



Eden Caterers

*Joined the #OneLess pioneer network in Oct 2016



At a glance

Eden Caterers is a London catering company that supplies a host of clients across London, including the BBC, Lloyds Bank and Coca Cola. The company is based near Waterloo and employs 100+ staff members.

edencaterers.london

Switch to biodegradable film wrap

Eden has switched to using PLA (Polylactic Acid) film wrap to cover food platters – a biodegradable plastic rather than the standard PET plastic film – after five months of persuading their supplier to make the alternative product. The PLA film wrap performs just as well as the original. Catering for over **2,500** meetings and events annually, this will reduce PET plastic use by over **1,000kg** annually.

Eliminated **10,000** single-use plastic water bottles a year (and 17,500 to date, as of September 2019)

10,000
A YEAR

Eliminated single-use plastic water bottles

In 2010 Eden trialled switching from disposable to refillable water bottles, but after a low return rate from clients, the company reverted back to plastic bottles. In 2018 the decision was made to use glass bottles instead of plastic.

This has removed **10,000** single-use water bottles a year (an average of over **800** a month) and **17,500** bottles so far, as of end September 2019.

800
A MONTH

Eliminated **800** single-use water bottles a month

Other single-use plastic interventions

Eden has used black plastic platters as a part of their "basic" service offer for many years. In early 2019 this was replaced by fully compostable palm leaf platters made in India. This change has reduced single-use plastic usage by over **2,000kg** per annum.

Reduced single-use plastic packaging for platters by over **2,000 kg** a year

2,000kg

“ We have to generate in everyone a sense of environmental irresponsibility when using single use plastic. We hedged around for too long on the issue of the one litre single-use plastic bottle and now, having made the change, we have to ask ourselves, what was all the fuss about?

Just do it! ”

Key challenge



The significant increase in bottle weight of glass compared to plastic presented a challenge to delivery staff, who lift and transport orders to a number of clients within Central London each day. However, colleagues across the company backed the change. Eden liaised a lot with their drivers and kitchen team during the transition, who all felt the change – a reduced plastic footprint – was worth it.

What's next

Eden has now virtually eliminated all single-use plastic from their goods outwards. The goods inwards stream is another story. They buy over 450 different food and disposable items of which over 350 have plastic in their packaging. Eden are now targeting to reduce this by whatever means possible over the next year, with the ambition of changing material used by some manufacturers.

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