



Easy-peasy ideas for a low-impact wedding

- ❁ Choose a couple of charities close to your heart and ask for donations instead of gifts.
- ❁ Honeymoon in the UK.
- ❁ Buy a preloved wedding dress or have one made in eco fabrics.
- ❁ Buy your engagement and wedding rings from ethical suppliers like Ingle & Rhode or Arabel Lebrusan, who use conflict-free gems and ethically mined gold; or how about wooden rings? Alternatively, are there any family heirlooms you can procure?
- ❁ Rope in friends and family members to help. Keen cake-makers, flower-arrangers and hobby seamstresses are usually only too pleased to be asked.

> own wine? We wanted English wine for the toast and reception and had to pay a hefty surcharge even after negotiation. A popular alternative to booking an all-in-one venue is to hire a village hall and book your own suppliers, which means you are far less restricted in your choices.

One aspect of the wedding planning that didn't cross our minds was food waste. Whilst our main course was devoured, some of our afternoon tea cakes and scones were left untouched. Many of our guests

had young families and went home early, so a lot of the bagels and wraps we served up later in the evening went to waste. I'd recommend discussing with your caterer what will happen to any left-over food.

Relax and enjoy it

Our wonderful handmade wedding was everything we had hoped for. It felt incredibly special after our months of hard work and preparation, and everything went to plan (apart from the small issue of a reluctant pageboy not wanting to walk down the aisle). We enjoyed a beautiful day surrounded by our children, family and friends and had many positive comments from guests about the details and small personal touches. One of my close friends posted some photos on Facebook with the title 'A blooming marvellous day', and this I think encapsulates our wedding day.

Don't be too hard on yourself if you can't have everything as ethical or green as you'd like. Even with the best intentions there might be things you have to compromise on; our bridesmaids' dresses were not sustainable in any way. Remember it's your wedding day and if you don't want a country house venue, a huge guest list or favours, don't do it! Go with your beliefs and what's important to you, and you'll have a very special day. ●

Eco-friendly suppliers we can recommend

Julie Dutton – alterations and bespoke wedding dresses in eco fabrics.
www.juliedutton.co.uk

EcoBunting – recycled bunting and circle chain decorations made from card in the colours of your choice.
www.derrysden.co.uk

Eco-Craft – recycled paper, card and crafts for invitations.
www.eco-craft.co.uk

Eco Wood Rings – handmade wood rings, crafted from salvaged and sustainably sourced materials.
www.ecowoodrings.co.uk

The Exotic Paper Company Ltd – handmade seeded paper and recycled stationery.
www.elliopoopaper.co.uk

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