

How to make your event low waste

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Here are some tips how to create a low waste event with reusable, recyclable or compostable alternatives to single-use, disposable and plastic items.

- 1. INVITES** Start by sending invitations electronically. There are many different platforms to do this: Facebook, emails, calendar requests or text messages.

- 2. DECORATIONS** Avoid using balloons, glitter, party poppers and other disposable decorations that end up in landfill – consider swapping to reusable decorations that can be used at future parties.

For example, reusable “Happy Birthday” banner, coloured and/or fairy lights, paper pom poms and honeycomb balls, coloured flag bunting, flowers or succulent bowls.

- 3. FOOD** Try not to over-cater and be left with food waste.

Serve finger food so tableware isn’t required.

When transporting food or if you are asking people to bring a plate, request that it be brought in a reusable container, or covered with food wraps (like beeswax) or with a tea towel instead of cling wrap. If there are leftovers they can be taken home in reusable containers to be eaten or composted in your green organics bin.

- 4. DRINKS** Provide a pitcher or drink dispenser full of juice, soft drink or water instead of individual drinks like juice boxes, water bottles and cans.

Ask guests to bring their own refillable water bottle.

Provide reusable cups instead of single-use disposable options. Create paper name tags and attach with string so children know which cup is theirs. You could even collect old jars and reuse them as cups.

Ditch straws altogether or provide a reusable straw alternative.

- 5. TABLEWARE** Use reusable plates, cutlery and cups. You could consider purchasing second hand or borrowing from friends and family.

Ask guests to bring their own reusable plate, cutlery, cup and/or drink bottle.

Alternatively, provide paper or compostable plates, bamboo or compostable cutlery and compostable cups.

- 6. GAMES** There are plenty of games that don’t create waste. You could play musical statues, cops and robbers, what’s the time Mr Wolf, or duck duck goose.

Avoid piñata and water balloons.

To reduce waste from pass the parcel, reuse paper you have at home (e.g. newspaper, scrap paper etc.) and provide reusable / plastic-free prizes (e.g. pencils, chalk, crayons, books, colouring in sheet, vouchers, wooden toys etc.)

7. GOODIE BAGS

Use reusable bags made from fabric or paper.

Visit a bulk food store to avoid purchasing individually wrapped treats.

For a treat-free bag give items like pencils, chalk, bird feeders/cones or seeds, plants, veggie/herb seeds, or home-made play dough in a reusable container or jar.

8. WASTE

Our parks have litter bins provided for your convenience. These materials are taken to landfill. Consider taking any waste created by your event home with you to ensure they end up in the correct bin. You can visit our website to view our Waste & Recycling Guide to find out which bin to place items in:

<https://www.npsp.sa.gov.au/recycleguide>

What's the Difference between Compostable, Biodegradable and Degradable?

Degradable: products made from **plastic** with other chemicals added (including heavy metals) that cause the plastic to break down and disintegrate over time when exposed to sunlight and heat. If degradable items are released into our environment they break down into hundreds of tiny pieces of plastic. Animals can consume the smaller pieces of plastic and it is much more difficult to remove hundreds of tiny pieces of plastic from the environment than it is to remove one larger item. **Must be placed in red landfill bin.**

Biodegradable: like degradable items, biodegradable are often still made from **plastic but have micro-organisms added** to break down the plastic instead of chemicals. **Must be placed in red landfill bin.**

Compostable: products made from natural plant starch and do not produce any toxic materials. Compostable products break down readily in a compost system through microbial activity to form compost. Compostable products should meet the **Australian Standard for composability AS4736 and have this symbol**. Should be placed in the **green organics bin**.

