

ELT FOOTPRINT: GOOD PRACTICE IN CONFERENCES AND EVENTS

This is a list of comments made on the Facebook group, highlighting action being taken by various organisations and events.

Please add a comment if there's something you'd like to add to the list. Thanks!

Certainly a review of the paper inserts in delegate bags is long overdue. We have our second Future of Training conference in **IH London in November** so this is very timely. I'll check with the rest of our conference committee.

since 2012, **TESOL SPAIN** has been giving out **USB sticks** with session handouts to participants at our Annual Convention to avoid using more paper than strictly necessary. We also ask speakers to send their **handouts to be uploaded to our webpage**. At regional events we invite attendees to request digital handouts of the talks, unless they are really needed for a workshop for example. We also ask participants to **hand in the plastic card holders and lozenges** so that we can re-use them the following year.

TESOL-SPAIN has been working hard to help the environment since 2012. You can see our Green Policy and Discrimination Policies on our home page: <http://www.tesol-spain.org/en/>. In addition to this we have reduced paper on feedback forms: In 2018 in Madrid we did it all by email, then in 2019 in Oviedo we used QR codes. Like all things we try it out and then improve to make the process and impact on the environment better.

JALT

At **JALT** (Japan Association for Language Teaching) we have had an **Environmental Committee** since 2015. We have tried to introduce a few things such as **badge return points, sustainable conference bags, carbon offset donations, fairtrade, sustainable cups, FSC paper, and trash bins**. We have raised awareness but the environment isn't a priority, the cost is always mentioned. One thing I have learned is that **organizers don't automatically continue with an initiative and need reminding**. A balance of new ideas and a continuity of established practices is required.

https://drive.google.com/file/d/1IJhbk2c3lfUUr2tmucXhQEhEhp048-SI/view?fbclid=IwAR37arVTC7jM6_yt_p_y0UWCC_J6s1szn4XNwJhAWETHehmSFhY-gOYOw7ok

Let's give a little credit to **IATEFL**, because I think they have already made huge strides in this. The Conference programme used to be huge; now there's **an app and a much-reduced programme**. There are **reusable coffee cups**. For Liverpool they encouraged presenters not to give out handouts; I did three talks in Liverpool, and for the first time, I had no handouts. I also noticed a massive decrease in the amount of stuff in the conference bag. It wasn't that long ago that I used to leave piles of stuff from the bag (and usually the bag itself) in the rubbish bin in my hotel room - much less so this year. Maybe it isn't perfect yet, but I really think they're doing their best.

The badges from last year's conference in Liverpool were collected to be made into pen. Alternative modes of badges being looked into for next year.

Maybe we could try and persuade **InnovateELT** to **go paperless** next year? Lead by example and all that. Plans being made for this at the moment.

Sistema B Uruguay - **Conference badges are made out of recycled paper with seeds in them**, so that you can plant them when you get back home. **Lanyards are made out of recycled jeans**. **You get a glass or cup to use during the conference** (as we did this year at [IATEFL](#)) **Wood knife and fork** to avoid using plastic ones, and so on. Everything is planned thinking about the impact on people and the environment.

At the [ELT Freelancers](#) Awayday in Oxford each year, we do our best in this regard:

- We ask delegates to return their badges and we re-use them at the next event.
- We don't have any kind of goody bag, but aim to offer useful discounts on services and products each year, offering pens only in a help-yourself pot if anyone needs them.
- We encourage all presenters to provide us with electronic documentation to circulate after the event instead of paper hand outs.
- All drinks are served in re-usable ceramic/glass.
- We put delegates who live near each other in contact before the event so that they have the opportunity to lift share.