



# Climate and nature-friendly sharing

Get Togethers are a great way to connect with others and share what's important to you. Making your event a chance to share knowledge and skills can have a big impact on people's feeling of purposefulness and confidence.

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Sharing ideas, activities and good food with others in your community is a big part of what Get Togethers are all about. It's more than likely that sharing creates positive ripple effects for the climate, nature and our health and wellbeing. Sharing can be tailored to suit your community, and can take many forms – from working on a project together such as building a hedgehog house, to swapping recipes, or sharing ideas for growing fruit and vegetables. Your group could even choose to champion a local community campaign or project through your Get Together.

There are lots of ideas and options out there, such as compost schemes, wildflower meadows and community orchards, but the most important thing is for it to be something that meets a local call and encourages a response; something your community is passionate about. Together, you can make a small change in your neighbourhood – and it's these small changes that can make a big difference.



[@SAFoodforLife](https://twitter.com/SAFoodforLife) [#FFLGetTogethers](https://twitter.com/FFLGetTogethers)  
[www.fflgettogethers.org](http://www.fflgettogethers.org)

# How to get sharing at your next Get Together

Here are a few ideas and activities you might like to try at your next event:

## Look to rent or borrow, not buy

This can save money – particularly if it's something you are only going to use once, or aren't going to use very often. Working together as a team pool resources minimises the demand on the planet – and your wallet! Some local councils have equipment like tables, chairs and gazebos that are available for community activities, so it's worth checking with them.

There are also local sharing hubs, as well as websites like **comoodle** that help people to share items. As the need for IT equipment to connect people and communities has increased, groups have been set up to share out IT equipment for those who otherwise may not be able to afford the access to this technology – which can be a real lifeline in tackling loneliness and isolation.

Invest in reusable, save in the future  
Disposable single-use items such as tablecloths and cutlery can feel like a convenient option for your Get Together, but they aren't always convenient for your pocket or the planet.

Instead, how about trying some of these ideas:

- If you can't borrow items from group members or the community, you could look at buying second-hand. To save money, you may find items like plates and serving platters in charity shops.
- Explore creative ideas for table cloths such as old curtains or bed sheets that can be washed and used again, rather than throwing away lots of single-use paper cloth.
- When it comes to decorating your space, there are some great ways to repurpose jam jars, old clothes and fabric. Something as simple as a potted plant, which can be used again and again, can really brighten up a room. You could even try making the decorations together as a group at the event itself!
- Chalk boards and hand-made posters can make a real impact on a space, and make your Get Together feel special whilst reducing the need for any printing for your event. Take a look at some more **waste-free event tips here.**

## Recycle

Recycling can be a clever way to make the most of the resources that are already available, but when things get busy and exciting, it can easily be forgotten. Asking your venue if they recycle is a good idea: some places may surprise you, and by asking the question, you are showing how important this is to your community. Having clearly labelled bins for general waste and recycling helps as a reminder, which we all need sometimes. Near the bins, you could put out or ask for signage about what is recyclable in your local area and reminders how to recycle: for example, that food containers can't be recycled unless

they are clean. You may even want to explore a swap and share scheme for old, broken or unused items – you never know what someone might be looking for, and it will save things going into landfill.

## A walk in the park!

For those members of the community who may be unfamiliar with the local area, it's nice to include recommended walking and bike routes on the invitation to your Get Together – it's great for the climate, and for our health! When booking the venue for your event, ask if they have a secure place to store bikes – even if they say no, you are showing that this is a priority for those in the neighbourhood. Other options to reduce your community's carbon footprint include sharing the local public transport route and encouraging car sharing when appropriate, following the **Government guidelines on Covid-19**. Car sharing and providing support around riding a bike may also allow people to attend who otherwise wouldn't be able to make it. And as always – the more the merrier!

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We'd love to hear what you get up to on your next growing Get Together! Please tag us in your gardening and growing photos using the **#FFLGetTogethers**

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## COVID-19 RESTRICTIONS

Although there can be significant benefits from connecting through good food it is important to consider any current local restrictions linked to the coronavirus. Many activities may still be possible with additional safety measures such as distancing and masks or adaptations such as using video technology or being outdoors. As with all safety considerations when organising activities and events, it is vital to assess and manage the risk appropriately for whoever is attending.