



Embedding Sustainability into the Parent Teacher Association - Advice for School PTA's - School Fetes

Schools can create a number of significant environmental impacts, one of the areas highlighted are School Fetes.

The PTA can make a huge difference in reducing this impact, whilst at the same time instilling good sustainability practices to the pupils.

School events are a great opportunity to raise important funds for your school, they're also a chance to bring together the children, parents and teachers in an informal and fun way! But being mindful of the impacts on our planet can still reach the same outcomes and possibly even save your school money; that's because we at Eco Essex believe that being sustainable is actually money saving!

As you are aware, the government has set various goals for sustainability of schools that is recommending these changes are made by 2020.

The Sustainable Schools Alliance (SSA) aims to drive change in the education system so that all schools put sustainability at the heart of their curriculum, their campus and their community.

At Eco Essex, we want to assist with facilitating this change. We want to make the process of running events as easy as possible, so we have put together an Eco guide to school event planning.

Eco guide to school event planning

Instructions

Use the below table as a guide for fete / event planning as well as for tracking the 'sustainability' of a planned event.

Track (tick) each of the suggested sustainable ideas if they have been included in the fete, and then calculate the total at the end to see your events overall 'sustainability' score.

The total score will indicate your events sustainability as follows:

- Low sustainable event = score of 0-13
- Moderately sustainable event = score of 14-27
- Highly sustainable event = score of 28+

In order to reduce your events environmental impact we recommend you aim for the highest score possible, but we understand this is not something that can necessarily be achieved immediately, so demonstrating continual improvements at each subsequent event is still a positive outcome.

Eco event score table

Main areas		Sustainable (Eco) Idea	Tick if included in this event	Tick if aiming for this at next event
Food / Drink stalls	1	Home baked cakes	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	2	Avoid pre-packaged food	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	3	No bottled water or individual SUP drinks (buy a large squash bottle and make up in reusable cups or BYO cup)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	4	Tap water stations available-request donations	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	5	Re-usable cups available (could have own school ones with logo on for selling)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	6	Discounts for people who bring their own reusable drink cups, bottles	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	7	Reusable plates / cutlery – no SUP	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	8	Vegan beer / wine stall	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	9	Vegan food options available	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Prizes	10	No / minimal plastic prizes	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	11	Eco-friendly prizes; E.g. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • pre-loved / unwanted gifts – donated from parents • bird feeding kit • bee bombs / wild flower seeds and compostable pot (could decorate that as an activity) • vegetable seeds • ethically made, sustainable wooden toys • eco magazine 	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	12	Recyclable wrapping paper used for any prizes with <i>paper</i> tape (no plastic wrapping)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	13	Use recycled / reused (old scraps) wrapping paper or use old drawings / paintings of the children's to wrap prizes in	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	14	Offer a child the opportunity to keep their prize or give it to a child in need (Shelter / Women's Refuge / Christmas giving tree etc.)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Stalls	15	Hire out stalls to eco (& child) friendly traders	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	16	Ask for book donations to sell on pre-loved books	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	17	Local book seller showcasing eco specific books and do an eco-book reading	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	18	Party pack hire company	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	19	Vegan / eco-friendly face painting	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	20	Recycled crafting / junk modelling / cardboard box fun / den building – ask for donations of scrap craft materials and cardboard boxes and blankets	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	21	Toy swap / second hand good quality toy sale	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	22	Second hand uniform stall	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	23	Pre-loved kids clothes / fancy dress clothes stall	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	24	Eco stationery stall	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	25	Eco magazine selling	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	26	Eco party decoration	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

	27	Eco friendly children's household items such as bamboo crockery, reusable straws, hot chocolate reusable cups, reusable water bottles etc.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Decorations	28	Eco-friendly / reusable decorations such as paper decorations, fabric (washable) bunting	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	29	No balloons (not even 'biodegradable' ones)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	30	No glitter (or eco glitter)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	31	Children to make decorations such as bunting, paper chains etc.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	32	Second hand / donated decorations	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Advertising / promotional material	33	Keep paper promotional advertising minimal	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	34	For any paper / physical promotional material such as flyers, banners etc. then use reusable / laminated ones where the date can be changed for the next event (Velcro or leave blank to write on / rub off each time)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	35	Protect / store promotional material well so it is kept in good condition for regular use	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	36	Online advertising	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	37	Recycled advertising boards	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Waste disposal	38	Recycling bins available at event with clear signage for waste / recyclable contents	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	39	Food waste collected for composting / or used in school compost	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	40	Excess food donated to shelter (arranged prior to event)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	41	Decorations, excess gifts/prizes to be reused for future events	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Score totals:				

Event name	
Date	
Eco score rating	Low <input type="checkbox"/> moderate <input type="checkbox"/> high <input type="checkbox"/>

**SUP = single use plastic*

**BYO = bring your own*