

# Preventing plastic pollution

## Catering outlets in sporting venues

July 2021, Version 1



Want more advice and guidance? Scan or click the QR code to access our extended guidance.

### Why sport?

Sport is in the unique position of being able to influence millions of people worldwide. By leading the way in sustainability and setting a good example, you can influence others to do the same.

When used correctly plastic can have many useful applications, however, many plastic items can be avoided. By minimising avoidable plastic consumption you are also reducing your carbon footprint and contribution to the climate crisis. Many initiatives will also save you money. Plastic is made from oil which is a non-renewable resource and has to be drilled for, transported (often across the world) before it is made into plastic. At the end of its life, the recycling, disposal or incineration of plastic also releases greenhouse gases into the atmosphere, through further transportation and burning, contributing to climate change.

To find out more about the Preventing Plastic Pollution project visit [preventingplasticpollution.com](http://preventingplasticpollution.com)



European Regional Development Fund

### Quick tick list

Use this list to mark what you have done already and keep track as you make more changes to minimise avoidable plastic and prevent plastic pollution.

Replace single-use cups with a deposit return scheme

Remove condiment sachets in favour of refillable pumps

Offer a discount to fans bringing their own reusable cup

Introduce water fountains for athletes and fans to refill

Reduce the amount of single-use packaging food is served in

Provide bins that allow for recyclables and waste segregation with clear signage

Remove single-use cable ties and sign lamination

Engage fans with the great changes you've made

Why not make a pledge to reduce your venue's plastic consumption? Scan or click on the QR code to take your pledge.



## Top tips

### Reusable cups

Instead of single-use cups, robust reusable plastic cups can be used for drinks. These are returned by fans at the end of the match, washed and used again at the next fixture. You can charge an additional fee for drinks which is returned when the cup is brought back.

### Water fountains

Providing water fountains is a great way to reduce single-use plastic, keep fans hydrated and reduce queues at bars. They eliminate the need for single-use bottles as fans can bring their own or fill up a reusable cup. Consider providing fountains for athletes and staff too so they can reduce their single-use plastic consumption, keep well hydrated and set a good example to fans.

### Minimise food packaging

Review how your food is served. Could the amount of packaging be reduced or even removed completely? As with cups it may be possible to implement returnable and reusable packing. If you have to use single-use packaging ensure it is made from one material type as mixed materials are harder to recycle.

### Refillable condiments

Sachets can produce a lot of waste, both plastic and food. Sachets are not usually recyclable. They can be eliminated by having a refillable pump so customers can take what they need. It is also possible to provide salt and pepper shakers and a milk jug to remove these sachets as well.

### Recycling bins

Make sure to have a range of suitable bins available so that fans are able to segregate their waste and improve recycling rates. Ensure these are clearly labelled with items to be recycled for each bin to minimise confusion. It may even help to have someone near the bins to help advise people. Remember the amount of waste produced should be firstly minimised where possible.

### Clear communication

Take fans on the journey with you by communicating clearly with them so they are aware and comfortable with any changes that are being made. This is also a great opportunity to lead the way, showcase your sustainability values and achievements and encourage others to reduce their impact on the environment too.

## The waste hierarchy

When purchasing a new product you should refer to the waste hierarchy to reduce the amount of resources you use and the waste you produce.

### Avoid

Do you need to buy this item?  
Could people bring their own?

### Rethink

Can you meet the outcome in a different way - avoiding waste?

### Reduce

Can you use less plastic to meet the same need?

### Source

Is there a more sustainable solution or material?

### Reuse or refill

Can the product and packaging be reused or refilled?

### Recycle

Can the product and packaging be recycled when it is finished?