

Plastic pollution is damaging the environment, wildlife and human health across the globe. Plastic is responsible for the loss of 1 million seabirds and 100,000 marine mammals a year. It has now entered the food chain as microplastics, risking the transfer of toxic chemicals up the food chain. Plastic pollution is interfering with ecosystem functioning reducing their ability to adapt to the Climate Emergency, alarming considering the value of these ecosystems in mitigating the impacts of the Climate Emergency.

Appropriate clean recycling and recovery systems are not able to keep pace with the sheer quantity and mixture of plastic produce – an overwhelming 72% of plastic packaging are still not being recovered. There is therefore a great need to avoid the further use and production of plastic wherever possible. In alignment with this, Wirral Council is endeavouring to deliver and promote a reduction in the use of plastic, including at its public events. As a result, please find below guidance on how to reduce the use of plastic at public events:

Please do:

- ✓ Consider using a reusable cup system or paper cups.
- ✓ Use compostable serve ware (i.e. plates, cutlery, bowls, boxes, drink cup lids etc)
- ✓ Use non-PVC banners.
- ✓ Replace Corex with products like eco-foam board.
- ✓ Utilise paper bags rather than plastics bags for food or merchandise items.
- ✓ Use reusable rather than event specific names badges, wristbands, signs, display materials etc...
- ✓ Consider promoting reusable bottles and cups to audiences, staff and volunteers, such as through offering discounts for utilising a reusable cup or bottle.

Aim to avoid:

- ✗ Selling plastic water and drink bottles.
- ✗ Utilising plastic straws and single-use sauce sachets. Instead try paper straws and paper sauce pots.
- ✗ Utilising plastic cling wrap, zip lock bags, plastic takeaway containers, and balloons.
- ✗ Utilising laminated card or paper. Instead try Forest Stewardship Council (FSC) uncoated or starch-based coated papers and cards which are unprinted or printed using a water-based ink.
- ✗ Avoid selling polystyrene and single use plastic packaged foods.

If there are plastics that cannot be avoided, try to minimise the number of types of plastic, separate the materials and recycle them.

We hope this is helpful, but should you have any questions or require any further information, then please contact [jakewilliams4@wirral.gov.uk](mailto:jakewilliams4@wirral.gov.uk) in our Climate Emergency Team.

Thank you for your supporting in addressing the issue of plastic pollution.