

A guide for running an eco-aware school event



Work through the questions below with the team planning a school event to help limit it's impact on the environment, global inequality and the climate.

If you come up with more questions or ideas about how to be sustainable remember to make a note of them for next time.

Energy

- Who is responsible for turning off lights and electrical devices, and making sure windows are closed at the end of the event?
- If high-energy-consumption installations, such as an amusement ride or lighting are being hired, are they energy-efficient compared to viable alternatives?
- Are fridges and freezers needed which are empty a lot of the year? Are cool boxes sufficient? Can they be turned off during long holidays?

Water

- Is tap water provided?
- Who is responsible for washing up and making sure excess water isn't used?
- Are the cleaning products 'eco-friendly', not containing phosphates and petrochemical surfactants?

Food

- Is the right amount of food ordered for the number of people expected?
- Are there measures in place to ensure that guests are not served more food than they will eat?
- Does the food have a good environmental profile?
 - In general, food that has a poor environmental profile includes beef and lamb, fish which is not listed by the Good Fish Guide, air-freighted and out of season food.
 - Can the catering be vegetarian and vegan?
- Could Fairtrade Foundation be invited to attend with an information stand?
- What will happen to uneaten food?
 - Donate via a charity like Olio or Too Good To Go?
 - Guests asked bring containers to take leftovers?
 - Separate food out from other waste to be included in the council's food waste collection?

Consumption & Waste

- Who is responsible for making sure that items used or products being sold are eco-friendly and ethical, (e.g long lasting, biodegradable, Fairtrade)?
- If items are to be sold, can they be long lasting items that people really need?
- Can they be replaced by experiences (e.g. games, craft workshops and raffling a lesson/ activity)?
- Can students make items to be sold which promote green habits (e.g. wax food wraps, seedlings in paper pots)?
- Are single-use items (e.g. cups, plates, straws etc) avoidable?
- Are the decorations bought especially and single-use (e.g. balloons and plastic bunting)? Could students make the décor from recycled/ upcycled materials?
- Can tap water be provided in jugs rather than mineral water in plastic bottles?
- Can guests be encouraged to bring their own items (e.g. cups)?
- Are recycling bins and food waste going to be easily available and clearly labelled so that waste can be separated?
- If the event may create litter, who is in charge of clearing the site afterwards?

Transport

- How will guests be informed about how they can reach the event by walking, cycling, using public transport, or sharing vehicles?
- Could 'Dr Bike' be a feature of the event?
- If the event involves travel, can the total distance travelled be reduced by choosing a nearer venue or reduce car travel by using a venue near a main station?
- Are hired vehicles fuel-efficient?
- Can people picking up/ dropping off be reminded not to idle their engines?

Positive influence

- Does the event provide any opportunity for:
 - celebrating environmental successes at the school?
 - allowing people to appreciate nature?
 - promoting good environmental practice
 - raising money for environmental causes
- Will the event highlight what it is doing to reduce it's climate and environmental impacts?