

The Useless Project workshops & webinars



We give talks and workshops to schools and businesses across the country.
Our aim? Tackling sustainability in a fun and accessible way

Online Webinars

For more info contact info@theuselessproject.com



Sustainable Fashion Talk with Q&A // 40mins-1hr // Live Zoom Webinar // (max 200 viewers per session)

The rise of “fast fashion” has changed the way we buy and wear clothes, but at what cost? Fashion is one of the most polluting industries in the world producing billions of tonnes of waste each year, and that’s before we look at energy consumption and employment conditions. It’s time to question why that t-shirt only cost €5; consider where it came from; and become aware of the print it’s going to leave on our planet. In this talk, Taz and Geraldine will breakdown the negative environmental effects of the fast fashion industry, along with screening insightful, short videos and ultimately teaching you how to engage in sustainable fashion in a positive, economical way with the help of simple solutions.

Lunchtime Sustainability with Q&A // 45mins-1 hrs // Live Zoom Webinar // (max 200 viewers per session)

Recycling is a complicated and confusing issue, with ambiguity all over the place. “Can pizza boxes go in the green bin? Is all plastic non-recyclable?? And what’s the story with teabags??!” During this interactive and comprehensive talk, Taz and Geraldine explain exactly how the Irish recycling industry works, what items go where (and why), and what happens beyond the bin... In addition to all this info, you and your team will be given simple and effective tips and tricks when it comes to making your lunch a more sustainable one; from food waste prevention and food preservation insights (e.g did you know that many of your veg shouldn’t be in the fridge?). An easy, accessible, and fact-filled lunchtime workshop for the team.

Food Waste Talk with Q&A // 40mins-1hr // Live Zoom Webinar // (max 200 people per session)

Did you know that 1/3 of all food produced goes to waste? That’s an area the size of China worth of food going to waste each year... What’s more, if food waste were a country, it would be the third greatest greenhouse gas emitter. In the midst of this climate crisis, let’s band together and tackle food waste head on! In this talk Taz and Geraldine will delve into the frightening world of food waste, a discussion on food waste at home and in the restaurant industry with tips and tricks on how you can be more eco-conscious with your food consumption and disposal.

Workshops at your school or business

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Sustainable Fashion Talk with Q&A / 1hr

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DIY Turn an Old T-Shirt into a Tote Bag / 2-3hrs

In a time when we own x4 times more clothing than our parents' generations, and as the London Textile Forum estimates that worldwide clothing production is seeing 80-100 BILLION new items manufactured every year, one question remains; *Where is all this clothing going?* The harsh reality: probably straight to landfill (+60% of clothing ends up in a landfill or incinerator within one year of being made). Combine this with staggering levels of plastic pollution that sees disposable plastics (straws/ coffee cups/ shopping bags) clogging up waterways and seas, and it's not hard to see that change is needed. Thankfully the power to change is **quite literally** in our hands.

In this fun and upbeat workshop, Taz and Geraldine will show you how to upcycle an old t-shirt into a tote bag; thus tackling the issue of textile waste AND eliminating the need for more disposable plastic bags. It's a win-win all round! At the beginning of the session you will be shown how to make a pattern, cut material and sew it into a bag. From there, it's time to let your creative juices flow and decorate your creation in whatever way you like! In this workshop nothing goes to waste (!!) and with the offcuts from the t-shirt, you will also learn how to make a hair scrunchie (time permitting).

Bring as many old t-shirts as you want to upcycle

Basics in Sewing Workshop / 2hrs

Have you a shirt missing a button or a dress with a tear? Do you want to bring a damaged item of clothing back to life but are left scratching your head when you pick up a needle and tread?

It's time to get back to the basics, people! So much of sustainable fashion is about slowing down and respecting your clothes. It's our responsibility to care for what we already have so it's about time we all learnt how to sew. In this 2hr class you will learn the basics; how to mend a tear, sew back on a button and jazz up a shirt with embroidery. Attendees are also welcome to bring some items of clothing that may need some TLC and we will show you how to bring them back to the land of the living.

The "Holey Moley" Patching Workshop / 2-3hrs

Have a hole in your trousers that you've been meaning to mend but don't have a clue where to start? ...Or maybe there's a pesky peephole popping out of your sock that you want to patch up? Whatever your hole/ rip/ penchant for patchwork, this workshop is sure to give you what you need! Join Taz & Geraldine as they teach you how to patch up your damaged/ lacklustre clothing and give it a new lease of life. Because the longer we can make an item of clothing last, the more we can reduce its carbon footprint.

DIY Reusable Cutlery Pouch / 2hrs

In today's current climate, our consumption of single-use plastics is getting to such extreme levels that if we keep producing (and keep failing to properly dispose of) these items at current rates, by 2050 there will be **more plastics than fish in our oceans**. We know, it's terrifying. But whilst this is a scary reality, what we also want to highlight the fact that change is very possible. In fact, whilst making a few simple swaps can undoubtedly have a profound impact on waste levels, it can also save us some money along the way, too!

Here's the deal: some of the main culprits of the single-use plastic brigade come in the form of take-away cutlery. Although they can be seen as essential in our daily lives single use cutlery is wreaking havoc on our rising landfill levels, water-systems and on our little fishy friends. In this workshop, Taz and geraldine will teach attendees a few simple DIY skills that will make saying "AW HELL NO" to single-use the logical (and effortless) option to go with. In this workshop, learn to make a personalised reusable cutlery pouch so there is always a knife, fork and spoon in your bag, ready to go. Attendees will be shown how to make a pattern, cut material and sew it into a cutlery wrap. From there, it's time to let your creative juices flow and decorate your creation with paint, beads and embroidery.

DIY Face Pads Workshop / 1hr

Frequently used in our beauty regimes, **cotton pads** are causing more harm to Mother Earth than you'd think. Simply put, cotton is a really volatile and thirsty plant, which means it needs an inordinate amount of pesticides and water to grow successfully. This

subsequently puts a huge strain on the environment and on the communities where the cotton is being produced. Added to this is the fact that cotton pads, once used, end up at best in our overflowing landfills, and at worst in our oceans, rivers and waterways. Not cool.

In a further attempt to help us rid ourselves of all single-use items in the home, this workshop teaches you to turn away from those single use cotton pads and make your own reusable & long-lasting ones instead - cutting down on your household waste and saving the environment as you go! This is a really simple, straightforward and effective workshop that provides enough time for each participant to make a little tower of face pads which they can use at home or gift to a pal.

Talk with DIY Up-Styling & Mending / 1.5hr-3hr

A fun, hands-on, creative workshop showing attendees how to upstyle the clothes they already have, instead of buying new. Taz and Geraldine will teach you to paint, embroider, stitch and generally add some va-va-voom to your wardrobe. This is the perfect opportunity to inject some individual flair and creativity into an item that you might have fallen out of love with, and turn it into something that puts a pep in your step every time you wiggle into it.

Let us teach you all you need to know in apparel artistry, where the emphasis is on up-skilling instead of land-filling. So much of sustainable fashion is about slowing down and respecting your clothes. It's our responsibility to care for what we already have so it's about time we all learnt how to sew. Whether you don't know your wool from your thread or even if you can't fathom how to thread a needle, this workshop will teach you the key skills you need to make your clothes last longer, and look incredible.

Talk with Swap Shop (incl rails, hangers etc.) / 1-2hr

The best way to engage in sustainable fashion is to say no to 'new'. Buy secondhand where possible or even better, swap clothes. This workshop gives attendees the chance to swap once-beloved clothes for something new; basking in the knowledge that you're not adding to the world's landfill problem, and you're giving your wardrobe a new lease of life. Sustainable Fashion Dublin will organise it all; we simply ask attendees to bring up to 5 items of clothing they no longer wear and we'll ensure they leave with something better.

Talk with Charity Shop Crawl / 3hrs

"Nowadays we have four times the amount of clothing that our parents had, and 60% of all clothing now goes to a landfill within a year of being purchased. The statistics are worrying and what we want to highlight is this: Why buy new when there are already so many amazing pieces out there waiting to be found?"

Join Taz and Geraldine as they bring you along a special trail that promises to stock up your wardrobe in the most sustainable, cost-effective and generally feel-good way possible. Taz and Geraldine know the best that Dublin's thrift shop scene has to offer, and they'll be bringing attendees to the city's hidden gems, getting you access to some special VIP stock and providing a bespoke map of all the charity shops in the area. This is your chance to veer away from the high street and get a glimpse of the incredible fashion bargains that there are to be found throughout this city, all whilst supporting some really worthwhile charities as you go!

Recycling 101 and Lunchtime Sustainability / 45mins-1 hrs

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DIY Alternative Milks Demo & Talk / 40mins-1hr

Whether it's for reasons ranging from health/ allergies/ sustainability/ just plain old curiosity, more and more people are exploring the world of plant-based "milks". Delicious and nutritious, the benefits of plant-based milks are wide-ranging and what this workshop aims to do is bridge the gap between interest and action.

A fun and interactive workshop that explains each step of the DIY alternative milk-making process, from oat milk to cashew milk and lots of wacky stuff in between. Here you'll get lots of top tips for how to create your own super-smooth liquid goodness at home, alongside (delicious) examples of how to maximise the milk-making leftovers so as to minimise any food waste.

Note: This workshop will provide ample milk tasters, as well as homemade cookies using the oat and nut pulp leftover from the milk-making process. Whilst we can incorporate GF oats, we cannot accommodate nut allergies.