



Our Festival, Our Planet

At Vantastival we care passionately about the sustainability of our activities, about climate change and about the future.

The spread of the coronavirus pandemic in 2020 has had a significant impact on the environment globally. There has been an increase in plastic waste as face masks and gloves are discarded, and many of us who try to be environmentally conscious and responsible in our purchases are buying more hand wash and sanitizer, chemical cleaning products and wrapped food items for hygiene reasons. However, Covid 19 has simultaneously resulted in a decrease in the overall pollution rate, especially air pollution, due to the shutdown of factories, a drop in coal and oil industrial activities, reduced air travel, and a massive reduction in road traffic globally. This has resulted in huge declines in pollution over major cities in particular. Unfortunately, there is a danger that any environmental benefits of a global lock-down will be short-lived, and once normal business resumes CO2 and NO2 emissions will rise once again. We hope that there will be some long-lasting benefits, as people confined to their homes have taken to growing their own food, buying fewer unnecessary items, taking care of themselves and each other, and spending time reflecting on life and appreciating those things that are really important. Let's grab this opportunity to improve our ways of living long into the future.

Each year at Vantastival we try to incorporate new and improved strategies to help fight against the amount of impact and waste that we as a festival and you as our patrons create during the

weekend. Our footprint is currently up there with the best of the best but we need to do more. Our world is rapidly changing and we need to change with it.

Recycling can only do so much, we need to change the way we interact with this incredible world of ours in order to preserve what we have and recover what has already been affected by our modern day conveniences.

It's going to take work but the pay-off will not only provide a more hospitable environment for our own futures, but also a greener, more sustainable and biodiverse world for the many generations of all humans and creatures to come.

So without further ado, let's introduce you to our Green Policy!

Our Green Policy, Our Future

Use of Compostable Packaging & Eco Cups

Vantastival's food traders use ONLY compostable foodware. It is our policy that there be no non-compostables used for food or drinks and no disposable plastic cups will be used at O'Hara's Bar. The use of EcoCups at Vantastival over the last couple of years has been a great success, saving in excess of **10,000** plastic cups going to landfill!

WHY? Well, put simply:

- Plastic has become a 'natural' part of our daily lives, however there is nothing natural about it. It takes over 500 years for plastic to break down, so that means that EVERY piece of plastic created still exists somewhere, even if part of it has been recycled.
- 72% of all plastic packaging is never recycled, 40% is landfilled so that means 32% ends up in our ecosystems. Ireland is Europe's LEADING producer of plastic waste.
- It's estimated by 2050 there will be more plastic than fish in our oceans.

There's a lot to be done and while we are trying to do our bit, we'd like you to join us by limiting the amount of disposable/single use plastic you bring to the Vantastival site and where possible, not to bring any at all. Here's a few small suggestions to help you start off:

- Bring snacks, drinks and other items in reusable containers that you can bring home when empty and use again, we all have some old-school tupperware knocking about the house, put it to good use!
- Use a stainless steel water bottle, let's do away with bottled water entirely. We suggest stainless steel as they're far more solid than aluminium and don't have any of the nasty HDPE chemicals plastic reusable bottles have. Refilling on site is easy and free!

Compostable toilets

We are introducing a block of compostable loos this year and need your help to ensure the initiative is a success. This means correctly following the instructions on proper use and ensuring that no rubbish goes into the toilets. The science bit is that poop and wee breakdown gradually when layered with sawdust as it creates air gaps for aerobic bacteria to break it all down. This saves water and creates new humanure for our on-site tree planting for carbon off-setting. Proper job.

If you haven't used one before it's really simple, here's how they work:

- Each loo will be like a regular loo but with no water and hence, no flusher.
- There's a bucket of saw dust with an attached scoop.
- One scoop for poop, none for pee.
- No rubbish in the toilets. Sanitary products go in the bins provided.

It's that simple!

Operate a leave-no-trace policy

Does exactly what it says on the tin, we leave NOTHING on site when we go, but we need help during the festival keeping it clean too.

Waste management at Vantastival is an experiment in sustainability. We've all see the filth and detritus at major festivals - it is our aim to reduce to zero the amount going to landfills from our activities. This will require a degree of commitment and responsibility from each attendee. We're operating a "Leave No Trace" policy. Waste that doesn't fall into existing recycling categories as displayed at the event should be disposed of off-site in an environmentally responsible manner.

We would greatly appreciate a responsible attitude from all our patrons - your actions will speak louder than words. Cigarette butts are the bane of any festival, and we would strongly encourage smokers to carry a personal cigarette ashtray/receptacle, such as tobacco tin, film canister, zip-lock bag, or a beer can as a last resort. Please collect your recyclables in clear bags if possible,

and and leave at our rubbish points when full. Please pack up your tent and take it home with you.

Ask a steward where the recycling points and landfill bins are if they don't know!

We pride ourselves in how we leave the site, no cans, no cigarette butts, no MOOP!

What's MOOP you wonder? Well it's known in the festival world as:

Matter Out Of Place	<ul style="list-style-type: none">- Matter out of place is a term that incorporates all aspects of litter, rubbish and debris that you see lying about the festival site. Yes, even GLITTER!- This starts as a can here, a plastic bottle there but ends up piling up around the site and before you know it, there's a huge mound of rubbish where there was nothing hours before.- We all have a duty to keep our environment clean so if you see something out of place, whether a can, a plastic bottle or a pair of broken sunglasses pick it up and put them in the appropriate bins! <p>*Anything that is obviously a lost item, please bring to Lost & Found ASAP.</p>
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Consume Consciously

What we consume isn't only about what we eat, it's what we buy in general. Consuming consciously works by taking a minute to think about where it is your food, clothes/costumes, camping gear and even your toiletries came from.

Did they:

- Come from thousands of miles away to get here?
- Negatively affect the environment to get here?
- Cause suffering to those who made them?
- Use excessive amounts of water to be made?
- Cause deforestation, land clearing or destruction of habitat to be made?

Do you:

- Really NEED to have that item or food?
- Think you can find a better alternative?
- Want to support an industry that involves any of the above?

We ask everybody coming to Vantastival to think about what they're bringing, if it's necessary, will it last and where it's going once it's done with.

- We're encouraging our patrons and crew to try and introduce more meat free meals into their festival and daily lives seeing as animal agriculture equates for "14.5% of global greenhouse gas emissions, the second **highest** source of emissions and greater than all transportation combined. It also uses about 70% of **agricultural** land, and is one of the **leading causes** of deforestation, biodiversity loss, and water pollution". Try the veg option for one meal, a day, or try the whole weekend if you like! Every meal makes a difference. We have plenty of vegetarian and vegan options on site, don't worry!
- Avoid buying cheap camping gear, as cheap tents and chairs are often single use items too. They break and tear and end up in the skip after only a couple of uses. Think about investing a little more money in a better tent that will last you years or ask a friend to borrow theirs if possible!
- Costumes are great but cheap costume items that are used once and thrown away just end up in landfill and are around for hundreds of years, all for one weekend. Get creative, make your own, they'll be better quality and unlike anyone else's!

We want everyone to have a good time and that includes our future generations!