

# A guide for running an eco-aware school event



Work through the questions below with the team planning a school event to help limit its 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

- o Who is responsible for turning off lights and electrical devices, and making sure windows are closed at the end of the event?
- o If high-energy-consumption installations, such as an amusement ride or lighting are being hired, are they energy-efficient compared to viable alternatives?
- o 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

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

## Food

- o Is the amount of food excessive given the number of guests?
- o Are there measures in place to ensure that guests are not served more food than they will eat?
- o Does the food have a good environmental profile? Can you make all the catering vegetarian and vegan?
  - In general, foods like beef and lamb, fish which is not listed by the Good Fish Guide, air-freighted food, food which is out of season, and food which has travelled a long distance have poor environmental profiles.
- o Who will take uneaten food? Can it be donated via a charity like Olio or Too Good To Go?
- o Can it be separated out from other waste to be included in the council's food waste collection?
- o Can guests be asked to bring Tupperware to take leftovers?



# Consumption & Waste

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

# Transport

- o How will guests be informed about how they can reach the event by walking, cycling, using public transport, or sharing vehicles?
- o Are hired vehicles fuel-efficient?
- o Are their drivers instructed to avoid idling their engines?
- o Will they be the right size for the number of people?
- o 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?

# Other

- o Does the event provide any opportunity for:
  - sharing environmental successes at the school?
  - allowing people to appreciate nature?
  - promoting good environmental practice
  - raising money for environmental causes
- o If the event involves atmospheric pollution from fireworks, is there an alternative (e.g. a laser display)?
- o Will the event cause any avoidable noise or light pollution?