

Zero Waste Events

Why we care

Whether for a nonprofit, in your neighborhood, or at your home, summer weather makes it fun to host or attend a gathering. But, events can generate a large amount of waste.

Simple, positive steps

For larger events

- Contact the city or county to learn which items can be recycled and composted. [Click here](#) or call 503-725-5147 for info on Portland's event recycling program.
- Contact Metro's [Fork It Over](#) program (503-234-3000) for info on donating leftover food.
- Let vendors know what types of food containers and utensils are allowed. Note that compostableware and napkins are not accepted in Portland's composting program.
- Provide incentives for attendees to bring reusable items, such as water bottles.
- Train volunteers who will monitor the recycling/composting/trash stations, wearing something to identify them, and designate a staffed, central collection area where receptacles will be emptied and sorting can take place if necessary.
- Make the recycling/composting stations/trash stations highly visible, color code the three containers, and clearly mark what can go in each (or borrow stations from the [City](#)).

For smaller events

- Ask for RSVPs to minimize excess food.
- Take containers for leftovers, and label bins for compostables and recyclables.

For any event

- Provide or ask attendees to bring washable tableware. Consider renting these items or borrowing used ones from kitchen share organizations.
- Use bulk containers (vs individual servings) of snacks, condiments, and beverages.
- Use decorations that can be recycled, composted or reused.
- Weigh amount recycled/composted vs trash, and report your success!

Questions or feedback? Contact Jeanne Roy at jeanne@earthleaders.org.