



## **ZeroPlastic Initiative: Policies and Practices within the Industry**

### **a. Background**

The country has been listed as one of the highly polluted countries in the world, primarily due to excessive usage of plastic and single-use plastic items. Sri Lankans use an average of 20 million grocery bags, 15 million lunch sheets, and 10 million PET bottles per day, most of which end up in landfills. According to a survey conducted by CEJ (Center for Environmental Justice), only 5%-9% of plastics are recycled, and the rest is disposed of in landfills or incinerators. There is a high demand for corporations to reduce their plastic usage and carbon footprint, especially in the IT/BPO sector serving foreign markets, which can gain a competitive advantage by integrating sustainability into their roadmaps. The Zero Plastic Policy is designed to facilitate this transition and make your job easier.

### **b. Commitments**

- Continuously evaluate and adopt solutions – including technology – that minimise your plastic impacts, wherever possible
- Reduce the amount of plastic use, especially single-use items where better solutions are available, and reuse plastic products wherever feasible
- Educate people on the impacts of plastic waste and encourage them to adopt best practice behaviours to support your goals

### **c. Scope**

This policy will be applicable across,

- Corporate and Regional offices
- Training events
- Board meetings
- Partner events

### **d. Actions**

- Identify and eliminate unnecessary in-bound and in-office plastic materials
- Trial and adopt the best available solutions for consumable products in offices (i.e. coffee cups, milk containers, stirrers)
- Stop in use of ketchup sachet, plastic bags, plastic straw & other single use plastic items in the workplace.
- Require all our suppliers and contractors to minimise the use of single-use plastics in their service provision and find sustainable alternatives (where practicable)

- Where the use of SUPs is unavoidable, Require suppliers and contractors to use biodegradable and/or recyclable plastics until a sustainable alternative is available, supported by the correct collection and disposal methods.
- Require all catering contractors to eliminate SUP take away containers and cutlery
- Require all event organisers to eliminate single-use plastics across all type of corporate events
- Contracts with waste handlers include requests on amounts and types of waste, including plastic and disposal methods used.
- Waste, including plastic waste, generated from operations is reported on a quarterly basis in Organization sustainability reporting

**e. Things to consider**

When developing your own single-use plastics policy and programmes, we would recommend that you:

1. Identify your current use of single-use plastics in your Organization (e.g. use in catering, offices, Events )
2. Identify and develop alternatives to current products (e.g. providing reusable water bottles instead of cups, reusing existing supplies of poly-pockets)
3. Implement the changes (e.g. removing single-use plastic products from operations , establishing a timeline for the eradication of single-use plastics from the Organization )

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