

Green Weddings and Funerals

Weddings

Weddings are often an embodiment of unsustainable consumerism, but it's possible to have a big day that's not only green and ethical but also a good bit cheaper! Here are some ideas:

- Rings: re-use a family heirloom, buy antique/2nd hand, or look for conflict-free/Fairtrade metals. Alternatively, break with tradition and go for rings made from a renewable resource such as shell or coconut!
- Dress: buy vintage or hire. If buying new, look for a socially responsible retailer. Perhaps you even know someone who could make one!
- Food: specify local and/or organic; if using foreign products, choose Fairtrade where possible.
- Gifts: if you already have enough clutter, why not ask guests to put their money towards 'gifts' such as goats and school equipment for communities in the developing world? Visit [Oxfam Unwrapped](#) and [Good Gifts](#). You can find other green gift ideas in the 'Green Shopping' link on the Community Environmental Action webpage. Alternatively, ask guests to contribute to the day itself, e.g. by making the cake, organising the music or growing/paying for the bouquet, or by donating their time.
- Hen/stag weekends and honeymoon – see the 'Green Holidays' link on the Community Environmental Action webpage.
- Cake and flowers: why not bake/grow yourself, or ask family and guests to help? Take inspiration from the inventive couple who sent out sweet pea seeds with their wedding invitations and asked guests to grow them for table decorations. If buying, go for locally-grown/produced goods, organic where possible.
- Venue – Scotland's new laws allow more flexibility in choosing a venue. Instead of an expensive hotel with manicured lawns, why not go for somewhere more unusual?

Find out more at [Ethical Weddings](#).

Funerals

Natural caskets and woodland burial grounds are a green alternative to traditional funerals; as well as saving money, natural funerals tend to be more personal and family-centred.

[The Natural Death Centre](#) can provide further information, advice and local contact details.