

Plastic Reduction at Events

Top Tips

Vendors and Catering

- Ensure catering concessions adhere to a strict policy which essentially avoids plastic and Styrofoam serveware including cutlery, single-serving sauce sachets and reduces plastic packaging.
- Consider encouraging that sit-down cafes or restaurants onsite use real crockery and eating utensils.
- Where this is not appropriate, consider encouraging people to bring their own or ensure wooden compostable and edible serveware is used.
- appropriate with polycarbonate or steel reusable with deposits charged
- Hot drinks are discounted when you bring a reusable cup
- Reusable coffee cups and water bottles on sale
- Ban the sales of all bottled drinks in single-use bottles at the event.
- Provide readily available water refill stations and promote the use of reusable bottles
- No plastic straws are used and paper straws only on request or left out for people to take
- Drinks are sold in cans or glass bottles - not plastic ones
- Ban plastic bags, encourage attendees to bring a natural fabric bag and if required then either sell paper bags or natural fabric bags.
- Provide athletes and competitors with re-usable bottles

Event Dressing

- Balloons should be avoidable
- Flyers and handouts are minimised; instead consider using reusable banners
- Avoid plastic cable ties; if not possible use reusable cable ties
- Use non-PVC banners
- Don't use laminated card or paper – it's plastic.
- Choose Forest Stewardship Council (FSC) uncoated or starch-based coated papers and cards, unprinted or printed using water inks
- Use reusable rather than event specific, name badges, wristbands, signs, display materials, exhibition stands and flooring, etc

Giveaway items/merchandise and medals

- Ensure sponsors adhere to a strict policy which essentially avoids avoidable-plastic particularly around giveaways.
- Avoid selling cheap avoidable plastic event memorabilia look for sustainable alternatives such as natural fabric bags and pencils rather than single use pens and rubber wrist bands
- Rather than medals consider a reward which can be re-used or an experience
- If medals are a must then use sustainable sources such as sustainably certified wooden medals.
- If selling or providing clothing as prizes ensure it is good quality from suppliers which are ethically sourced and sustainable

Dealing with rubbish

- Look to reduce the amount of rubbish created
- Ensure adequate provision of clearly labelled recycling bins
- Bins around the event should always have capacity ensuring they are emptied before being completely full to avoid overflowing
- Secure Wheelie bins with straps to ensure contents stay inside
- Once the event closes prioritise rubbish removal to avoid it blowing around
- Check areas close to the event for litter ensuring its removal both during and after the event particularly if competitors are participating in an event where energy supplements may be used.
- Provide containers for cigarette butts and chewing gum.
- Provide some stats post event on how much rubbish was recycled and how much was sent to landfill and aim to improve year on year, promote across social media to get people on board.

Raising awareness

- Include some environmental activities at your event to increase awareness of environmental issues and solutions. This might include displaying information on plastic-free alternatives or the time it takes to break down certain items, e.g. a crisp packet. You could also ask people to make environmental pledges or commit to environmentally friendly swaps.
- Invite an environmental speaker

Visitor Information

- Promote your event ethos and values via social media.
- Ahead of the event promote discounts for bringing your own drink bottle and reusable cutlery.
- For competitors advice race rules ensure it's a no littering event and penalties will apply