



Spotlight



Sharing and reuse: Community Party Kit

March 2025



As part of our work to promote alternatives to single-use items, we joined the **Party Kit Network**, providing our community with reusable tableware to borrow for an event and then return, ready to be used again.

The Party Kit Network

The Party Kit concept combines the benefits of reuse with sharing.

The Network is free to join - all you need to do is to register your Party Kit with them and they'll add you to their interactive map. The minimum requirement for a Party Kit is a set of cups and plates.

The Party Kit Network have a very comprehensive knowledge bank with a lot of guidance and peer learning from all over the world. From advice on the style and make of the items, to recommendations for marketing and capturing stats, every new participant will find answers to any of their potential questions. We certainly found the resource very helpful.



We purchased our tableware for the Party Kit in February 2023 and it has been available for hire since then.

Thurso Party Kits

We decided to host two Party Kit options:

- a cheaper and smaller set of IKEA tableware, that we would hire out for free, aimed mainly for school-age children's parties.
- a more decorative tableware set by Scandinavia, aimed at more sophisticated adult parties, with add-on items such as cake stands, table cloths etc. available for hire for a small fee.

The Party Kit is made available in a large storage bag and a plastic crate, so that dirty and clean items can be easily separated by the users during their hire. We do not require items to be washed before return, as we would do this anyway.

Impact

To date, we have managed to divert **1,132 single use items** from landfill, based on the number of hire and assuming that each reusable item in the kit is used approximately three times per hire.

Learning

We've found that our Party Kits have mostly been used for 18th birthday celebrations and corporate parties. Uptake of the children's Party Kit has been lower than expected, perhaps partly due to a lack of direct marketing to local schools and other children's groups.

Given the climate in the far north, the interest in our cold drink oriented Party Kits is quite seasonal. Our advice to anyone thinking of hosting a Party Kit of their own would be to add hot drink options to the kit, similar to other initiatives from across the HCWP, lending out cups for events, such as the Broadford & Strath CC Ceilidh Kit.

The Party Kit remains as an asset with Thurso CDT after the completion of the Highland Community Waste Partnership and is registered as part of the Caithness Asset Bank.

The Party Kit is part of the wider Caithness Asset bank: www.thursocdt.co.uk/caithnessassetbank

To learn more: www.thursocdt.co.uk/party-kit

The Highland Community Waste Partnership (2022-2025)

Funded by The National Lottery Climate Action Fund, and coordinated by Keep Scotland Beautiful, the Highland Community Waste Partnership (HCWP) brought together eight community groups in the Highlands to reduce waste and promote more sustainable consumption.

Learn more here: www.keeptoscotlandbeautiful.org/highlandcommunitywaste