

PRESS RELEASE
NATIONAL REFILL SCHEME DAY 19TH JUNE 2019
PEOPLE OF SEVENOAKS URGED TO SHOW THEY'VE
#GOT THE BOTTLE
TO PREVENT PLASTIC POLLUTION



Sevenoaks Town Council now has over 15 Refill Stations. You can now refill your water bottles at the following locations:

Sevenoaks Wildlife Reserve, Cafe on the Vine, Cafe at Bat & Ball Station, Rafferty's, Eat'n'Mess, Malabar, The Stag Theatre, The Cafe and Sandwich Bar, Sevenoaks District Council, Bill's, Costa Coffee, Hollybush Cafe, Liquor Box & Pantry, The Royal Oak New Ash Green, The White Horse – Sundridge and The Chequers Inn - Heaverham

Greggs, Pret and Sweaty Betty are the latest chains to sign up to provide free drinking water for all - taking the total number of Refill stations nationally to more than 20,000. It is estimated that the Refill campaign will have stopped over 100 million single-use bottles from becoming waste by the end of 2019

As part of the award-winning Refill campaign, the UK public are being urged take part in National Refill Day on June 19th, in a bid to prevent plastic pollution caused by single-use plastic water bottles. The goal of National Refill Day is to normalise refilling and make sure everyone, everywhere knows how easy it is to find free drinking water on the go.

Residents of Sevenoaks are being asked to join in by switching from a single-use plastic bottle to a reusable bottle, downloading the free Refill app and sharing their commitment on social media by telling the world they've #GotTheBottle to prevent plastic pollution.

On Wednesday 19th June here in Sevenoaks, our Refill Scheme is asking for people to get onboard by signing up their business and doing their bit to make a difference to our environment.

In a survey commissioned by City to Sea, 85% of the public said they are worried about the impact of plastic pollution in the environment. However, despite the public wanting to take action on plastic pollution, sales of bottled water continue to grow.

According to the Environmental Audit Committee consumption of bottled water has doubled over the last 15 years, with over 7 billion plastic water bottles used each year in the UK^[1]. Sadly, many of these end up in our environment with a predicted 700,000 plastic bottles littered every single day in the UK^[2].

The Refill campaign, which was set up by not-for-profit City to Sea, works by connecting people who are looking for water, with thousands of local business, transport hubs and public spaces where they can refill for free via a location-based app. The number of Refill points listed on the app in the UK has just passed 20,000, including train stations, airports and high street chains like Starbucks, Costa and Wetherspoons. As part of the activity for National Refill Day it's been revealed that Greggs, Sweaty Betty and Park Dean Holiday Resorts have recently pledged their support and are now listed on the free Refill app.

Natalie Fee, founder of City to Sea, the organisation behind the Refill campaign, said: *"It's been incredible to watch the Refill campaign flourish over the past few years. National Refill Day is something that everyone can get onboard with and has the potential to drastically reduce the amount of unnecessary single-use plastic we use when we're out and about. People want to help prevent plastic pollution, and Refill puts the power to do that in their hands."*

So come on Sevenoaks lets do our bit to help the environment!

Any businesses that wish to sign up to the scheme need only to email their details to admin.tp@sevenoakstown.gov.uk

Bonnie Tarling
Committee Clerk
19.06.2019

Notes to editors

About Refill

Refill is an award-winning campaign to prevent plastic pollution at source by making it easier to reuse and refill your water bottle on the go than to buy a single-use plastic bottle. The campaign works by connecting people who are looking for water, with thousands of local business, transport hubs and public spaces where they can refill for free via a location-based app.

The app has been downloaded more than 120,000 times and there are now over 20,000 Refill Stations in the UK including Pret, Starbucks, Costa, Greggs, Wetherspoons, Premier Inn, John Lewis, Morrisons, Network Rail and Heathrow.

It is estimated that the Refill campaign will have saved over 100 million single-use bottles from entering our waste stream by the end of 2019. <https://refill.org.uk/>

Follow us:

- <https://twitter.com/Refill>
- <https://www.instagram.com/refillhq/>
- <https://www.facebook.com/RefillHQ/>

Refill is a City to Sea campaign. City to Sea are an award-winning not for profit, campaigning to prevent plastic pollution. The organisation was founded by environmental campaigner, Natalie Fee in 2015.

Natalie Fee is an environmental campaigner revolutionising the way we think about plastic pollution. She was is one of Nesta's 50 New Radicals

<https://www.nesta.org.uk/feature/new-radicals-2018/natalie-fee/> and will be releasing a new book 'How to Save the World for Free' in October 2019.

About National Refill Day

National Refill Day launched for the first time in 2018 to encourage people to switch from single-use plastic water bottles to a reusable bottle and to refill on the go using the free Refill app. Last year the campaign reached over 33 million with support from DEFRA, The NHS, The Mayor of London and hundreds of brands and partners. <https://refill.org.uk/national-refill-day/>

About Water UK

Water UK is the trade body representing all of the major water and wastewater companies in the UK. Our members provide drinking water to nearly 64 million people every day. The water industry has set out ambitious plans to prevent the equivalent of 4 billion plastic bottles ending up as waste as well as improving 8,000 km of rivers and waterways over the next few years.

As part of the Refill campaign, every water company in England aims to ensure people can refill their water bottles in every major town and city across the UK by 2021. The partnership could save a billion bottles by 2025 with Refill Stations on every high street across the UK.

Michael Roberts, Chief Executive of Water UK, said: *“The water industry is committed to playing its part in reducing the plastic waste which clogs up our drains and blights our rivers and beaches. National Refill Day is an essential part of this commitment and is a great opportunity for people to get involved in the battle against single use plastic. This country enjoys some of the best drinking water in the world, and we’ve made it easier than ever for people to make the pledge on National Refill Day to switch to a reusable bottle and fill up for free on the go.”*

Chilly’s Bottles

City to Sea have partnered with Chilly's Bottles, a leading reusable bottle brand who have created the beautiful, co-branded Refill x Chilly's Bottles – donating £10 from every bottle sold to help fund City to Sea’s Refill campaign. James Butterfield CEO of Chilly’s says: *“Here at Chilly’s, we believe strongly in the switch from single-use plastic to reusable products. But for this switch to be sustained and accessible for all, the ability to access water easily and quickly is vital. National Refill Day is an incredible opportunity to celebrate this incredible network of ever-growing Refill stations: To raise awareness of reusable products... and the water that goes in them!”*

Buy the bottle here

<https://www.chillysbottles.com/product/Bottle/500ml/20585959784518/>

References:

- [1] RECOUP (REcycling of Used Plastics Limited) cited in: House of Commons, ‘Plastic bottles: Turning Back the Plastic Tide’ – Source: <https://publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm201719/cmselect/cmenvaud/339/33905.htm>
- [2] Keep Britain Tidy (PKG0084A) cited in: House of Commons, ‘Plastic bottles: Turning Back the Plastic Tide’ – Source: <https://publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm201719/cmselect/cmenvaud/339/33905.htm>
- [3] Eunomia Research & Consulting Ltd (PKG0086A) cited in: House of Commons, ‘Plastic bottles: Turning Back the Plastic Tide’ – Source: <https://publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm201719/cmselect/cmenvaud/339/33905.htm>