

Return of the Rubbish

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Over the bank holiday weekend, we saw the return of many well-known festivals like Reading and Creamfields. A surprise to many eventgoers, the return of festivals this year was almost abolished at the start of 2021. Now, we see many well-known live events return back to the stage, with thousands of fans attending again. During the pandemic we saw a drastic shift in sustainability, with many event organisers reconsidering materials and services to promote environmental stability. Although this was not the case at the weekend, with many tents and litter left behind in the lush green spaces of the UK.

Sustainability is a key importance, when planning for any type of event. From using recycled cups, to organising a sustainable waste management system, event planners must consider the overall benefits of utilising these sources. On the other hand, it can be difficult to control waste management at such events like Festivals with mega audiences. Below are a few ways event organisers and the general public can do to become more eco-friendly at festivals:

- Research – Find out what drinking facilities will be on site and consider recyclable options like recycled water bottles.
- Transport and Commute – Use facilities like public transport or car share to reduce your carbon footprint.
- Donations – Help support any charity pop ups at the venue by volunteering or donating.
- Reusables – Try to reduce the number of utensils you bring and reuse if you can.
- Waste – Take any rubbish, bottles, and abandoned tents with you as this is the biggest polluter.

Source from BBC Earth: How to be sustainable

Without taking the complete thrill out of attending a festival, it is important to consider these factors for the future of the eco-system. According to a report from the Creative Carbon Scotland, each attendee will generate over 2.7Kg of waste per day. Therefore, it's crucial to understand ways of improving sustainability at festivals. The source below is an extract from Reading Festival early Tuesday morning. The image foregrounds the disbursement of rubbish and abandoned tents left by festival goers. According to the [Metro](#), 'at least 6 fields were each littered with hundreds of tents, beer cans, bottles and unwanted cans'. Luckily many festivals have an action plan in place to remove all rubbish after the event by volunteers and Eco management groups.



Source from the Metro: Reading Festival 2021 left behinds

In order to prevent these issues at festivals, there are many preventatives in place to manage issues such as waste and pollution. However, to control such matters at mega events is a challenge many event organisers will consider, so planning ahead is always fundamental.