

# PREVENTING PLASTIC POLLUTION

## Event Protocol

### **Plymouth is committed to...**

Reducing Plymouth's reliance on plastic – to refuse, reduce, reuse and recycle; switching to alternatives wherever possible.

Tackling the plastic waste that is already in our environment – limiting its impact and creating a better world for our communities, our wildlife and our city.

Adhering to this protocol will be a requirement for all events hosted within the Plymouth City Council Local Authority boundary. This includes festivals, markets, events, celebrations, parades and so on, irrelevant to the size and audience.



SCAN QR CODE TO FIND  
OUT MORE WAYS TO  
PREVENT PLASTIC  
POLLUTION

# PREVENTING PLASTIC PROJECT

Working in partnership with 18 organisations from across France and England, Preventing Plastic Pollution seeks to understand and reduce the impacts of plastic pollution in the marine environment. By looking at the catchment from source to sea, the project will identify and target hotspots for plastic, embed behavior change in local communities and businesses, and implement effective solutions and alternatives.

Preventing Plastic Pollution (PPP) is a €14million funded EU INTERREG VA France (Channel) England Programme project co-financed by the European Regional Development Fund (€9.9million) which will work across seven pilot sites: Brest Harbour, Bay of Douarnenez, Bay of Veys, Poole Harbour, and the Medway, Tamar, and Great Ouse estuaries.

## KNOW YOUR PLASTICS

**Bio-based:** plastic that is made from, or partly from, a plant-based source rather than fossil fuel. Not all bio-based plastics are compostable or biodegradable.

**Compostable:** for a product to be certified as compostable it must either be certified to BS EN13432 (industrial composting standard) or meet the requirements for home compostable specification.

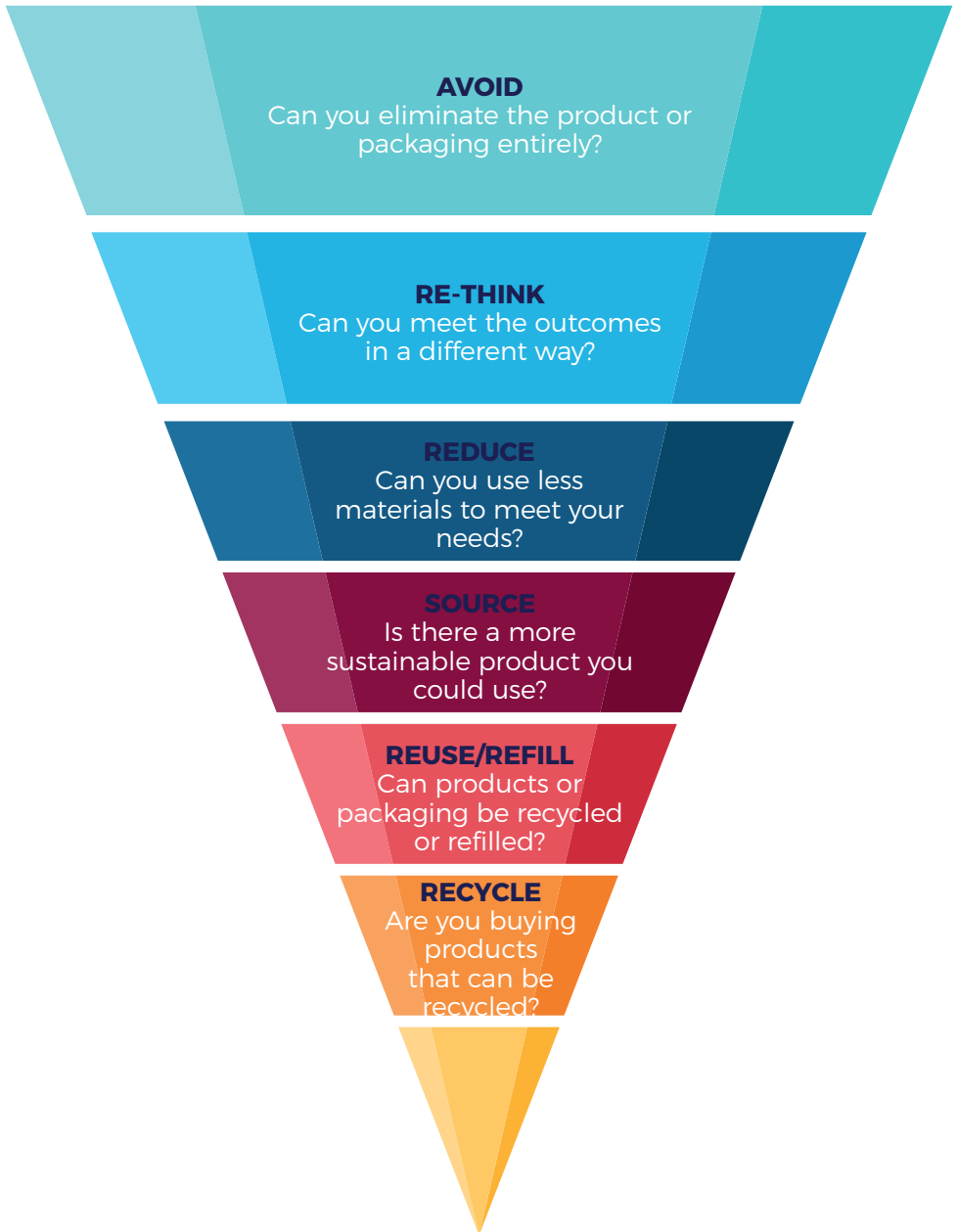
**Home compostable:** there is no UK or international standard for home compostable, it can be certified through independent or self-assessment. Home compliant material biodegrades in home compost in under 12 months. Longer timescales are permitted under other specifications where the producer complies with the ISO 14021 requirements for self-assessment and clear labelling.

**Industrially compostable:** A blanket term which includes all forms of organic waste treatment that is characterised by high levels of control. There is a clear standard in place to test products, which sets the criteria for the acceptance at processing sites. In reality much of the UK organics recycling infrastructure is not set up to fully treat the compostable plastics that they receive.

**Biodegradable:** a term often misused. Without a specified environment and time frame, the term is extremely vague, because a biodegradable product may biodegrade in some environments and not (in any reasonable timeframe) in others.

# THE WASTE HIERARCHY

Before purchasing anything it is important to consult the waste hierarchy. Try to minimise avoidable plastic items where possible and work your way down the waste hierarchy if this is not possible



# HOW YOU CAN MINIMISE PLASTIC AT YOUR EVENT...

This protocol is **compulsory** and needs to be adhered to all first and third party events hosted on Plymouth City Council property – ensure you complete the lists below

## CATERING

- Avoid wrappings/ plastic packaging
- Reusable servers/ no single use plates/ cutlery
- Avoid individual plastic packaging on foods
- Environmental supply chain
- Suppliers sustainable purchasing policies
- Check environmental supply chain
- Check supplier's sustainable purchasing policies

## WASTE

- Can any of waste be avoided, reduced, reused
- Staff training on recycling
- Check enough bins to reflect number of attendees
- Signage to advertise bins and what goes in them
- Check local authority recycling policy

## DECORATIONS

- Are you using sustainable resources
- Reusable options – hire/lease/buy back schemes
- Can you reuse decorations after event
- Eco friendly signs/ banners – bamboo/ canvas
- Avoid dating decorations so they can be reused