

Ditching Disposables Stirling Case Study: Event Scheme



The Ditching Disposables project piloted a borrow cup scheme for reusable cups across 3 different activities in Stirling over a six-month period. You can find the full [Ditching Disposables Stirling Report here](#).

A total of 17,800 SU cups were displaced, saving 1.136 tonnes of CO₂e and achieving combined cost savings of £2,250 for participating businesses.

The pilot has served to identify several logistical and practical learnings which could be adopted by other organisations to improve, inform and advise their own journey into reusable cup loan schemes.

The event scheme trialled reusable, returnable cups at five local events in Stirling, including two primary school summer fairs, two events run by Forth Environment Link (FEL), and The Hub at the UCI World Cycling Championships time-trial event in Stirling.

These stats were over the time of the 6 month trial.

No. cups & lids saved	CO ₂ e saving	Cost saving	Cup waste saving
610	37kg	£92	10kg

Each cup was **re-used** on average **3.4 times**
Approx **10kg of cup waste was diverted** from general waste



Main benefits reported by the event hosts

- Avoiding the impacts from using disposables.
- Not having to clear up the rubbish from the cups and lids and then dispose of this.
- Not having to wash the cups in-house.
- Helping to educate people on waste reduction.
- A good fit with environmental policies and commitments.
- Easy for customers to refill.
- Practically easier than using crockery.
- A visual showcase of a local sustainable initiative.
- A good PR story.

Recommendations



Pre-event promotion

- Creating content and narrative describing the scheme and how it works for inclusion in programmes, in social media and in any other media promoting the event.
- This will ensure that customers are familiar with the cups and the approach prior to attending



Participation agreement

- Establishing a participation agreement which includes details on how cups should be prepared for collection at the end of events to prevent unnecessary mess.
- For example, the cups will need to be rinsed, stacked and stored in a bag or container for collection, or an additional charge will be levied.



Commercial charge

- A menu of options is likely to be the most flexible option so that event hosts can choose which services they require.
- Prices would be provided according to the number of cups/lids requested; for delivery and collection of the cups; for a washing service; and finally for a member of staff to help host a stand or counter for the event.
- The pilot events hosts agreed that this would then allow them to select relevant services according to circumstances.