

Thirst-quenching free refill scheme along our Boroughs shorelines!

Project name/title	Thirst-quenching free refill scheme along our Boroughs shorelines!
Project contact	Joanna Pusz – Environmental Management and Sustainability Officer
Project Summary	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
Aims/objectives of project	<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.</p> <p>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>
Funded by	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.
Cost – if any	£34,904.11
Cost savings through supply of alternative products/landfill savings	Savings of approximately 65,000 single use plastic bottles per year.
Increase in recycling or reduction targets if any	We anticipate each contactless water refill station will save approximately 65,000 single use plastic bottles per water station per year going to landfill.
Target audience	Residents and visitors of all ages to our Borough.

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Successes	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.
Areas for improvement	None identified
Any communications inhouse or external (e.g. press releases, photos, social media, links to your organisations website)	Press Release links: https://antrimandnewtownabbey.gov.uk/news/2023/march/water-refill-stations/ https://antrimandnewtownabbey.gov.uk/news/2022/borough-first-to-offer-free-water-refills-at-shore/ https://www.northernirelandworld.com/news/people/free-water-refills-available-at-newtownabbey-shorelines-3672470 https://www.niwater.com/news-detail/12106/NI-Waters-Refillution-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/cgi-bin/generic?instanceID=83

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Press photo - LHLH Coordinator Lynda Surgenor, DAERA Yvonne Leslie, EMS and Sustainability Officer at ANBC Joanna Pusz, DAERA Ruth Clarke and the Mayor of Antrim and Newtownabbey, Alderman Stephen Ross.

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Contactless Water Refill Station at Mossley Mill