

Plastic Waste - Understanding the Current “Circular Economy” Policies Framework

Business: Beach Guardian

Student: Molly Vautier

Course: 2nd Year Law and Business BSc

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Beach Guardian CIC, co-founded in 2018 by Rob and Emily Stevenson and based in Padstow, Cornwall, aims to “engage, educate and empower against plastic pollution” through community beach cleans and educational workshops with schools.



Image kindly provided by Beach Guardian

Project



- Beach Guardian identified a gap in their knowledge on the legislation on accountability and plastic waste.
- Molly wrote a research report on the current legislation and policies framework on plastic waste, summarising key policies on plastic waste, such as, the ban on single-use plastic items and the “Plastic Packaging” tax.
- However, she found this legislation does not apply to SMEs and micro-businesses, which make up 88% of the Cornish economy, so she suggested policies and

initiatives, in order to develop a circular economy action plan more tailored to SMEs and micro-businesses, as well as networking opportunities.

The Impact



Molly’s research report will enable Beach Guardian to raise awareness about plastic waste and incorporate the principles of circular economy into real-world action, informing both government and corporation-level practices.

“I was incredibly impressed with Molly’s attitude to this project, and she worked efficiently and effectively throughout the duration of her placement with Beach Guardian. Molly’s skills in background in law and business really brought something new to our team and the report she produced is of huge value to our work”.

Emily Stevenson, Co-Founder, Beach Guardian CIC