

Event Sustainability Declaration

Mission

Bedford Borough Council's Events Team's mission is to deliver exceptional festivals and events that make a positive contribution to society and our shared future.

We endeavour to play a leadership role with our environmental practices, inspiring audiences, the wider festival industry and society to make positive changes that contribute to happiness and a positive future for all life on the planet.

Environmental Statement

We also acknowledge that our business and events are uniquely placed to inspire and improve our supply chain, contractors and audiences to lead to a more sustainable future. Therefore, we are committed to reducing the impact on the natural world by:

- Actively measuring and monitoring environmental impacts
- Minimising the overall carbon (CO₂e) impact(s)
- Reducing waste and managing disposal responsibly
- Reducing supply chain impacts of all types e.g. single-use plastics
- Identifying and promoting positive behaviour change opportunities
- We recognise that festivals have several key areas of negative impacts including:

Reducing Impacts

Bedford Borough Council's Events Team is committed to addressing its impacts in all areas of the business. In our endeavour to reduce the environmental impact, the use of single-use plastics at events on Council Land will be deterred.

All suppliers and traders must use reusable, recyclable or biodegradable containers, packaging and products when trading at events. Single-use plastics must **not** be used in the serving of food.

At the Bedford River Festival 2022 the Council will be providing General Waste and Mixed Recycling bins across the entire site for public use.

Please find below a list of unacceptable items (including but not limited to):

- Plastic bottles
- Plastic straws
- Plastic cutlery
- Single-use plastic carrier bags
- Plastic food containers (for serving)
- Plastic coffee cups and lids
- Single-use sachets

The Events Team recognises the value in existing relationships, and where possible will help/work with existing stakeholders to make the changes required to meet the above. If you are unsure if your products are suitable to meet this requirement, please contact the Council's Events Team before applying to attend the event.

Failure to comply with this may result in refusal of the sale of selected products or rejection from the event site, at no expense to Bedford Borough Council.

Continuous Improvement

Bedford Borough Council recognises that reducing impacts is an on-going process of improvement, and that resource and budget constraints will necessitate a pragmatic approach and prioritisation. However, we are committed to a process of reviewing our performance annually in order to identify successes and improvements, informing changes to the Council's various environmental strategies.