



England to Ban More Single-Use Plastic Items

Description



In an attempt to deal with the growing plastic waste problem in the UK and the planet, the UK government is set to ban additional single-use plastic items like plates and cutlery in England, after banning straws, stirrers and cotton swabs there in 2020. From November of last year to February of 2022, a public consultation regarding a plan to prohibit the supply of single-use plastic items and

polystyrene food and drink containers was held by the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (DEFRA), reported The Independent. “We are determined to go further and faster to reduce, reuse, and recycle more of our resources in order to transform our waste industry and deliver on our commitments in the ambitious 25-year environment plan. Cutting our reliance on single-use plastics is crucial,” said a spokesperson for DEFRA, as The Guardian reported. Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs Thérèse Coffey will announce plans to replace the single-use plastic items with biodegradable alternatives, reported the Financial Times. Scotland imposed a similar ban earlier this year, and last week Wales approved a ban on single-use plastic products beginning in 2023. Every year, 4.25 billion single-use cutlery items and 1.1 billion plates are used in England, which is equal to 75 pieces of cutlery and 20 plates per person, the government said, but only 10 percent of it gets recycled, CNN reported. Most plastics are made from fossil fuels and produce greenhouse gas emissions, which speed up the rate of climate change. All of the single-use plastic products have reusable or non-plastic alternatives, Welsh Minister for Climate Change Julie James told the Financial Times. “It’s not a lot more expensive at all, and as people realise how harmful these products are, more alternatives will come on stream at a cheaper price,” James said, as reported by the Financial Times. DEFRA is also looking at how to deal with other single-use plastic items like tobacco filters and wet wipes.

Read the full article at: www.ecowatch.com

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Author

thecirculareconomyteam

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