



TTP CAMBRIDGE HALF MARATHON

Plastics Journey



DeltaSimons

Protecting people and planet

ABOUT OUR PARTNERSHIP

Delta-Simons Sustainability Partner

As the Sustainability Partner of Cambridge Half Marathon (CHM), Delta-Simons are committed to ensuring that the event continues to evolve to include the highest possible sustainability standards set out in the Environmental, Social & Governance (ESG) statement and makes a positive contribution to Cambridge and the wider environment. If you haven't already, please take some time to take a look at CHM's ESG statement [here](#).

OSB Events and members of the TTP Cambridge Half Marathon team are committed to taking action to ensure that the event's impact on the wider community and environment are positive, wherever possible, and minimise any potentially negative impacts.

The ESG Statement outlined for 2023 and beyond, aligns with The Sustainable Development Goals set by the United Nations as part of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

This document outlines the progress made by the CHM towards its sustainability ambitions, in particular the reduction and removal, where possible, of single use plastics at the event. The key milestones in the CHM are highlighted, culminating in the removal of single use plastic water bottles at the 2023 event, replaced with compostable cups. CHM is delighted to partner with Vegware and Envar to deliver this long-held ambition in 2023, producing compost from the waste cups which will be used in flower beds within Cambridgeshire.

Removal of plastic water bottles was the number one feedback message from the 2022 post-event participant survey, and CHM is very proud to be able to deliver this commitment for 2023.





Plastics Journey

REDUCING PLASTIC WASTE

Reducing plastic waste has long been an ambition of the CHM and was the number one feedback message from the 2022 post-event participant survey, published [here](#).

Previously the CHM has partnered with Harrogate Spring Water to supply water for drink stations in 330ml plastic bottles. Harrogate Spring Water was chosen as their bottles are 100% recyclable and are made from over 50% recycled UK sourced PET plastic. In 2018, they were a finalist in the World Food Innovation Awards, shortlisted for the 'Sustainable Packaging Award'. More details can be found [here](#). In addition, Harrogate Spring Water were able to offer a closed loop recycling system, meaning that the plastic bottles used at the event would be collected and fully recycled locally, producing new plastic bottles.

For many years this was the best solution available due to the lack of the correct commercial composting technology to process compostable cup alternatives to single use plastic bottles within the surrounding region. While CHM has been keen to move to compostable cups for many years, the lack of appropriate local facilities meant that waste cups would need to be transported a significant distance to be processed, which was considered to be an environmentally less favourable option than the use of plastic bottles and more local closed loop recycling. Previously, compostable cups not able to be processed locally would have ended up as landfill. On this basis, the use of plastic bottles continued as the best available option.

COMPOSTABLE CUPS FOR 2023

CHM has continued to explore the option of compostable cups and are pleased to announce that compostable containers will replace plastic bottles at the 2023 CHM.

CHM will be using [Vegware](#) products and have partnered with Cambridgeshire based [Countrystyle Recycling](#) and [Envar Composting Ltd](#) to collect and compost the used cups, producing compost which will be used in flower beds across Cambridgeshire.

Retailers within the event village are also committed to using compostable cups and packaging for their products and will not be offering drinks in plastic bottles at the 2023 event



WHAT ARE COMPOSTABLE CUPS?

Compostable packaging and tableware, is an environmentally friendly alternative to products traditionally made from single use plastic such as disposable cups, cutlery, plates, takeaway containers and food packaging. Compostable alternatives are made from plant-based made from plant-based, renewable, lower carbon, recycled or reclaimed materials which, when processed correctly, can be returned to earth as compost or soil improver. More information about Vegware products can be found [here](#).



HOW WILL COMPOSTABLE CUPS WORK?

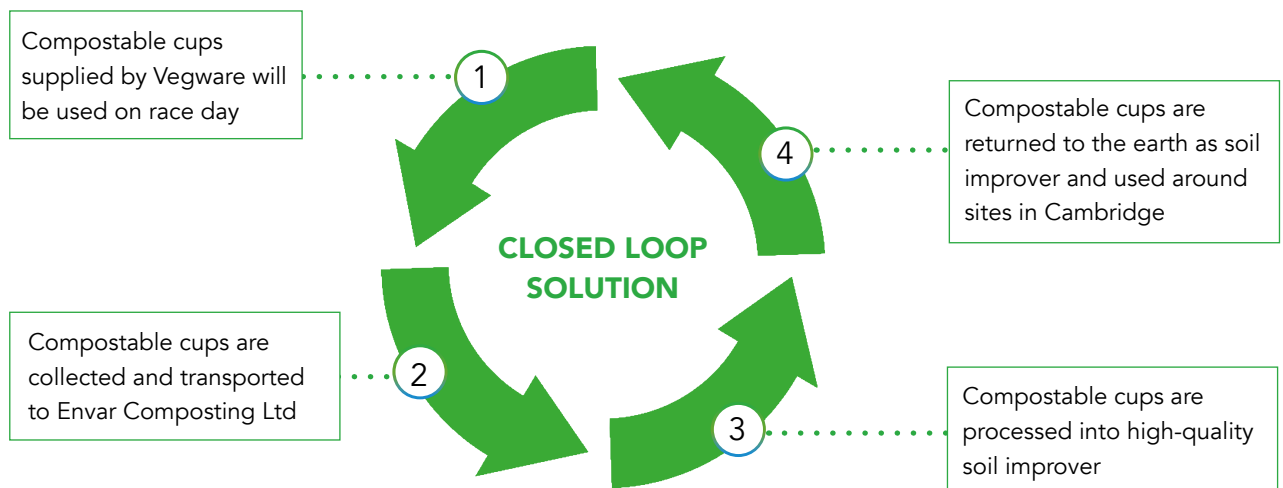
Compostable cups used at the event will be collected on event day. A video explaining what event participants need to do and what happens to the cups once they have been used has been produced and is available to watch on the CHM website.

In summary the cups will be retrieved from the litter drop zones by our waste management team and segregated from general waste and recyclable materials. Food waste from the event village will also be collected with the compostable cups.

Compostable cups and foodwaste will be transported approximately 20 miles by Countrystyle Recycling to Envar Composting Ltd.

Envar use industry-leading in-vessel composting technology to process the compostable organic waste in the most efficient, safe, cost effective and sustainable manner to produce a high-quality soil improver. The resultant soil improver is a cost effective, natural alternative to artificial fertilizers and can replace high carbon footprint peat based composts, reducing environmental impact. This compost is used by agriculture and horticulture as a soil conditioner and mulch which helps to optimise soil health, aid carbon sequestration and improve crop quality and yield.

A number of Cambridgeshire based businesses and organisations use this material as a soil improver for agriculture, horticulture and landscaping of parks and gardens. Jesus College, Cambridge will use some of the resultant compost within its landscaped grounds following the 2023 CHM event.



GOODIE BAGS

Participant goodie bags have also been on a sustainability journey since the first CHM event in 2012. Reusable plastic goodie bags were introduced in 2015, replacing previous single use carrier bags. From 2019 the goodie bag has been leaflet free, reducing waste and paper consumption.

In 2020 the event goodie bags were further upgraded to a more sustainable reusable and recycleable bag made of jute. Surplus event goodie bags are also donated to local events.

The 2023 CHM goodie bags continue along the theme of sustainability and plastics, and are made from certified rPET formed from recycled plastic bottles.



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