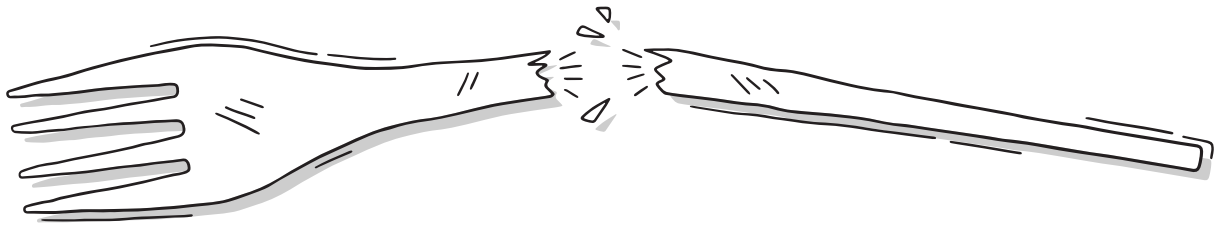


LEARN AT CHESTER ZOO



TWO MILLION fewer pieces of plastic: Chester Zoo reveals efforts to protect the environment in 2018

In 2018, we overhauled our supply chain and removed the vast majority of single-use plastic items from sale. We did so by finding **sustainable alternatives** and working closely with food and retail suppliers.

As a conservation and education charity, protecting the environment is among our founding principles. Our breeding programmes for endangered species are world renowned and we deliver 46 projects in 21 countries worldwide to prevent extinction in the wild.

The single-use plastics battle is just one of a wide-ranging list of additional environmental achievements for us in 2018. Food and beverage deliveries to our pre-existing restaurants were also reduced by more than 30% compared to last year, resulting in a 20% reduction in food miles, thanks to changes made by our catering managers.

In the retail shops, our zoo 'bags for life' and pens are now made from recycled plastic bottles, while sweets that were previously wrapped in plastic are now sold in compostable bags.

We also installed electric car charging pods in the visitor car parks as part of a long-standing Sustainable Travel Scheme, which already subsidises bus travel and offers 15% discount entry to the zoo for cyclists.

100% of the electrical energy used in the zoo is sourced from renewable sustainable sources, such as wind and solar power – whether from the national grid or from the zoo's own solar panels.

For the first time – and in a bid to inspire other organisations to follow suit – we've published this list of environmental achievements in 2018 within our 125 acre site.

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Dom Strange, Chester Zoo's Director of Operations, said:

"Lots of **small changes can make a BIG difference** to the planet. With around 1.9m visitors a year, water saving devices in our guest toilets and tweaks to the products in our restaurants and shops can have a huge impact.

We've been committed to this for a number of years now; **it's part of our DNA**.^{DNA} But we've never celebrated the achievements so publicly before by releasing the data. **We think it's important to talk about the issues.** We haven't yet eliminated 100% of single-use plastic from our supply chains because the alternatives are hard to find in some cases.

It can be a challenge to persuade suppliers to provide environmentally friendly products, but the more we talk about these issues, the more we can **find solutions** together as a nation."

The sustainability successes include features within new building designs. We've recently built a new canteen for our 900 staff and 200 volunteers, partly from recycled crushed brick and stone from demolished buildings. Rain landing on the roof of the new building is now collected for use in the nearby Plant Project, where we care for highly threatened plant species.

Up-cycled second hand furniture has also been used to furnish our new restaurant, The Oakfield, after a major renovation project transformed the grade II listed family home of the zoo's founder George Mottershead.

From water saving devices installed in visitor toilets to smart meters, energy efficient LED lighting and high efficiency boilers, we have invested heavily this year.

The achievements come on top of long-running, high-profile efforts by our amazing conservationists to support and promote sustainable palm oil, to protect rainforest habitats for threatened wildlife like orangutans. In 2019 the city of Chester became the world's first Sustainable Palm Oil City thanks to a major Chester Zoo led campaign.

PROTECTING THE ENVIRONMENT

Chester Zoo's mission is to "**Prevent Extinction**". One of the ways we are working to achieve this is by acting sustainably and encouraging others to do the same.

Round 1: What does it all mean? A definition challenge

For this challenge you'll need to work in small groups. You'll need a dictionary or computer to look up the words.

Here are five words which you might find in the text:

- sustainable
- food miles
- renewable
- up-cycled
- energy efficient

Write each word on a scrap piece of paper or mini whiteboard. Turn them upside down so you can't see them and muddle them up. Each person picks one word at random. Start a timer for 5 minutes. Everyone in the group now looks up their word and thinks of a way to explain it to the group.

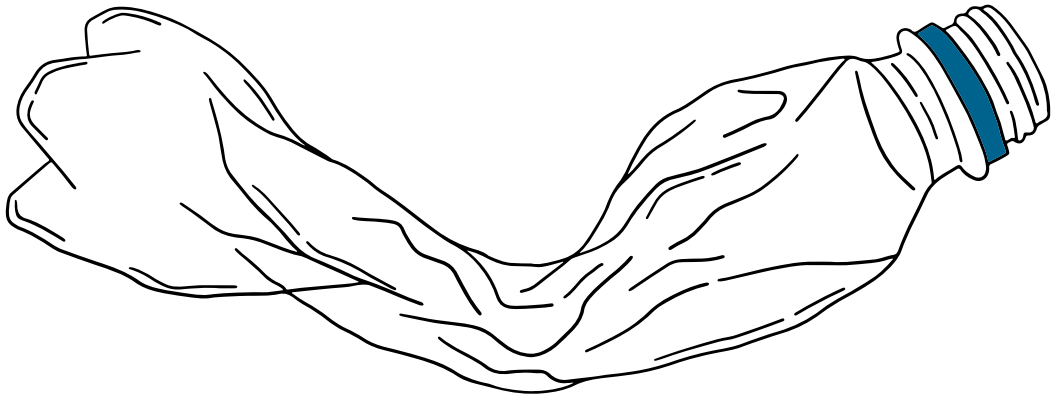
Once the time is up, everyone takes a turn to explain their word to the rest of the group.

Round 2: What does the zoo do?

Have a look at our progress towards becoming more sustainable in our resource "Protecting the Environment (Text)".

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Now have a go at these questions:

- 1 In 2018, how many pieces of plastic did Chester Zoo remove from sale?
- 2 How many conservation projects do Chester Zoo deliver to prevent extinction?
- 3 Can you name two products in Chester Zoo's shop that have been changed to be more sustainable?
- 4 What kinds of travel are encouraged by the Sustainable Travel Scheme?
- 5 A new canteen has been built recently. What recycled materials did we build it with?
- 6 When The Oakfield was furnished what type of furniture was used? Can you think why this would help the environment?
- 7 What title did the city of Chester achieve in 2019?
- 8 Which species and their rainforest habitat will be helped by sustainable palm oil?

Round 3: Over to you

Now that you know how Chester Zoo is working to be more sustainable, it is your turn to think of ways you can do the same! Have a go at answering the following questions.

- 1 We've set ourselves some targets to become more sustainable. Can you have a go at setting some targets for yourself or your class?
- 2 Name two ways you can be more sustainable.
- 3 Can you think of any questions you would like to ask Chester Zoo about sustainability?

PROTECTING THE ENVIRONMENT

Definitions for Round One

energy – efficient	using little electricity or gas
sustainable	causing little or no damage to the environment and therefore able to continue for a long time
food miles	the distance between the place where food is grown or made and the place where it is eaten
renewable	energy that is produced using the sun, wind, etc. rather than using fuels such as oil or coal which cannot be replaced
up-cycled	to make new furniture, objects, etc. out of old or used things or waste material

Answers for Round Two

- 1 Two million.
- 2 46
- 3 Bags for life and pens made from recycled plastic bottles. Sweets come in compostable bags instead.
- 4 Bus, cycling, electric cars.
- 5 Recycled crushed bricks and stones from old buildings were used to make the canteen.
- 6 Using second hand furniture means less waste, fewer emissions and less transport.
- 7 World's first Sustainable Palm Oil city.
- 8 Orangutan.

