, high footfall areas such as Windrush Square Brixton, the Natural History Museum, and the Horniman Museum and Gardens; to local community areas, such as Camberwell Green, North Acton Station Square, Bexleyheath Town Centre, and Paddington Recreation Ground.

A report released in April 2018 by Keep Britain Tidy and BRITA¹ found that 78% of people in the UK would like there to be greater availability of free tap water. This definitely rings true in London - the [#OneLess Drinking Fountain Fund](#) received an unexpected number of bids from properties and landowners to take part in the initiative.

“We were taken aback by the number of applications we received to install drinking fountains across London. There is definitely huge appetite in London to stop using single-use plastic and establish a new culture of refilling,” said **Dr Heather Koldewey, Director of the #OneLess campaign and Head of Marine and Freshwater at ZSL (Zoological Society of London)**. “We are delighted to be working with the Mayor of London on this exciting initiative to reduce

¹ See full report

<http://www.keepbritaintidy.org/sites/default/files/resources/Water%20Water%20Everywhere%202018%20Report%20WEB.pdf>

the plastic blight on the ocean and firmly establish London as a city that no longer uses plastic bottled water.”

The Mayor of London, Sadiq Khan, said: “Water fountains are a simple but effective way to encourage people to ditch daily ‘pointless’ plastic bottles and instead refill reusable bottles. With the hot weather we’ve seen this summer, the demand is greater than ever for quick and easy ways of accessing free drinking water and I’m pleased to confirm the locations for the first of our 20 new public water fountains. Some of these are already attracting thousands of visitors a day and we are working on plans to secure many more across London.”

All drinking fountains in the initiative will be supplied by MIW Water Cooler Experts, a #OneLess champion and partner of the London Drinking Fountain Fund. **Mike Winter, CEO of MIW Water Cooler Experts** said, “It’s great to see London lead the way in reinstating a public supply of drinking water. Modern refill stations have come a long way from the Victorian fountains that used to fill the city. They’re now robust, hygienic and easy to maintain and there’s no reason why more cities shouldn’t follow London’s example to help people stay refreshed on the go without damaging the planet.”

The first of the new fountains was installed in Kingly Court, Carnaby back in March 2018, in collaboration with property owner Shaftesbury. Since the first week of June, when a water meter was fitted, almost 15,000 500ml bottles have been refilled from just this one unit. #OneLess and the Mayor of London worked with Network Rail to install two fountains in Liverpool Street station earlier this month, which between them have already dispensed 8,000 litres of drinking water, the equivalent of 16,000 water bottles. A further fountain followed last week in Heart of Valentines Park, Redbridge, and at least 16 more will now follow across the capital, accelerating London’s transformation from a city that currently gets through one billion plastic bottles of water a year, to a city where ‘refilling’ rules.

Meliha Duymaz, Network Rail’s route managing director for Anglia, said: “I’m very excited about the benefits the water fountain will bring. Millions of people use Liverpool Street station every day and this free service will make a difference to them and the environment by reducing single-use plastics.”

Leader of Redbridge Council, Councillor Jas Athwal, said: “As part of being a greener borough and a better place to live, we are committed to bringing water fountains and bottle refill points into operation across our borough. Providing simple ways of refilling and accessing free water not only cuts down on plastic bottle usage but helps people stay healthy and hydrated. We are delighted to be partnering with the Mayor of London and #OneLess London Drinking Fountain Fund on this new drinking water facility, which I hope will be a popular addition to Valentines Park.”

The London Drinking Fountain Fund is just one of many projects pioneered by the #OneLess campaign. The group is also working with a growing number of organisations, venues and events to go #OneLess and eradicate single-use plastic water bottles from their premises. To learn how you can get involved visit www.onelessbottle.org or to find out if there will be a fountain installed near you, follow @OneLessBTL #OneLess on Twitter.

– ENDS –

NOTES TO EDITORS

Interviews and further images available on request.

Back in March of this year, #OneLess, the Mayor of London, and MIW Water Cooler Experts launched the London Drinking Fountain Fund to improve public access to drinking water and make it easy for Londoners to refill. They called on land and site owners across London to bid for a drinking water fountain. Bids were assessed by the #OneLess campaign, which is led by ZSL (the Zoological Society of London), with a view to making free water refills available to as many Londoners as possible.

The London Drinking Fountain Fund has been established by #OneLess, the Mayor of London and MIW Water Cooler Experts, with the aim to reduce the amount of single-use plastic bottles used in London as part of the fight against ocean plastic pollution. Funding has been provided by MIW Water Cooler Experts and the Mayor of London.

The average London adult currently gets through 175 single-use plastic water bottles every single year; adding up to one billion at the city-level.

With capital from the London Drinking Fountain Fund, #OneLess and the Mayor of London are installing an initial network of drinking fountains and bottle refill stations across London. They want to make it easier for Londoners to refill on the go and ditch single-use plastic water bottles. The initial 20 fountains will be monitored by #OneLess, providing useful information which will influence the wider roll out of drinking fountains across London.

#OneLess

The #OneLess campaign has been leading the charge against ocean plastic pollution since 2016, focusing on the pervasive single-use plastic water bottle. #OneLess is creating a 'refill revolution' in London, transforming the capital into a place where single-use bottled water is a thing of the past and where 'refilling' rules.

#OneLess is led by the Zoological Society of London, in partnership with Forum for the Future, The International Programme on the State of the Ocean, and the Thames Estuary Partnership and is working with a series of major London attractions, including London Zoo, major sporting venues, landowners, such as Broadgate Estates, and businesses, to find and implement solutions to enable a refill culture. For more information visit www.onelessbottle.org

ZSL (Zoological Society of London)

Founded in 1826, ZSL (Zoological Society of London) is an international scientific, conservation and educational charity whose mission is to promote and achieve the worldwide conservation of animals and their habitats. Our mission is realised through our ground-breaking science, our active conservation projects in more than 50 countries and our two Zoos, ZSL London Zoo and ZSL Whipsnade Zoo. For more information visit www.zsl.org.

About MIW Water Cooler Experts

MIW Water Cooler Experts is one of the largest independent suppliers of water coolers in the UK. Formed in 1989, MIW now supplies over 7,000 schools and businesses nationwide with high quality water coolers and drinking fountains. For more than quarter of a century MIW has been developing and building innovative, high quality water coolers and drinking fountains. MIW also partners many of the UK's leading architects & construction companies in providing drinking fountains for their clients. www.miw.co.uk

Fountain sites

The first 20 fountain sites are indicated in the list below (* indicates those already installed). A further 17 sites are also currently being explored by #OneLess and the Mayor of London.

Site	Organisation name
Kingly Court, Carnaby*	Shaftesbury
Liverpool Street Station #1*	Network Rail
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Heart of Valentines Park, Redbridge*	Vision – Redbridge, Culture & Leisure
Camberwell Green	Southwark Council
Swiss Cottage Open Space	London Borough of Camden
North Acton Station Square	London Borough of Ealing
Windrush Square, Brixton	Lambeth Council
Ladywell fields	London Borough of Lewisham
Beckhenham Place Park	London Borough of Lewisham
Horniman Museum and Gardens	Horniman Museum and Gardens
Paddington Recreation Ground	Everyone Active - Paddington Recreation Ground
Acton park, near the new skate park	Ealing Council
Guy's Hospital	Guy's and St Thomas' NHS Foundation Trust
St Thomas' Hospital	Guy's and St Thomas' NHS Foundation Trust

Bexleyheath Town Centre	London Borough of Bexley
Nisbett Walk, Sidcup Town Centre	Sidcup Partners (BID)
The Natural History Museum	The Natural History Museum
South St Alban's Street, St James	Crown Estate
The London School of Economics and Political Science	London School of Economics and Political Science