

**You want your next event to have a big impact on your guests, not the environment.**



The Green Events Commission strives to lessen the environmental impact of events hosted by the Washington University student body and administration. With a little creativity and determination, you can make a real impact on your event's environmental footprint. Even one simple step can make a difference! Look inside for ideas to make your next event more environmentally sustainable. For more information, more ideas, or a customized consultation for your next event, contact the Green Events Commission at [gec@su.wustl.edu](mailto:gec@su.wustl.edu).



# **Hosting a Sustainable Event**



**Green Events Commission  
Washington University  
in St. Louis**

# Advertising



**Be stingy with your signs.** Think critically about the number of signs you need—don't print extra! Print your signs on one-sided (already used once) paper, available next to the printers in the Student Union office.

**Go paperless.** Utilize social media, paint the underpass, and post on DUC TVs.

**Get creative!** Advertise with a flash mob, dress up, or paint faces—the more creative you are, the more people will pay attention.

# Materials



**Need handouts?** Email them to participants beforehand, or print on one-sided or recycled paper.

**Buy organic t-shirts.** Anvil and American Apparel make organic shirts that can be customized on websites such as customink.com.

**Eliminate giveaways.** If they're necessary, make them low-impact:

- Avoid giving physical items by giving coupons for a movie, a manicure, or a meal at an organic restaurant instead.
- Go green-themed—give away reusable water bottles or reusable bags.
- Give away recycled products—visit [terracycle.net](http://terracycle.net) or [greenlogoshop.com](http://greenlogoshop.com) for ideas.

# Food and Drinks



**Go meatless.** Choosing vegetarian options will reduce the amount of carbon produced and resources used to make your meal.

**Eat responsibly.** Look into more sustainable catering options such as:

- Chipotle
- Whole Foods
- Local Harvest Cafe
- Bon Appetit (WUSTL Dining Services)

**Snack sustainably.** More sustainable snack brands such as Kashi or Clif granola bars, Kettle potato chips or Sun Chips, and Annie's and Kind snacks can be bought in bulk from grocery stores or Sam's Club.

**Drink local.** Look for locally sourced beverages with minimal packaging:

- Kegs of Fitz's root beer or local beers
- Water coolers supplied by Wydown Water
- Kaldi's Coffee

**Provide better dishes:**

- Rent table settings from a party rental company. At Weinhardt Party Rentals, 50 plates can be rented for \$15.
- Use compostable or recyclable dishes and utensils. Brands include Sustainable Earth by Staples, Seventh Generation, and Branch ([branchhome.com](http://branchhome.com))

# Clean-Up



**Minimize trash.** Be deliberate when choosing materials and save all you can to use again next year.

**Recycle.** Every trash bin at your event should have a recycling bin next to it (contact Aramark).

**Compost!** If you plan to serve food, contact St. Louis Composting ([stlcompost.com](http://stlcompost.com)) for a reasonably priced compost bin and pick-up. Be sure to buy compostable dishes and utensils as well!

**Terracycle.** Solo cups, granola bar wrappers, and potato chip bags can be collected and given to a Green Events Commission consultant to be turned into new products by Terracycle.

# Happy Planning!

