

Organising a plastic-free picnic

In a safe way that complies with the government's guidelines on social distancing, how about holding a plastic-free lunch or picnic with friends, family or a few work colleagues? Here's how to make sure your event is not rubbish (and safe)!



Photo: Maria Ilves/Unsplash.com

Choose a date and challenge everyone to bring along their own picnic that does NOT include any single-use plastics. (That means no cling film, plastic bags, plastic cutlery, plastic straws or disposable cups, no crisp packets or plastic sweet/chocolate wrappers.) Try to make this a fun and joyful thing! Explain that you're taking part in a challenge to notice how much plastic there is in our lives and to realise that we can do things differently.

Tips

- Bring your food in a reusable cloth bag or basket.
- Wrap sandwiches in beeswax wraps or just put them in sandwich boxes.
- Tubs/boxes/jars can hold everything from salad items to cake.
- Bring drinks in reusable bottles and flasks. If you are going somewhere that sells tea or coffee, bring a cup with you.
- Fruit often comes in its own wrapper (eg bananas or oranges), but if you are bringing more delicate fruit (such as strawberries), pop them in a tub or jar with a lid. Try to buy it loose without plastic too!
- Bring some cutlery if you need it: it's a bit heavier than plastic and you'll need to take it home to wash, but when you consider the resources used to make single-use plastic cutlery you then throw away, the extra effort doesn't seem so bad.

As people sit around tables or on their picnic blankets, encourage them to discuss:

- How difficult a challenge was this for us?
- Every 30 seconds, two busloads of plastic are thrown away in the UK – but where is 'away'?
- How many bins can we twin? *(By supporting Bin Twinning, your donation will help fund the work of social enterprises that are collecting people's rubbish, disposing of it safely, and recycling as much as possible – for the first time ever.)*
- How could we reduce our plastic use in the UK in future?