



Case Study: Party At The Palace

When John Richardson and Peter Ferguson started Party At The Palace four years ago, little did they realise just how successful the event would become. This family friendly festival has attracted acts such as Simple Minds, Nile Rodgers, Amy McDonald, James and Texas and was recently awarded the Scotland Tribute Award from the National Outdoor Event Awards.

Mindful of the public's changing opinion of single use plastic, John and Peter are keen to ensure PATP plays its part in helping the environment including reducing plastic waste. Catering suppliers, Let's Eat, are already on board and have replaced plastic containers and cutlery with alternatives. The festival expects to go through more than 60,000 cups for alcoholic and non-alcoholic cold drinks and this year for the first time, all cups will be made of compostable material. The team looked at using re-useable Stackcups but decided against these in favour of single use cups in the interest of serving customers as quickly as possible. Coffees and teas will be provided by our local café, The Granary and all take away hot drinks cups will be made from compostable material from supplier, Vegware. There won't be a single straw on site. For safety reasons, cold drinks can't be served in glass bottles but all plastic bottles will be recycled. Free water will be offered so festival goers will be able to refill their plastic bottles.

Waste disposal will be handled by Scotwaste. There will be plenty of bins situated around the site during the festival, and the local Scouts will be engaged for litter picking. Following the event, Scotwaste will then separate the waste between the various types of recycling (plastics, paper, glass etc) and compostable (food waste, cups etc), with the bare minimum going into landfill.

Going plastic friendly is not without its issues for such a large-scale event. The cost of a single cup rises from 0.2p to over 8p, but John has found sponsors to keep the prices down – Glen's Vodka for the half pint cups and Fosters for the 1 pint cups.