

One-page informational document for event planners or decision makers



Thank you for your interest in holding a Zero Waste event. Eco-Cycle has compiled answers to frequently-asked questions to help you determine whether a Zero Waste event is right for you.

What is a Zero Waste event?

A Zero Waste event is not accomplished by merely adding recycling and compost bins. The key to a Zero Waste event is careful planning so that all materials used and discarded at the event are reusable, recyclable or compostable. By incorporating Zero Waste into the beginning stages of your event, it becomes quite easy to achieve this fundamental change in resource consumption. Since no trash is distributed at the event, trash cans can be removed and replaced with Zero Waste stations, which consist of a recycling and a compost container. Zero Waste events are also educational opportunities where attendees can experience a microcosm of a Zero Waste world.

What are the benefits of holding a Zero Waste event?

- Demonstration of your event's commitment to a Zero Waste future and sustainability.
- Increased public appreciation of your event as a cutting-edge trendsetter.
- Increased visibility of your event with listing on Eco-Cycle's page of Zero Waste community events at www.ecocycle.org/zwevents/community.
- Tools to help you advertise your Zero Waste commitment, provided by Eco-Cycle: a Zero Waste event logo for use in ads, programs, and event website; a script for MCs to read on stage so event participants learn more about Zero Waste; a template letter to the editor you can submit to share your successes and resources saved (see below) with the community after the event.
- Calculation by Eco-Cycle of a "diversion rate" – the percentage of materials recycled or composted instead of landfilled – after your event. We will also include calculations of resources saved through your Zero Waste efforts that can be used in event promotions.
- Peace of mind that your event is taking steps to help mitigate global climate change (more information on this topic available at www.ecocycle.org/tools).

What is required of event planners to hold a Zero Waste event?

- Thorough understanding of the goals of Zero Waste and cooperation with Eco-Cycle in reducing and recovering waste to the maximum extent possible.
- Financial commitment (generally ranging from \$800-\$1200, depending on the size of the event, staffing requirements, etc.). An outline of Eco-Cycle services and fees is available at www.ecocycle.org/zwevents.
- Requirement for vendors to distribute **only** recyclable or compostable materials per Eco-Cycle's guidelines. Eco-Cycle has a sample contract with information about Zero Waste to include in your vendor application materials (available at www.ecocycle.org/zwevents/services/samplevendorcontract.pdf).
- Coordination with Eco-Cycle on the layout of the event to ease the collection of materials (i.e. grouping food vendors so Zero Waste stations can be placed in highest use areas).
- Inclusion of Eco-Cycle's Zero Waste event logo on all promotional materials.

Where can I learn more information?

www.ecocycle.org is full of information on Zero Waste in general and on Zero Waste events specifically.

What is my next step to becoming a Zero Waste event?

Please fill out the interest form at www.ecocycle.org/zwevents. You will hear back from an Eco-Cycle staff member within three business days.