

JOIN PENRITH'S NEW REFILL SCHEME!

Penrith is the latest UK town to have a Refill scheme. It's part of efforts to reduce single-use plastic in Eden, and you're invited to join!

WHAT IS THE REFILL SCHEME?

It's where shops, cafes and other places agree to give people a free refill of tap water if they come in with a water bottle. It's a national scheme, started by City to Sea in Bristol.

The aim is to reduce demand for single-use plastic bottles in our area, which will hopefully cut down on litter, and stop discarded plastic getting into our rivers, lakes and oceans. It also encourages people to think about other plastic packaging they use, and how they can reduce that, too.

WHAT'S INVOLVED?

All you have to do is put a Refill sign in your window, which we'll provide for you, and then fill up people's water bottles when they come in and ask. That's it!

HOW MUCH DOES IT COST TO BE IN THE SCHEME?

It's free to join. As for the tap water you'll give away, a litre of water from United Utilities costs less than 1p*. So, if you had one person a week coming in with a typical half-litre water bottle, for example, it would cost you 26p a year. For comparison, flushing an efficient toilet uses about 6 litres of water.

* www.unitedutilities.com/faq/bills-payments/what-does-a-litre-or-cubic-metre-of-water-cost

WHAT ARE THE BENEFITS FOR MY PREMISES?

You might attract new customers. You'll be on the national Refill app, so people looking for a refill will find you. Perhaps while they're in your premises they might buy something or find out more about your services.

You'll also show your community that you're helping to reduce single-use plastic and the damage its doing to our local environment as well as globally.

DOES MY TAP WATER HAVE TO BE TESTED BEFORE I CAN JOIN THE SCHEME?

The Refill scheme is intended for premises able to offer mains tap water, and the quality of your tap water is assured by United Utilities.

WHAT'S THE PROBLEM WITH PLASTIC BOTTLES?

We use 13 billion plastic bottles every year in the UK.

1. A lot of plastic bottles end up as litter, and many make their way into the oceans. They break up into smaller and smaller fragments and marine creatures eat them. Now, one in every four fish has plastic in its flesh, so we're eating plastic, too.
2. Nearly half of the plastic bottles we use don't get recycled. Five and a half billion of them end up in landfill, as litter, or incinerated. Some plastic bottles, especially coloured ones, aren't easy to recycle. We don't have the ability or capacity in the UK to recycle all the plastic we use.
3. Making all these plastic bottles uses a lot of energy, contributing to climate change. It takes 162g of oil and seven litres of water to make a one-litre disposable PET bottle, which amounts to the release of 100g of carbon dioxide (CO₂), a major greenhouse gas*.
(* See www.refill.org.uk/the-problem-with-plastic)

WHO'S RUNNING THE REFILL SCHEME IN PENRITH?

A local voluntary group called Penrith Action for Community Transition, thanks to some funding from Cumbria County Council.

HOW LONG WILL THE SCHEME LAST, AND CAN I LEAVE AT ANY TIME?

We hope the scheme will become a way of life in Penrith and a permanent part of tackling our over-reliance on single-use plastic. Indeed, the aim is to roll it out across the whole of Cumbria. Nonetheless, if you wish then you can leave the scheme at any time. Simply take down your sign and contact PACT so we can take you off the list.

HOW DO I JOIN?

Email info@penrithact.org.uk or phone 01768 88266. We'll take down a few contact details and then a PACT volunteer will drop in and give you a sign for your window. Just for now it will be a temporary one, and we'll shortly return with the official stickers from the national Refill scheme, which will look a bit like this >>>>

