

Organisation	Derry City and Strabane District Council
Project Name/Title	Compostable Packaging, Slow Food Festival, Derry 2019
Project Contact	Anne Carlin, Derry City and Strabane District Council
Project Summary	<p>Derry City and Strabane District Council trialled compostable packaging for street food traders at their annual Slow Food Festival on 29th & 30th September 2019.</p> <p>The event, funded by DAERA's Northern Ireland Regional Food Programme, has a strong focus on sustainability as well as showcasing the best of local, clean, fair food.</p> <p>The compostable trial involved DAERA granting approximately £2,000 to the Council, via the Tackling Plastic NI project, to purchase a range of dinnerware including compostable plates, cups, cutlery, containers, straws and stirrers. The dinnerware items were vegware i.e. of plant origin, made from either Bagasse (a sugarcane byproduct) or a corn-based starch plastic known as PLA. Napkins, bags and boxes were made from Kraft paper, and stirrers were made from wood. The products were all sourced from Zeus Packaging and were competitively tendered.</p> <p>The Council also trialled a vessel deposit return scheme at the Event Bar, which was match-funded by the Council. This involved purchasing sturdy plant-based EcoCups, each costing £1, and passing that price on through an additional £1 deposit on top of the price of the first beverage. This was then refunded if customers returned the vessel when leaving. These cups were washed and reused at the subsequent Sippy Fest Event.</p> <p>Additionally, ahead of the event, the Council adopted a competitive tender process for traders with a sustainability weighting of 10% in tender application assessments.</p>
Aims/Objectives of Project	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To trial a selection of vegware packaging in a closed-loop controlled environment • To test the appetite for compostable packaging with local traders. • To trial a deposit return scheme with patrons at a public event.
Funding	DAERA
Successes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Compostable packaging well received by traders • Successful testbed for future events - Public particularly enthused by deposit return scheme • Learning the importance of staffing bins and good signage to avoid contamination at future events • Positive PR for event being sustainable Failures
Communications	Bespoke web page, door-knocking and delivery of information pack inviting residents to take part, a support helpdesk, social media campaign, banners and posters including real Whitehead residents and PR campaign with Minister Poots to launch trial.

