

ZERO WASTE EVENT



Zero Waste is a philosophy that includes recycling but goes beyond by taking a 'whole system' approach to the flow of resources and waste. It maximizes recycling, minimizing waste, reducing consumption and ensuring that products can be recycled, reused, repaired or composted.

The key to a successful **Zero Waste Event** is careful planning so all the materials used are reusable, recyclable, repaired or compostable. By thinking ahead of time event planners consider all the materials to be used and arrange what to do with them after the event. A 100% zero waste event might be an unreachable goal, but here are some tips to follow to help you to get as close as possible:

1. Organize a zero waste **event committee** consisting of representatives of all parties involved in the event and organizations that can help you, including sponsors, partners, environmental organizations, and government.
2. Set **realistic goals**, considering the size of the event and how much control you have over what materials are coming in.
3. **Determine what waste** will be generated from the event, and what waste might arrive at the event from other sources, including sponsors, partners, exhibitors, participants and visitors. Make a list of waste products and quantities expected, and consider disposal options and alternatives for each one.
4. Decide on how many **recycling containers** to have on hand, and who will provide them. Determine if offering **compost** bins is possible, and who will handle the material after collected.
5. Prior to the event, contact **vendors and exhibitors** and encourage them to plan ahead and to use recyclable, compostable, or re-usable materials, especially in giveaway items.
6. Try to use as many **local products and vendors** as possible to cut down on waste from traveling and packaging.
7. When possible, serve **food** buffet style instead of in individual containers. Use large condiment containers instead of individual packages.
8. Purchase **drinks** in bulk or recyclable containers.
9. Talk to a local food bank prior to the event and arrange to donate **excess food** when the event is over.
10. Prior to the event, **make public** the fact that the event is trying to be zero waste, so patrons can plan to bring re-usable bags, drinking bottles and plan disposal of other items they might bring.
11. **During the event**, make sure everyone is clear on the goals for zero waste and that signs are posted. Include information about goals in the event program, announcements, signs and communications.