



# HOW TO MAKE YOUR BUSINESS ECO-FRIENDLY

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*We've come up with 10 ways that will help your business to become more kind to the environment - so why not start making these small changes?*

## 1. WATER COOLER SYSTEMS

Install a mains fed water cooler system, ensuring filtered, cooled water; and ban the use of single use water bottles on the premises for your team and customers. Allow them access to the free cooled mains fed water; it goes a long way towards customer happiness; but make sure you let them know why you've made such a decision!

## 2. USE THE MILK MAN

Get in touch with your local milk man, and have a regular delivery of milk. You're not only supporting a local, small business, but the bottles are reused an average of 13 times before being recycled - wow! That's a positive impact on the planet, and it's not too much more price wise to say you're having it delivered.

## 3. CARDBOARD RECYCLING

With the volume of deliveries and products you stock, there's no doubt you're going to have an excess of cardboard packaging to dispose of. There's a couple of things you can do here:

a) Contact a local company who manufacture products, and ask if they would like your good quality outer boxes to use for their deliveries. We are big on this, and rarely a box goes unused; and our customers (you) are happy that we re-use as much we can - whether it's nicely printed or not.

b) Check out your local recycling companies and have it picked up; don't just put it in your landfill bins. We've just found out that our local recycling charity sends waste cardboard to a UK recycling company; yet our local council sends the same waste cardboard to China. We're swapping to the new local supplier to reduce those travel miles.

## 4. FABRIC SHOPPING BAGS

This may be common sense; but have a policy of no plastic bags anymore - at all, ever. Do a promotion of spend more than £10 and get a free canvas shopper bag. You may end up with larger basket values, and you're doing the world a favour - it may cost you less than 50p a purchase, and you can always have them printed with your logo on as a promotional tool.

## 5. BRING YOUR OWN MUG

Great for if you sell take out coffees. Have a campaign where if your customer brings his/her own travel mug, you serve their coffee/drink in there, and charge them a much reduced amount for the drink. Although you lose out on margin, you can gain massively through promotion and good will. A fact you can use is: 'Did you know over 7 million cups a day are thrown out, and we are reducing our impact on the world by phasing all single use cups out?'

## 6. CIGARETTE EDUCATION

You may already be aware; but this was news to me - cigarette butts are made from fibrous cellulose acetate and other plastics. They are non-biodegradable and leach toxins into the environment. Approximately 120 tonnes of cigarette related waste are dropped on our streets every day in the UK. Have clear posters and signs showing where to correctly dispose of cigarettes, with the point about what they're made of clearly displayed; and if you have a lot of cigarette waste to clear up, why not sign up to a Terracycle zero waste box:

[https://www.terracycle.co.uk/en-GB/zero\\_waste\\_boxes/cigarette-waste](https://www.terracycle.co.uk/en-GB/zero_waste_boxes/cigarette-waste)

## 7. DONATE FOOD

If food is part of your business model, you will of course have food waste; but don't despair, there are some brilliant charities who collect foods that you are going to throw away. This can include foods on, or past their BBE dates - so don't automatically think it has to be discarded. Check them out and see if there are other charitable organisations close to you. This is one of them: <http://fareshare.org.uk/>

## 8. TEAM PACK UPS

A more expensive one; but why not get your team onboard and set a date for no plastics from home? Invest in a nice pack up box, and re-usable water bottle for each team member; and then say there is no more one use food cling wrap or foil allowed on the premises. You will be surprised at their buy in once they have their new pack up boxes.

## 9. BIKE DONATIONS

Again; one for the team - make a pledge to donate 50p to a chosen charity for each time a team member bikes to work and back instead of using their car or public transport. Great for the environment, and for fitness for the team.

## 10. VEG BOX DELIVERY

Why not have a local veg company deliver to you once a week? It will take one member of your team to place the orders each week, and their individual veg boxes will arrive for them to take home. This is far less packaging, with no plastic bags; as all the veg goes into a cardboard box that the veg company would otherwise discard. You will also be supporting local businesses. Win win!