Here are some tips to help keep London waste free:

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Waste Free Living:

Organizations:

Almost everyone belongs to an organization, be it your school, your church or your local sports club. With the power of people, an organization can change the world. Simple steps that you can take:

Have an education session about plastic bags & their environmental impact. Use our PowerPoint presentation if you like!

Get all your members to take the plastic bag pledge

Replace publicity material with something useful & get reusable bags for all your members.

Approach your local retailers and ask them to reduce plastic bag usage. Download "A Letter to Retailers" & get your members to sign it

Retailers:

You are extremely important when it comes to reducing plastic bag use. After all, the customers get the plastic bags from you. You're paying for them, but you're giving them out for free. So why not start decreasing the number of bags you give out?

STEP 1: Start asking customers if they need a bag instead of giving them one automatically.

STEP 2: Display a sign thanking them for refusing plastic bags

They'll soon get the idea.

Individuals:

Take your own bags shopping. Take them to grocery stores, bookstores & even to clothing stores.

Refuse plastic bags! You don't have to accept plastic bags just because you bought something. You can say "NO PLASTIC BAG THANKS". Take charge, and feel good. You've just helped the environment!

Don't accept any more plastic bags until you have used up all the bags you have at home.

TIP: You don't need a plastic bag when you buy small items, books, magazines, CD's, videos, diapers, etc. Just carry them out of the store in your hand. Keep the receipt in the book or mag.

Any other tips? Email us & share them around!

Waste Free Festivals and Events

Transforming all Festivals in the Forest City Waste Free will not happen overnight but the Coalition has made progress in many areas. Participating festivals at Victoria Park include: SunFest, Home County Folk Festival and RibFest. Here's how you can help the effort to minimize waste while you enjoy the festivals.

Dishes and Cutlery

Bring Your Own: You are encouraged to bring your own reusable containers, mugs, dishes, and cutlery which will save on disposables products being used.

Rental of Reusable

An alternative to disposables will be offered at the festival whereby you rent a reusable (your deposit will be returned when you return the dishes for washing) this action will also save on disposable products being used.

Compostable

Many vendors will supply your food choice on a compostable container, which you must then place in the compost bin at the eco-station. This will eliminate a tremendous amount of garbage in the park and create good soil for gardens in the future.

Water

Bottled water is being discouraged this year. Look for the refilling stations and water fountains provided by the city. This source of water will help to eliminate the abundance of single use plastic water bottles and once again cut down on disposable products in the park and the waste generated.

Plastic Bags

Vendors are being asked to not give out plastic shopping bags at the festivals. Therefore you are encouraged to bring a backpack or a reusable cloth bag for your purchases. More info on the London Plastic Bag project here

EcoStations

Look for the signs indicating the locations of the recycling, composting and garbage bins. Follow the instructions at each site for how to sort any items you are throwing away. It is critical that there not be cross contamination of the bins otherwise all will become landfill

How to Get Involved

It will take lots of new volunteers to help ensure that London's Festivals go green. We encourage you to contact your favorite festival and ask to be part of their green team.

www.sunfest.on.ca

www.homecounty.ca/greenfestival

Or, you can e-mail us and we will be happy to make you part of our Waste Free World volunteer list.