Waste Expectations:
Trash Talk with Businesses
Thursday 31st January 2019

The purpose of this document is to summarise the outcomes from the event that took place in North Berwick, bringing together local businesses, community groups, NGOs, representatives from East Lothian Council, Resource Efficient Scotland and Vegware. The aims of this event were to discuss solutions and opportunities for East Lothian regarding alternatives to disposable food and drink packaging.

Idea from participants:
1. Reusable
2. Communal waste collection of compostable items
3. East Lothian loyalty scheme
4. 'Steering Group' to be developed with interested participants

"Keep up the excellent work here, community driven efforts are far better received locally than local authority / central government driven initiatives"

Event attendee

"[community bulk buying of the compostable or reusable packaging? And applying for North Berwick to be a plastic free town."

Event attendee

"Good to discuss, the litter and pollution problem that we have in East Lothian, and how we address this problem."

Event attendee

Next steps...?
That is up to you! As suggested, a 'Steering Group' could come together to put in place some concrete ideas to take forward the suggested initiatives. Contact naomi.arnold@fidra.org.uk if you would like to get involved.
Waste Expectations:
Business case studies

Archerfield Walled Garden experienced a saving of £3,454 per annum through changes in their waste infrastructure and collection systems.

This was primarily achieved by switching their general waste and recycling collections to be with East Lothian Council, and working with Vegware on their compostable food packaging and food waste.

By charging customers 10p to use a disposable (compostable) cup, Steampunk Coffee Roasters recovered £1,183.70 in 2018.

In addition, by offering customers a discount of 50p if they use their own reusable cup, around 20-30% (season dependent) of the customers take advantage of this. A significant increase on the industry average of around 5% and saving them on the cost of using disposable cups.

Resources:

• East Lothian Business Gateway Expert Help Programme: https://www.eastlothian.gov.uk/info/210563/business/11961/business_advice_and_information/4

• Resource Efficient Scotland: www.resourceefficientscotland.com

• Vegware: www.vegware.com
  ➢ Close the Loop: https://www.vegware.com/close-the-loop/info_50.html