

Hi Fly becomes the world's first airline without any single-use plastic items on-board

By Teodor Stefan | 07-01-2020



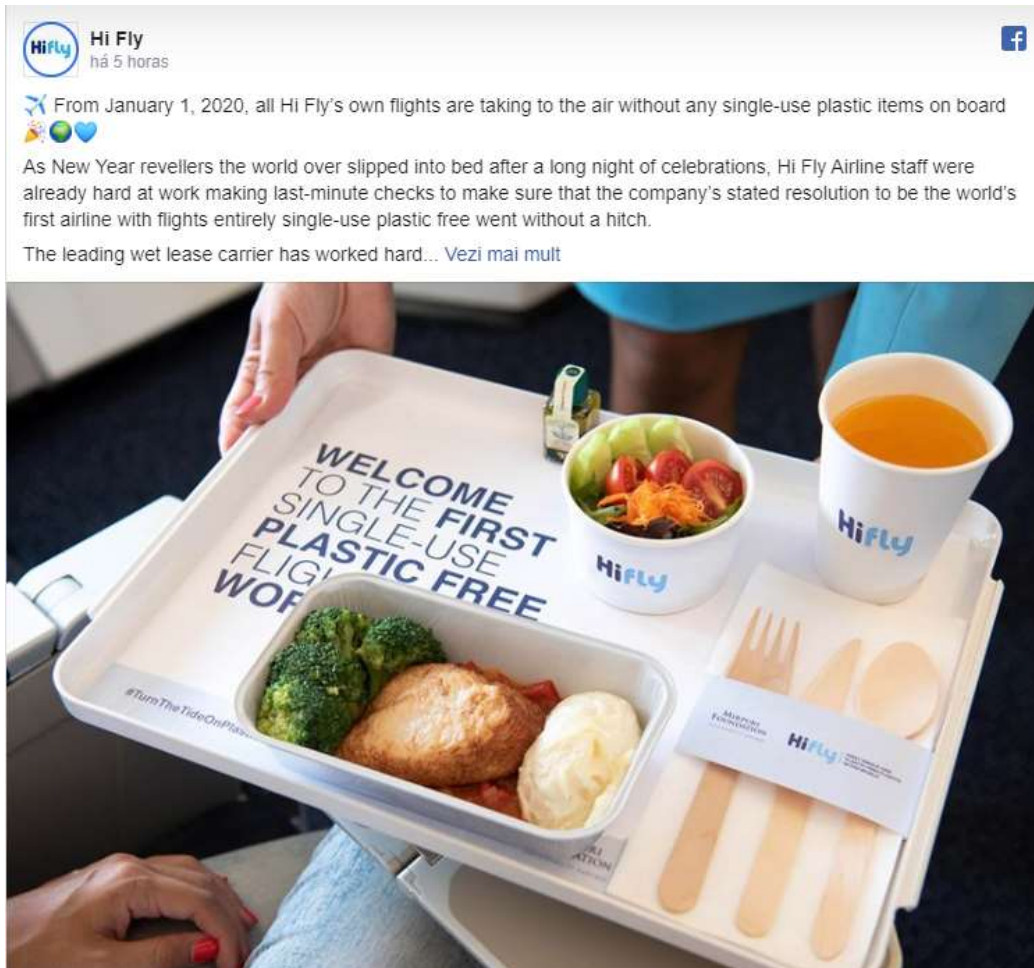
From January 1st 2020, as pledged by Hi Fly President Paulo Mirpuri in 2018, all Hi Fly's own flights are taking to the air without any single-use plastic items on-board.

The leading wet-lease carrier has worked hard to replace plastic with bamboo cutlery, cups, spoons, and salt and pepper shakers, while packaging for bedding, dishes, individual butter pots, soft drink bottles and toothbrushes were switched with compostable alternatives crafted from recycled material. Hi Fly and its principal sustainability partner, the Mirpuri Foundation, have long been pioneers for greener aviation is serious about the future of the planet and our responsibility to future generations.

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The company operated the world's first ever 'plastic-free' trial flight when it took passengers on a Boxing Day trip from the carrier's base in Lisbon to Natal, Brazil, on an Airbus A340 in December 2018. This was quickly followed with three further 'plastic-free' test flights in addition to a series of 12 reduced plastic journeys. These flight tests concludes that every commercial passenger long haul flight that takes to the air with no single-use plastic items on board prevents around 350 kg of single-use, virtually indestructible plastic from poisoning our environment, about the weight of a large touring motorcycle of poisonous plastic saved in every return journey. When scaling this up to take account of Hi Fly's global operations, then the difference becomes significant.



Commenting ahead of the January 1st milestone, Hi Fly President Paulo Mirpuri said: "We pledged at the time of our historic Hi Fly test flights, without any single-use plastic items on board that we would make Hi Fly the world's first 'plastic-free' airline within 12 months. We knew that if we worked hard to overcome the problems that it was 100% possible. More importantly, in our hearts, we knew it was much more than that. We knew that this was a 100% necessary move for the future of our planet."

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“Over 100,000 flights take off each day around the world and, last year, commercial aircraft carried nearly four billion passengers. This number is expected to double again in less than 20 years. So, the potential to make a difference here is clear,” Hi Fly President Paulo Mirpuri explained. “We take our commitment very seriously. Our corporate mission is based around sustainability and we work hand in glove with the Mirpuri Foundation to make sure that our corporate practices match our wider responsibilities to the planet.”

Previous Hi Fly / Mirpuri Foundation-backed initiatives of note have included decorating Hi Fly aircraft, including its Airbus A380, the largest commercial passenger plane in the world, with environmental messages, including the Hi Fly / Mirpuri Foundation-backed campaigns to ‘Save the Coral Reefs’ and ‘Turn the Tide on Plastic’.

