

<b>Project name/title</b>	Thirst-quenching free refill scheme along our Boroughs shorelines!
<b>Project contact</b>	Joanna Pusz – Environmental Management and Sustainability Officer
<b>Project Summary</b>	Installation of 8 x Outdoor Contactless Water Refill Stations in our Loughshore areas Antrim and Jordanstown to reduce the amount of waste reaching our waters
<b>Aims/objectives of project</b>	<p>Our objectives with this project is to reduce single use plastic entering our shorelines.</p> <p>We have installed 8 Contactless Water Refill Stations that provide free filtered drinking water, they are activated by a sensor meaning no contact is required making them Covid safe. We have also purchased 2 portable Contactless Water Refill Stations, which will enable the Council to relocate the water stations to any event throughout the Borough. We will run sustainable events by actively encouraging the public to bring their reusable bottles to events and provide water stations in order for them to refill instead of purchasing single use plastics and throwing them away.</p> <p>The water stations have inbuilt meter readers detailing usage, this calculates how many single use plastic bottles worth are refilled simply by people making a small change. Our aim is to create a behavioural change encouraging the public to bring their own reusable water bottle with the knowledge there are facilities in place when out and about to refill for free. This will dramatically reduce the amount of single use plastic bottles purchased, therefore reducing waste</p>
<b>Funded by</b>	Funded by Marine Litter Capital Grant in partnership with Keep Northern Ireland Beautiful, Live Here Love Here and DAERA. Match funded by Antrim and Newtownabbey Borough Council.
<b>Cost – if any</b>	£34,904.11
<b>Cost savings</b>	Savings of approximately 65,000 single use plastic bottles per year.
<b>Increase in recycling or reduction targets if any</b>	We anticipate each contactless water refill station will save approximately 65,000 single use plastic bottles per water station per year going to landfill.
<b>Target audience</b>	Residents and visitors of all ages to our Borough.
<b>Successes</b>	Project launched March 2022 and already saved thousands of SUP bottles and has had a very positive response from the public refilling from our water stations.
<b>Challenges</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Engaging with the local takeaways, confirming their participation, and their packaging needs was challenging.</li> <li>The cardboard-based packaging to replace the polystyrene materials was difficult to source, although we did source some locally in the end.</li> <li>The added cost of the packaging materials is likely to be a prohibitive factor for the takeaways in deciding whether or not to adopt the materials long-term.</li> </ul>
<b>Any communications inhouse or external</b>	Press Release links: <a href="https://antrimandnewtownabbey.gov.uk/news/2023/march/water-refill-stations/">https://antrimandnewtownabbey.gov.uk/news/2023/march/water-refill-stations/</a>

(e.g. press releases, photos, social media, links to your organisations website)

<https://antrimandnewtownabbey.gov.uk/news/2022/boroughfirst-to-offer-free-water-refills-at-shore/>

<https://www.northernirelandworld.com/news/people/freewater-refills-available-at-newtownabbey-shorelines-3672470>

<https://www.niwater.com/news-detail/12106/NI-WatersRefillution-campaign-celebrates-its-4th-Birthday/>

<https://antrimandnewtownabbey.gov.uk/news/2022/april/borough-first-to-offer-free-water-refills-at-shore/>

<https://www.liveherelovehere.org/cgibin/generic?instanceID=83>

