



Q&A with Laurence Edwards of Black Mountain Honey.



Laurence Edwards tending some of his hives.

Local honey producer Laurence Edwards is one of our Business Champions

Laurence, what inspired you to start cutting out the amount of plastic your business uses?

We have always disliked the unnecessary use of plastics. We just feel that our products and packaging don't need to have plastics in them so we set out from the very beginning to keep plastic use to a minimum and only where it's absolutely necessary, with no other viable option.

Of the steps you've taken, is there any one that seems particularly significant on your plastic reduction journey and, if so, why?

We are particularly proud of our rustic craft paper labels. A lot of people don't realise jar labels tend to be made from a polypropylene based plastic. It doesn't really look or feel like plastic but it doesn't decompose and still leaves plastic waste.

We are proud that we use a rustic paper craft paper to eliminate even the invisible plastics.

What's going to be your next plastic-reducing move?

We use a lot of plastic buckets for storing honey. When we have bigger premises, we plan to move over to 200 litre stainless steel drums for storing honey. We do recycle the plastic buckets and once they reach the end of their operational life, we use them as plant pots!

How do your suppliers react when you tell them you're trying to reduce your plastic footprint?

Suppliers are always very supportive and offer various solutions to help us minimise the use of plastics.

How are you using your MPR Business Champion status in promotional material?

We include our status on our website, YouTube videos and across our social media platforms.

What advice would you give to another business setting out on the plastic reduction path?

People genuinely value products that are environmentally friendly. Don't be put off by the added costs of buying plastic free packaging as the costs can easily be recouped by charging just a little bit extra.