



A quickstart guide to sustainable hosting





To support responsible tourism and help Hosts on Airbnb make their space more sustainable and resource-efficient, we've compiled a list of top tips in partnership with [Zero Waste Scotland](#) that you can easily implement or share as instructions in your house manual.

Find out how making small changes and carefully selecting food and household supplies for your guests can make an important contribution to protecting the environment. Together we can help make travel more sustainable.



1.

Tell guests in advance about recycling

Separating rubbish saves resources, and some materials such as glass, paper and plastic can be reused. Waste separation is handled differently across the world, so it makes sense to briefly explain to your guests how waste is separated in your local area. It requires little effort and has a positive impact on the environment. Online resources like Recycling Sorter www.recyclingsorter.scot (Scotland) and the UK Government portal www.gov.uk/recycling-collections (England & Wales) can help. Offer at least one recycling bin and if other items need to be recycled separately, consider providing labelled bins as a simple waste segregation solution for guests.



2. Minimise food waste

70% of the food we throw out is binned because it wasn't eaten in time¹. So, encourage guests to reduce their food waste. Guests can donate spare or leftover food through sharing apps like [Olio](#) which connects people with their neighbours and local businesses so they can share food and household items. Also, composting is a great way to make use of the nutrient-rich food waste and can be added to the soil in your pots or garden to help your plants grow. Consider providing a compost bin for your guests as a way to minimise the amount of waste sent to landfill. Some local authorities offer food waste recycling services. If this service is available in your area, providing your guests a countertop food waste caddy is a great way to encourage them to recycle unavoidable food waste.

¹<https://wrap.org.uk/taking-action/food-drink/actions/action-on-food-waste>



3.

Conserve water

Because fresh, clean water is a limited resource, it's important to be mindful of how much water you and your guests use, especially as the climate crisis contributes to more droughts. Use efficient settings and appliances: Washing machines and dishwashers use a lot of water. If your space has them, encourage guests to consider if they really do need to put items in the wash and if they do, they should use the quick-wash or eco settings. And when it's time to replace the machine, opt for an energy-efficient one that uses less water. Regularly check for leaks around toilets, sinks, tubs, and appliances that use water. You can also make a difference by installing low-flow taps and low-flow or dual-flush toilets.



4. Use package-free products

Whether it's cereal, sugar, or olive oil that you're looking for, you can find a variety of package-free shops where you can bring your own containers in order to minimise the need for packaging. Instead of single-use bottles, opt for refillable hand soap, dish soap, and cleaning products. For Hosts that like to provide food and household supplies for their guests, this is a good opportunity to do it in a more environmentally-friendly way.



5. Provide reusable bags

Plastic bags can be mistaken for food by wild animals². Help guests to avoid using them by offering reusable and washable fabric bags for the duration of their stay, which can be used time and time again by future guests too.

² World Wildlife Fund's 60 Actions for the Planet, published March 5, 2021



6. Stock refillable bottles and food storage containers

Water in plastic or glass bottles produces CO₂ both during production and transport. Reusable water bottles and coffee mugs are great for guests to use when they're out and about. Guests can top up at [refill stations](#) which are becoming more readily available across the UK. Reusable glass food storage containers allow guests to save leftovers or pack food for a picnic.



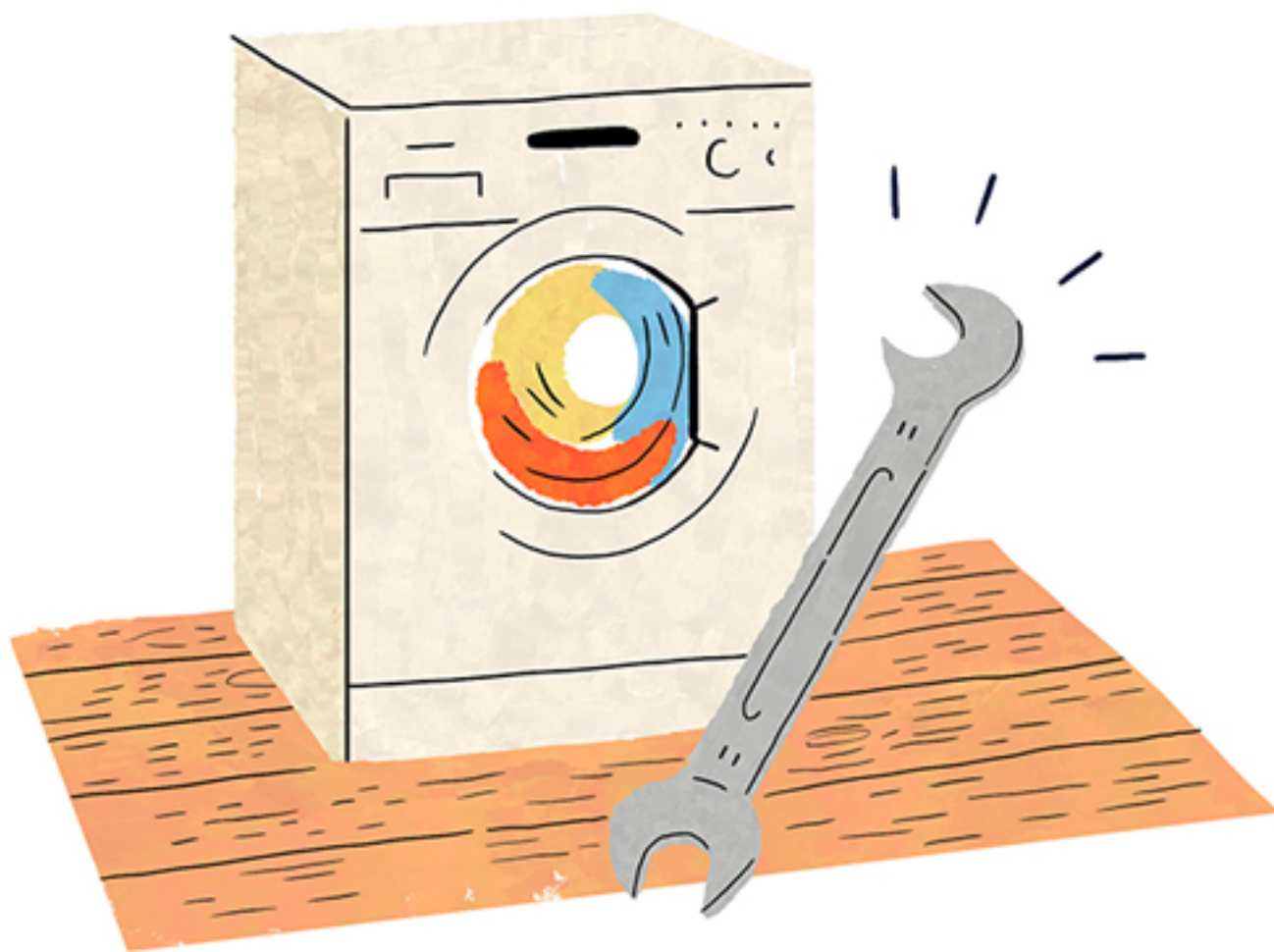
7. Choose sustainable energy suppliers

In addition to using green electricity suppliers like [OVO Energy](#), you can also contribute to sustainability with energy-saving lamps, sealed windows and doors. The same applies to electronic household appliances. When shopping, look for appliances that are A++ or higher. This way you can save electricity and water. When buying appliances, find out whether the device consists of individual parts that can easily be replaced if defective as this also saves money and protects the environment.



8. Use eco-friendly cleaning supplies

When choosing your cleaning products opt for environmentally-friendly options. Vinegar cleaner and citric acid ensure cleanliness and shine and do just as good a job as conventional chemical cleaners. Their advantage: these agents are biodegradable and, as a result, don't harm the environment. Reusable sponges, which can be washed at 60 degrees, are a good environmentally-friendly alternative to plastic sponges and can also be reused for a long time.



9. Repair broken appliances instead of buying new ones

Before buying a new refrigerator or washing machine, check whether it can be repaired cost-effectively or you can opt to reuse a second hand item as this protects the environment, e.g., buying second hand appliances from Revolve certified stores (www.revolvereuse.com). Revolve is a quality standard for second hand goods in Scotland, administered by Zero Waste Scotland, and certified stores sell a range of goods including appliances, furniture and homeware.



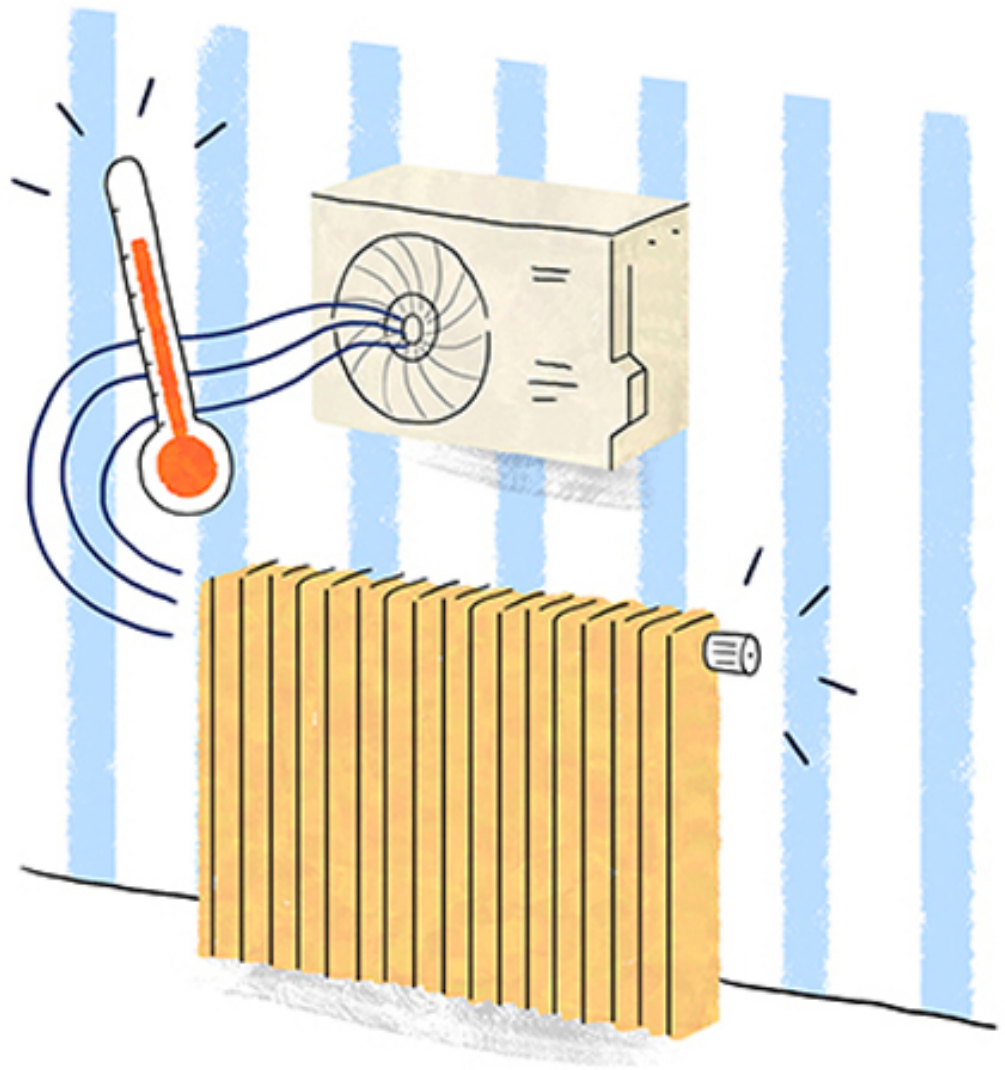
10. **Avoid coffee makers that use plastic pods**

Coffee makers with plastic pods generate a lot of waste, which isn't great for the environment. Opt for a coffee maker that doesn't use single-use plastic or disposable items. Going capsule-free or using refillable coffee pods are a more sustainable alternative. Plus, the price per kilo of ground coffee may work out cheaper than that of capsules.



11. Make your guests aware of clean-up days in your local area

Many cities have local groups which organise litter picking activities to help keep neighbourhoods clean. Initiatives such as [Keep Scotland Beautiful](#) and [Clean Up Britain](#) regularly organise clean-up campaigns. Make your guests aware of such events as they have a positive effect on the environment as well as local communities.



12. Explain how to use the heating and air conditioning

In order to ensure their energy-efficient use, it's helpful to give your guests a brief explanation of how to use the heating and air conditioning in your space correctly. Point out that they should switch off devices, lights and appliances to save energy when they're not in use or they're going outside.



13. Promote the use of public transport

Whether it's bikes or trains, the carbon footprint left behind by public transport is much lower than that left by aeroplanes, ships, and cars. Encourage your guests to take a cycling tour or use public transport instead of driving. This helps save resources and the environment. Explain to guests how the transport network operates, provide them with timetables and suggestions on how best to get around your city or region.



For more tips on living a sustainable lifestyle,
visit www.wasteless.scot