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## Catering Waste

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***To cut down on catering waste on a personal level , try some of the following suggestions:***

Bring sandwiches, or other lunch items, from home. Failing this, buy from a sandwich bar which makes the sandwiches on the spot and does not over package them.

Use 'real' mugs, plates and cutlery rather than disposables, and make your own drinks rather than use a vending machine. If there are no facilities for washing up, ask for them

See if milk can be delivered to the premises in returnable bottles, rather than relying on cartons. Milk bottles are used an average of 20 times.

When arranging food for meetings or conferences, try to ensure that disposables are not used. If the meeting is at company premises, provide cutlery and crockery.

**If the company has a cafeteria, consider the following:**

Are items such as butter, jam, salt, pepper and milk served in individually wrapped portions? Consider how this could be changed, through, for example, the use of dispensers.

Check with suppliers to see if purchases could be delivered in fewer, larger cartons.

Avoid the use of disposable cups, cutlery and other similar items, by changing to long life products.

Is there any possibility of composting waste food, or having it collected separately for central composting?

Review the wrapping on any pre-prepared food or snacks, and see if it can be reduced.

Use paper napkins made of recycled paper.

Bulk buy where possible to reduce the amount of packaging to be disposed

Investigate the opportunities to compost any waste food, or look at central composting through your local authority or community group.

If there is no real alternative to a vending machine with plastic cups for tea/coffee, there are schemes available that collect these for recycling - and provide recycled plastic cups for use with the machine.

Can banks could be provided for recycling cans. Collectors operate nationally and would be able to collect these from your offices, although you will need to be able to store the cans.

Cooking oil can be recycled, but again there is generally a minimum quantity for collection.

### Contact information

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