



2017 general election manifesto ask from the #OneLess movement

Supported by the following organisations:

1. Calouste Gulbenkian Foundation - UK
2. Forum for the Future
3. Marine Conservation Society
4. Surfers Against Sewage
5. Thames Estuary Partnership
6. Zoological Society of London

Because everything we do touches the ocean

Commit to taking action to reduce the amount of single-use plastic water bottles used in the UK, in order to reduce waste and to combat marine plastic pollution.

Commit to improving public access to drinking water, by scaling up drinking water infrastructure in public spaces such as parks and transport networks, and by implementing changes at the policy and planning level that encourage innovation around access to drinking water in the public realm, across new developments and in regeneration projects.

Commit to implementing Deposit Return Schemes for other single-use plastic bottled non-water beverages.

Explanatory paragraph

Significantly reducing our use of single-use plastic water bottles presents a major opportunity, both in London, and across the UK to combat disposable plastic waste and marine litter. It will not only reduce the amount of unnecessary plastic in the system, but will create a culture of public access to healthy drinking water. It is one of the simplest and most achievable actions we can take immediately to combat plastic in our ocean.

Ocean plastic pollution poses a serious threat to marine biodiversity.¹ It is a burgeoning global issue driven by the exponential increase in demand and subsequent production of plastics. Plastic drink bottles are highly prevalent in the marine environment.²

It is estimated that UK households currently use over 13 billion plastic drink bottles a year.³ Recent OnePoll research carried out on behalf of BRITA found that UK adults used nearly 7.7 billion single-use plastic **water** bottles in 2016.⁴

Currently just over 55% of plastic drink bottles in UK household waste streams are collected for recycling;⁵ the rest go to landfill, incinerators, or can end up as litter.⁶

UK tap water is extremely good quality, and is subject to continuous monitoring and stringent tests.⁷

About the submitters

The **#OneLess**⁸ campaign, launched in June 2016, and led by partners in the **Marine CoLABoration**,⁹ is reducing ocean plastic pollution by reducing the use of single-use plastic water bottles in London and by championing and enabling a refillable drinking water culture. London is linked to the ocean by the River Thames, and the daily actions that citizens take in London impact upon the ocean. The #OneLess vision is a city where using a refillable water vessel – rather than single-use plastic water bottles - is the social norm and where there are the systems in place across the city to support this behaviour.

¹ Derraik, D (2002). The pollution of the marine environment by plastic debris: a review. *Marine Pollution Bulletin*, 44: 842-852; and Boerger, C.M. et al. (2010) 'Plastic ingestion by planktivorous fishes in the North Pacific Central Gyre' *Marine Plastic Pollution* 60: 2275-2278

² The Ocean Conservancy (2016). 2016 Ocean trash index. <http://www.oceanconservancy.org/our-work/international-coastal-cleanup/2016-ocean-trash-index.html>;

Marine Conservation Society (2016). Great British Beach Clean 2016 Report.

[http://www.mcsuk.org/what we do/Clean+seas+and+beaches/Beachwatch/Great+British+Beach+Clean+results+2016](http://www.mcsuk.org/what_we_do/Clean+seas+and+beaches/Beachwatch/Great+British+Beach+Clean+results+2016);

Nelms, SE et al (2017). Marine anthropogenic litter on British beaches: a 10-year nationwide assessment using citizen science data. *Science of The Total Environment*, 579, 1399-1409;

Thames21 (January 2017) Litter monitoring results. <http://www.thames21.org.uk/thames-river-watch-litter/>;
<http://www.thames21.org.uk/thames-river-watch-litter/>;

³ RECOUP UK (2016). Household plastic collection survey. <http://www.recoup.org/p/229/2015-uk-household-plastics-collection-survey>

⁴ OnePoll research on behalf of BRITA (2016). Accessed via Marine Conservation Society: <https://www.mcsuk.org/press/view/685>

⁵ RECOUP UK (2016). Household plastic collection survey. <http://www.recoup.org/p/229/2015-uk-household-plastics-collection-survey>

⁶ Nelms, SE et al (2017). Marine anthropogenic litter on British beaches: a 10-year nationwide assessment using citizen science data. *Science of The Total Environment*, 579, 1399-1409.

⁷ UK Government Legislation (2016). Water supply (water Quality) regulations (2016).

<http://www.legislation.gov.uk/uksi/2016/614/contents/made>

⁸ The #OneLess campaign (<https://www.zsl.org/one-less>) is supported by the [Calouste Gulbenkian Foundation](#) and the [Oak Foundation](#), and is being implemented by the Zoological Society of London (ZSL) and the Thames Estuary Partnership (TEP) as part of a coalition of organisations, known as the Marine CoLABoration

⁹ Members of the [Marine CoLABoration](#) include: [ClientEarth](#), [Comms Inc](#), [Fauna and Flora International](#), [Forum for the Future](#), [Institute for European Environmental Policy](#), [Marine Conservation Society](#), [NEF](#), [Thames Estuary Partnership](#), [Zoological Society of London](#).