



## Nationwide network averts 115k single-use items from landfill with reusable party kits

Over the past 12 months, the members of a nationwide non-profit community organisation called the Party Kit Network have collectively prevented over 115,000 single-use items from ending up in landfill. The achievement comes despite the pandemic, as many families continued to hold small, legal gatherings within lockdown restrictions.

The Party Kit Network aims to discourage the use of disposable party supplies and make reusable items more accessible within local communities. It has 380 members across the UK, each offering party kits for hire containing reusable plates, bowls, cups, cutlery and serving ware, such as jugs, trays, platters and cake stands. Some kits also include decorations and props.

Each party kit is independently run by eco-minded individuals, school PTA groups, community lending libraries, small party businesses and zero waste stores. The kits help to avoid unnecessary waste from single-use items such as disposable plastic plates and cutlery, which can take hundreds of years to decompose in landfill.

For a party with 30 guests, switching to reusables and hiring a party kit saves an average of 100 single-use items from landfill. It's often cheaper to hire a party kit than to buy the equivalent disposables, and it's more convenient, with everything provided for the party in one handy box.

The Party Kit Network connects those planning a party with their local party kit via its online directory and has also created an extensive community that enables those who run kits to support each other and share ideas. It was founded in 2019 by Isabel Mack as a non-profit Community Interest Company, which means that any money raised is reinvested in helping it achieve its social purpose.

Members are not charged a fee and the Party Kit Network does not take commission from any hire fees. Instead, it is funded by voluntary donations, fundraisers and income from Isabel's own party kit (which is the only kit owned and operated by the Party Kit Network CIC).

With the Government's recent announcement of its proposed ban on single-use plastic plates, cups and cutlery, the party kit concept has never been more relevant. Similar to the EU ban, which came into effect in July 2021, it aims to cut plastic pollution and forms part of the Government's commitment to prevent all avoidable plastic waste by the end of 2042.

As lockdown restrictions in the UK have now eased and people are keen to get together and celebrate special occasions again, the Party Kit Network is busier than ever and aims to prevent even more disposable items from ending up in landfill over the next 12 months. The organisation provides a perfect example of how community action can fight unnecessary waste and plastic pollution in the war in climate change.

Isabel Mack, Founder of the Party Kit Network:

*"In a year when many of us have been unable to celebrate together as normal, it's amazing to see just how many single-use items were avoided by the handful of party kit hires that were possible. It really demonstrates the potential of party kits to significantly cut waste."*

Beth Roberts, Founder of Hertfordshire-based party kit, [Little Kits](#):

*"We started our business earlier this year in a bid to help busy parents plan parties in a cost-effective and environmentally-friendly way. The Party Kit Network has been an invaluable resource for us as party kit owners and helped connect us with customers in our local area. It's such a brilliant idea and we're really happy to be part of such a strong community with a common goal."*

Jen Gale, [Sustainable\(ish\)](#) blogger and author of 'The Sustainable(ish) Guide to Green Parenting': *"Reusable party kits are such a beautifully simple idea and a total no-brainer when it comes to planet-friendly parties!"*

To find your local party kit visit: <https://partykitnetwork.org/find>

To start your own party kit visit: <https://www.partykitnetwork.org/start>

Follow the Party Kit Network on [Instagram](#), [Facebook](#) and [Twitter](#).

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