



# Sotheby's

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Sotheby's EST. 1744



## At a glance

Sotheby's is an international auction house specialising in the sale of fine and decorative art, jewellery, watches, wine and other collectibles. Their UK galleries are situated in Mayfair, London. The company stopped selling single-use water bottles in 2015.

[sothebys.com/en](http://sothebys.com/en)

## Eliminated single-use water bottles

Sotheby's removed single-use water bottles from its staff canteen and public restaurant and replaced them with glass water bottles, and in the venue's coffee bar, single-use water bottles were replaced with aluminium cans.

## Removing single-use plastic cups

Sotheby's has also stopped providing plastic cups at drinking fountains, and in its canteen, restaurant and coffee bar – previously using **133,500** cups a year at drinking fountains alone. These single-use plastic cups have been replaced with Vegware products, a compostable alternative.

133,500 plastic cups a year removed from Sotheby's canteen, restaurant and coffee bar



## Incentivising refilling

There are **39** drinking fountains across the organisation, including two in front of house spaces. Members of staff receive a discount at Sotheby's catering outlets if they use a reusable coffee cup. Staff also have an option to purchase a refillable bottle in the canteen, where **100** bottles have already been sold. Any reusable coffee cups sold provides a small donation to Mind, and any refillable bottles sold provides a small donation to the #OneLess campaign.

39 drinking fountains within the Sotheby's UK branch



100 refillable bottles sold in the staff canteen



“We have not received any concerns or negative comments on Sotheby's switch away from plastic bottled water. People ask us the opposite thing now – asking what further steps we are taking on plastic.”

## Key opportunity



Sotheby's contract for plastic cups was due for renewal, which enabled exploring a Vegware alternative with the contractor. The contractor already had lots of ideas on alternatives to single-use plastic because they were also exploring options with other clients.

## What's next

Sotheby's is exploring extending the ban on plastic bottled water to juice and fizzy drinks bottles, and is currently discussing alternatives with their catering company

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