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By Nina Pullman

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Tesco says no to refill containers for food

Consumer rejection of single-use plastic moves into food as man tries to use refill containers for produce at a Tesco deli counter



Consumers are increasingly aware of plastic pollution
Photo credit Emilian Robert Vicol

Tesco has banned a man from using his own plastic containers to buy produce from a deli counter stating that it's "against company policy".

Graeme Corry told the BBC he was inspired to act after watching the recent Blue Planet II series, which highlighted the widespread damage to wildlife and environments from plastic pollution.

He told the BBC: "Rather than relying on other people to deal with my plastic waste, I thought that taking my own container when I was buying fresh meat or cheese would be a good way to go about that."

"Usually at the deli they will wrap it in plastic and then put it in a plastic bag, which then ends up in the bin and who knows after that, choking some whale in the ocean."

Corry told the BBC that staff at his local

store in Edinburgh were initially sympathetic, but when he returned a few days later he was told using his own containers was against company policy.

In a statement, Tesco told the BBC that it was an issue of hygiene. "We need to balance our responsibility to sell food in a safe and hygienic way with the feedback we receive from our customers," the retailer said.

"As part of our ongoing work to reduce the amount of packaging we use, we are actively looking to provide customers with an alternative helpful way of taking food home from our counters."

"If Tesco is not going to allow me to use my own tubs then I'll just find a store that will," Corry told BBC.

The news comes amid a growing public awareness and backlash over the use of plastic packaging, and which has already led two retailers to commit to new ways

to limit plastic packaging, or improve recycling.

In drinks, the campaign against plastic has gained momentum in recent days with the news of a new 'water refill network' that will guide consumers to where they can refill their own bottles, and avoid buying more plastic.

Tesco has committed to making all of its packaging fully recyclable or compostable by 2025.

<http://www.fruitnet.com/americafruit/article/1474/parts-of-san-diego-quarantined-as-psyllid-count-mounts>

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