Sodexo Nordics removes disposable plastics

Stockholm, February 04, 2019

The service company Sodexo has decided to phase out disposable plastics as an additional step towards a sustainable planet. During 2019 plastic bags and plastic stirrers will be eliminated, and by 2025 there will be no more plastic lids or plastic food containers.

We acknowledge that waste is one of our planet's biggest collective challenges. Through our Better Tomorrow 2025 corporate responsibility roadmap, we have committed to eliminating avoidable waste globally by 2025.

As one of the largest service and food supplier in the Nordics, serving consumers in universities, workplaces, hospitals, schools, and so many other venues, we understand both the potential impact we can make by a commitment to reduction and the real benefit that some of these products bring to people every day. We believe there is tremendous room for reducing waste without having a single person who uses our services feel like they are being excluded.

Here are the specifics of what Sodexo have committed to:

- Eliminate disposable plastic cups, plastic take out bags and plastic stirrers by the end of 2019.
- Eliminate plastic lids and plastic food containers by 2025.
- Reduce plastic straw use by adopting a ‘by request’ policy and shift plastic straws to more sustainable materials unless plastic is required for accessibility by 2019.
- When plastic needs to be used we will always use plastic that is possible to recycle.
- Continue to seek innovative practices and products to reduce or eliminate other single use plastics.

Given our expertise in ensuring quality of life services in cleaning, for people with disabilities, patients in hospitals, seniors, and people with food allergies, we are applying a targeted approach that will avoid the unintended consequences that could accompany full-scale elimination. Perhaps most importantly, we are continuing to work with supply partners on innovative and more sustainable product packaging for all customer facing retail products.

"As a major actor in the food sector we have a responsibility to take initiatives in order to increase the pace and find sustainable solutions. Removal of disposable plastics is one of the steps. Hopefully, ours and other actors’ initiatives will lead to decreased mechanistic use of
disposable plastics and that new alternatives are developed”, says Per Liljedahl, Quality, Health, Safety & Environment Director Sodexo Nordics.

This Disposable Plastics Commitment is merely one step in our effort to reduce environmental impact, as we continue to research and introduce new innovations such as reusable materials, bioplastics, and organic materials in our effort to eliminate fossil based material.

About Sodexo

Founded in Marseille in 1966 by Pierre Bellon, Sodexo is the global leader in services that improve Quality of Life, an essential factor in individual and organizational performance. Operating in 72 countries, Sodexo serves 100 million consumers each day through its unique combination of On-site Services, Benefits and Rewards Services and Personal and Home Services. Through its more than 100 services, Sodexo provides clients an integrated offering developed over 50 years of experience: from foodservices, reception, maintenance and cleaning, to facilities and equipment management; from services and programs fostering employees’ engagement to solutions that simplify and optimize their mobility and expenses management to in-home assistance, child care centers and concierge services. Sodexo’s success and performance are founded on its independence, its sustainable business model and its ability to continuously develop and engage its 460,000 employees throughout the world.

Sodexo is included in the CAC 40 and DJSI indices.

Key Figures (as of August 31, 2018)

Sodexo in the world

20.4 billion euro consolidated revenue
460 000 employees
19th largest employer worldwide
72 countries
100 million consumers served daily
13 billion euro market capitalization (as of November 7, 2018)

Sodexo in the Nordics

659 million EURO consolidated revenue
11 000 employees

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