



PARTY KIT

★ NETWORK ★



The Impact We Made 2021-2022



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Finance

Sharing and reusing for a
greener future.

Please contact us with any comments at hello@partykitnetwork.org



About Us



The Party Kit Network CIC is a social enterprise committed to making reusable tableware an accessible and practical eco-friendly alternative to disposables.

Part of the emerging sharing economy, party kits are locally run boxes of reusable tableware and decorations. Kits are lent within the community for events and returned to be used again.

The Party Kit Network aims to connect those planning a party with their local party kit and works to support those who run kits.

Starting in the UK as a community project in June 2019, we registered as a Community Interest Company (limited by guarantee) in July 2020. We now have over 520 members providing access to party kits across 9 countries.



"It's everything a zero waste initiative should be - practical, economical and joyful."



The Problem



A Care Bears-themed birthday party in 1987. As guests delved into their party bags used tableware was binned, destined for landfill.

Not much has changed - disposable tableware is just as prevalent now. Difficult to recycle, they can take years to breakdown. The plastic tableware from that party in 1987 is likely still in a landfill today.

Switching to reusables offers the most sustainable solution. If used at least 10 times(1), a reusable plastic cup has a lower environmental impact than that of a disposable one. And as part of a party kit, cups will get used many many times more.



It is estimated that England uses 1.1 billion single-use plates each year – equivalent to 20 per person.(2)



Paper plates are most commonly made from wood pulp with a polythene coating, which come from carbon-busting trees and oil.



Paper plates with food or grease residue cannot be recycled.



Eco-friendly or 'compostable' disposable tableware may come from renewable sources but still have a significant carbon footprint.

(1) Garrido and Alvarez del Castillo (2007)

(2) DEFRA Consultation on proposals to ban commonly littered single items in England (2021)

Benefit of Party Kits



Party kits offer an easy and convenient way to switch to reusables.

Borrowing a party kit is good for the party host, the local community and the planet.



Protect resources

Reduce demand for new materials and water by sharing and reusing.



Banish soggy plates

Get a better quality product without the need for ongoing storage space.



Keep it local

Support local businesses and community fundraisers.



Planet friendly

Local sharing is an easy way to reduce your carbon footprint.



Budget friendly

It's often cheaper to hire a basic kit than to buy the equivalent disposables.



Convenient

Save time with everything you need in one box.



Waste busting

Avoid the waste of 100+ single-use items per party.



Circular economy

We take responsibility for end-of-life and stop litter.



"Sharing, reusing, connecting what we already have with our neighbours makes the Party Kit Network a truly eco friendly alternative."

Erin Rhoads - The Rogue Ginger blogger & author



Introduction



In the last 12 months our network has continued to grow and have an impact on waste. As our members have reopened their kits following the end of COVID gathering restrictions, party kits have been used by more people at more parties than ever before.

In the UK the Platinum Jubilee gave us the opportunity increase awareness of just how practical reusable tableware can be. We contributed to Waitrose Weekend Magazine and the Big Jubilee Lunch website.

It's been a busy year; I was proud to be included on the Women in Social Enterprise Top 100 List for 2022 and to write for the Plastic Free July blog (which was done while also holding my new 4-week-old baby!). This summer I had the opportunity to work with students from the University of Winchester on the Social Innovation Programme run by Student Hubs looking at how we could develop our partnerships.

This year has seen more governments take action against waste with Scotland, Queensland and Western Australia all introducing bans on single-use plastic plates and cutlery. The power of party kits has never been more relevant.

Thank you to our board members and to Erin Rhoads, Amanda Hepburn, Michelle Nitz (HoneyStone Accounting), and Elisabeth Hall and Mary Connors from the 'We Make Change' project. Each have donated their time and expertise to support us. And huge thank you to all of our members for joining me in making reusables an accessible alternative to single-use tableware.

Isabel

Isabel Mack - Founder
August 2022



Our Impact

2022

280,546

single-use items avoided
by hire of party kits



522 Party Kits
on the map



494 Downloads
'Get Started' Guide



1,042 Hire Enquires
via our website



**+132 New
Members**



**+1 New
Country**



**8,000 Website
Visitors**

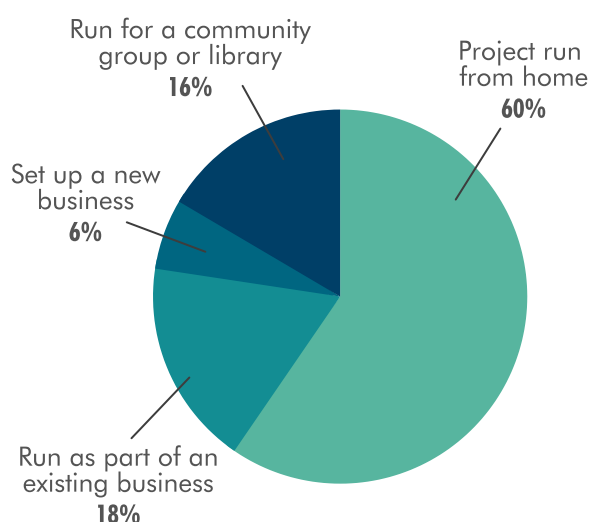
Reporting period 1 August 2021 - 31 July 2022. Single-use items avoided = disposable plates, cups, bowls and cutlery items. Based on responses from 173 members.



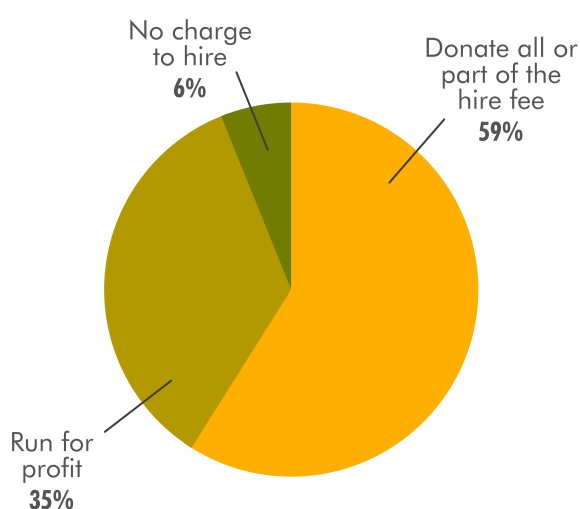
Our Members

Without our members the Network simply wouldn't exist. While the set up of each party kit is unique, all are united in a desire to have a positive impact for the environment. The benefit of party kits doesn't end with the reduction in waste; many party kits fundraise for school PTAs, local causes and environmental charities.

How party kits are operated

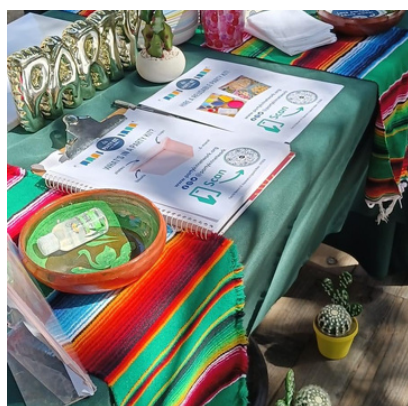


What happens to income



Data from 2020/21 Members Audit

Promoting party kits around the world!



Anaheim CA , USA



Southampton, UK



Melbourne VIC, Australia

Our Members

What our members say...



"I came across the idea for my party kit back in 2019 after reading about a lady in Cardiff who had set one up. Little did I know that there was such a wonderful community of kit owners out there. The Party Kit Network, with Isabel at the helm, is a wonderful group. She has created numerous resources to help those starting out and is doing a brilliant job of promoting the network nationally. The other kit owners are always sharing ideas and supporting one another. The network has really grown since I first joined, just as the concept is growing and gaining in strength. Onwards!."

- Anna Tighe, Witney Eco Party Packs
UK member since August 2019

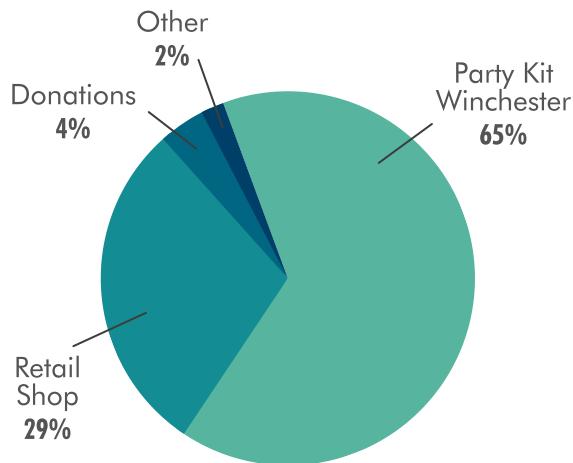


"I first discovered the Party Kit Network whilst researching my local area as I'd just started my reusable party-ware business. It has been such a huge support for sharing ideas and asking questions, and has been a massive help to me. I love being a part of it and knowing that collectively, we are making such a big impact on helping the environment."

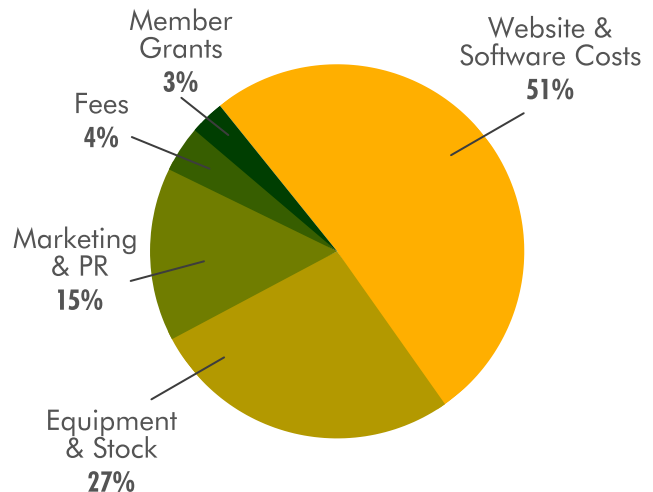
- Hayley Thomas, The Cornish Party Pixie
UK member since May 2022

Our Income & Spend

Network income



Network spend



In 2021-22 we spent just under £1,000. Our costs are low because everyone who works on the Network donates their time.

Funding continues to be a challenge - we do not charge members a fee or take commission from any referrals. The income from Party Kit Winchester (the only kit owned and operated by the Network) grew by +350% so covered a larger proportion of our costs this year.



Support us with a donation: partykitnetwork.org/donate



"Reusable party kits are such a beautifully simple idea and a total no-brainer when it comes to planet-friendly parties!"

Jen Gale - Sustainable(ish) blogger & author

