

# PLASTIC FREE

N O R T H   D E V O N

## PLASTIC FREE EVENT GUIDE

### INTRODUCTION

Festivals, fayres and sporting events are a great way to bring people and communities together, have fun and boost the local economy. But, lots of people need looking after and, unless this is managed well, this can have an adverse effect on the environment, generate unnecessary cost for the event organiser and lead to a poor quality of experience for festival/event goers.

Plastic Free North Devon (PFND) has been doing its research and working with local event organisers to find effective ways to reduce the environmental impact of events by focussing on waste management. The aim has been to reduce the consumption of single use plastic items and the amount of waste going to landfill/incineration. If you get it right you can:

*SAVE THE PLANET AND SAVE MONEY!*

# APPROACH - START PLANNING EARLY.

Make waste management part of your early planning process, not something added at the last minute.

Here are a few simple steps that we have come up with:

## WORK WITH YOUR WASTE CONTRACTOR TO:

### IDENTIFY THE WASTE STREAMS YOU WILL NEED

(e.g. food and food packaging, cardboard, plastic, cans, paper, cigarette butts, general waste for landfill/incineration). Understand waste quantities and costs.



### DEVELOP THE RIGHT 'BIN-FRASTRUCTURE' FOR THE EVENT

(you might need different setups for different areas of the event to deal with back stage/contractor waste and that produced by the general public). Clearly labelled bins are a must! Think about how you are going to clear up afterwards (the more you can get people to do for themselves the easier, and cheaper this will be).

### MAKE IT EASY FOR PEOPLE TO DO THE RIGHT THING.

Unsurprisingly, waste management isn't high on most people's list of priorities at a festival or an event and they aren't likely to spend a lot of time or effort on it, so make it easy for them! Clearly labelled bins in the right places are essential. A sign at each, explaining the importance of recycling is a good idea. And, if possible, a team of 'bin-monitors' should be deployed to help get the waste to the right place.

## CONTROL MATERIALS COMING TO THE EVENT SITE.

Reduce the waste that you will have to deal with and only allow material on site that you want to include in your plan. Send out stallholder guidance that includes information about what is and isn't acceptable (we have attached a sample guidance that you can edit at the end of this document)

The following measures give a good example of the steps that you can take:

- Food stalls to only serve food in **compostable food packaging**.
- **Ban the sale of drinks in plastic bottles** (use cans as an alternative).
- **No** plastic straws and styrofoam/polystyrene packaging.
- Stallholders to **remove bulk packaging materials** before coming to site.
- **No single-use** plastic toys/balloons to be sold.
- Ask festival/event goers **not to bring particular materials or items** with them (single use plastic drinks containers, non-biodegradable glitter, glass bottles, plastic bags, glitter etc.).



It may seem prescriptive, but none of the measures shown here will prevent stallholders from having a successful day. Dealing with non-compliance needs consideration in advance and warnings of consequences given - are you willing to stop people trading on the day or ban them from future events?

## COMMUNICATION

Getting the message out is essential before, during and after the event. Overall we are trying to run a successful event in our fantastic corner of the world that doesn't cause damage to the environment.

- **Your event team** needs to understand the waste management plan, what they need to do and why.
- **Contractors and stallholders** need to be made aware of what waste facilities are available to them, any restrictions on materials that they can bring/use/sell and why. (See the detailed guidance to stallholders below).
- **Festival/event goers** need to understand what you are trying to achieve, why and what their role is. This needs to be advertised in the run up to and during the event (ask them to bring their own water bottles, reusable cups, cutlery, shopping bags etc - get them excited about attending an event that puts the environment first).

- **After the event** let people know how it went, set a new target for the following year and remember to say 'thank you'.

## LOOK FOR WAYS TO IMPROVE NEXT TIME.

After your event, think about what has gone well and how things could be improved for next time. Set targets for the following year and work them into your plan. You might also want to look at how you can be more efficient with energy supply and transport to reduce environmental impacts further still.

## WE ARE HERE TO HELP!

Please contact Plastic Free North Devon if you would like help with planning your event and organising volunteers to assist you on the day. We would also love to hear about your experiences and share your ideas.

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## EVENT STALLHOLDER GUIDANCE

PFND is working with businesses, schools, events and community groups to reduce single use plastic consumption across the region. We are working with festivals to move towards zero waste by eradicating single use plastic and increase recycling rates by: raising awareness of the issue; and encouraging

stallholders and the general public to think about and be responsible for the waste they create. With this in mind we have produced some guidance to help us all to achieve a more sustainable, environmentally friendly event with the aim to create zero waste events in the future.



1. Use reusable cups, containers, cutlery and plates. Where possible have these items for sale or on a deposit return scheme.
2. No giving out or displaying balloons or any other single use plastic paraphernalia – opt for paper, card decorations.
3. All stall holders/cafés to use compostable card paper based food containers, cutlery etc. and packaging.
4. All store holders should minimise waste brought to site by removing bulk packaging before arriving.
5. No Styrofoam/polystyrene (cups, pots, flakes chips or other styrofoam bulk packaging) to be brought onto the event site.
6. No plastic straws/stirrers/decorations with drinks.
7. No plastic bags.
8. No sale of single use plastic drinks bottles – cans are a good option for soft drinks and reusable water bottles should be refilled at the PFND water bar.
9. No single use condiment sachets – bulk buy and let customers help themselves where possible.
10. Put waste in the correct bins. Recycle where possible and encourage the public to do the same. There are waste management stations on site.
11. Keep your stall area tidy and leave it free from litter at the end of the event.
12. Please share best practice - be sure to post any ideas/pictures of alternatives to plastic you have opted for on social media tagging 'plasticfreenorthdevon' or send to PFND beforehand, so that we can share best practice.

For further information on the plastic free communities campaign or guidance please contact Claire Moodie:  
[claireplasticfreenorthdevon@gmail.com](mailto:claireplasticfreenorthdevon@gmail.com)

We are encouraging all businesses in North Devon and beyond to become single-use plastic-free champions, if you aren't already involved please get in touch or check out our facebook and Instagram pages to find out more.