



Greening Your Establishment: Enrichmond Events Tip Sheet and Resources

Why going green is important to us:

1. **Health Effects:** Styrofoam is made with the carcinogens, benzene and styrene. Both chemicals have been linked to Leukemia and Parkinson's disease, as well as abnormal lung function.
2. **Biodegradable:** Some studies show that the biodegrading process in landfills is not reliable and many materials do not break down quickly. Plastic water bottles can take up to 450 years to decompose while Styrofoam can stay in landfills for up to 5,000 years!
3. **Recycling:** Only 35% of US households recycle and only 10% of businesses and we throw away 2.5 million plastic bottles every year (Recycle Across America). Plus 50% of the plastic we use is used only once before being discarded (EcoWatch).
4. **Environmental Impact:** Styrofoam production consumes significant energy and uses hydrofluorocarbons (HFCs), which cause damage to the ozone. According to the Clean Water Action, as of 2011, plastics comprised around 90 percent of floating marine debris, which pose a serious threat to marine and land animals.
5. **Increase in Waste:** EcoWatch stated that in the ten years prior to 2014 humans produced more waste than during the entire 20th century.

How Enrichmond greens our events:

1. **Virginia Green Team** – The Virginia Green Travel Alliance's Green Team trains volunteers to divert waste at festivals and events. Their efforts make events more sustainable by separating out recyclables and compostable materials out of trash.
2. **N.O.P.E** – Natural Organic Process Enterprise (NOPE) recycles and composts food scraps at our events, turning food items that would otherwise end up in a landfill into useful organic material.
3. **Dominion Green Power** – Dominion provides Enrichmond with Renewable Energy Certificates (RECs), which support green energy from wind, solar, and biomass facilities, for energy use at Enrichmond events.



How to “Go Green” at Enrichmond’s event:

- Provide compostable products to use for food service. This includes: cups, cutlery, takeaway containers, plates, bowls, napkins, etc. *We ask that you use products that are **certified/100% compostable** to help N.O.P.E with their composting.*
- Make a note of where the trash and recycling receptacles are located. Encourage your patrons to recycle plastics and direct them to recycling. Consider including signage indicating which of your food containers/cutlery are recyclable as we know it gets busy!
- **NEVER** use Styrofoam or glass receptacles. Not only is this grounds for dismissal from the event, but it can result in significant waste and clean up.
- Always have a plan for grease and oil disposal. **NEVER** dump grease/oil anywhere on the event site, or off site. If a vendor dumps grease and oil at an event he/she will be permanently banned from all future Enrichmond events. *Please learn and use the appropriate precautions to avoid spillage onsite. Any charges resulting from the clean-up of grease will charged to the participating Vendor.*
- After the event, remove all garbage from the premises and leave your site as you found it. Vendors may **not** use public trash cans for disposal of boxes and/or unsold product. Failure to comply with the trash policy is grounds for removal from future events.

Resources for sustainable, biodegradable, and/or compostable products for your business:

A popular local retailer:

Metro Supply Co. Phone: 618-465-0147

https://metrosupplyco.com/index.php?controller=search&orderby=position&orderway=desc&search_query=compost&submit_search

Other online retailers:

<http://worldcentric.org/biocompostables>

<http://www.napkins.com/eco-friendly-cutlery.html>

<http://greenrestaurant.com/pages/utensils/platesmain.html>

<https://www.sustyparty.com>

<http://www.ecopartytime.com/tableware/>

Try searching or asking your providers for products that are:

“recyclable”, “biodegradable”, “compostable”, “sustainable”, “green”, etc.