

SUSTAINABLE EVENT GUIDE

Simple changes to help make your events more sustainable

We can all take action to reduce our impact on the environment!

Litter Free Dorset promotes the waste hierarchy, which prioritises reusing over recycling in order to reduce waste and prevent litter.

TIPS FOR FESTIVALS, MARKETS, FETES & FAIRS

1



Set clear expectations for vendors & stallholders

- No single-use plastic packaging, cutlery, straws, etc.
- Require vendors to offer a reusable option e.g. customers can bring their own shopping bag or cup.
- Encourage vendors to minimise their packaging.
- Be aware of food packaging – greasy cardboard and compostable packaging can't be recycled.

2



Offer refill and don't sell single-use drinks bottles

- Keep your event single-use plastic-free by not selling any drinks in plastic bottles or cartons.
- Have water refill points on site, with clear signage.
- Encourage visitors to bring their own bottle or cup.
- Make vendors and event staff aware of refill points so they can promote them to customers.

3



Offer a Cup Scheme

- Litter Free Dorset has 1000 reusable cups available to borrow – head to our website for details.
- Check out www.refill.org for further guidance on reusable cup schemes.

4



Design your event with reuse in mind

- Reusable decorations such as bunting look great and can be used again and again – saving money and the planet!
- Banners can be reused by replacing dates, times, etc. with a new decal sticker each time.
- Reuse signage for bins, first aid tent and toilets at all your events.
- Promote your sustainability credentials – make it part of what people love about coming to your event!

5

Bins and recycling



- Make sure you have plenty of general waste and recycling bins across the site, clearly labelled with what can go in each bin.
- You can provide food compost bins if appropriate.
- Place bins close to exits and food vendors.
- Speak to vendors about their packaging so customers can be directed to the right bin.
- Compostable/biodegradable packaging should go into general waste as it can't be recycled.
- Remember - many coffee cups are not recyclable.

6



Don't inflate to celebrate

- Dorset and BCP Councils have a ban on the release of balloons and lanterns.
- Balloons contain plastic and chemicals which are harmful to wildlife and the environment.
- Sky lanterns are a fire hazard and will remain in the environment for years.
- Hire children's entertainers that **don't** use balloons.

7



Staff and volunteers

- Make sure staff are aware of the sustainable options at your event so they can promote them to visitors.
- Have staff available around litter hotspots so they can guide people to the right bins and keep an eye out for litter.

8

The Finale



- End your event with a team litter pick - you can borrow a kit from Litter Free Dorset!
- Make sure you have arranged collections for general waste, recycling, and food waste if needed.
- Make a plan for the changes you want to make at your next event - how can you do even better next time?