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*This Green Events Checklist has been designed to help you*

*organize an event that has measurable impact!*

The University of Utah hosts hundreds of events each year. These events have a significant impact
on the environment in terms of energy, waste, and transportation. By making smarter choices
when planning events, we can all help to green the U.

**Step 1: Have a goal to be environmentally friendly at your next event!**

Green events are achieved on three levels:

Unless otherwise noted, each item is worth 1 point.
In addition to points on the checklist, planners
can achieve an additional point for sustainable innovations, up to 5 points.

|  |
| --- |
| EVENT INFORMATION |
| Name: |       | Email: |        |
| Date: |       |  |  |
| Department: |       |  |  |
| Event Title: |       | Event Date: |        |

**1. Food and Food Service (10 points)**

Serving local foods supports the local economy and reduces transportation emissions. Organic foods require fewer pesticides and fertilizers. Providers can also reduce waste by using less, reusing existing supplies, and supporting composting and recycling.

[ ]  40% or more of the cost of food is [organic](http://www.ams.usda.gov/AMSv1.0/ams.fetchTemplateData.do?template=TemplateC&navID=NationalOrganicProgram&leftNav=NationalOrganicProgram&page=NOPConsumers&description=Consumers&acct=nopgeninfo), [local](https://www.utahsown.org/), [real](http://www.100daysofrealfood.com/real-food-defined-a-k-a-the-rules/), [fair](http://www.fairtradeusa.org/what-is-fair-trade) and/or [humane](http://www.humanesociety.org/issues/eating/).

 [ ]  **OR, no food is provided** and participants are encouraged to bring their own meals in reusable containers. (2 points)

[ ]  Water is provided in pitchers.

[ ]  Reusable or recyclable cups are provided. Depending on your event location on campus, plastics #1 and #2 may be the only plastics recycled. Choose disposables based on the following:

* Composting (if available): Choose simple paper (no wax/ink) or plant-based compostable cup
* Recycling is available and collection container(s) provided:
	+ Choose beverages in aluminum cans
	+ Choose plastic with recycling symbol on cup
	+ Choose beverages with recycling symbol on bottle

[ ]  The event food is vegetarian.

[ ]  Participants are encouraged to bring their own reusable mug or flatware.

[ ]  Condiments, sauces, spreads, chips, and/or other items are served in bulk.

[ ]  No Styrofoam products are used.

[ ]  Table centerpieces are sustainable and/or reusable or not used.

[ ]  Cloth tablecloths and/or cloth napkins are used.

[ ]  **BONUS POINT:** Reusable flatware is used. [University Catering](https://ukic.utah.edu/services/chartwells.php) offers china, cloth napkins, tablecloths, glassware, and washable flatware for $1.25/plate.

**2. Waste (7 points)**

Waste management is a big part of any event. If extra recycling bins are needed for your event on campus, contact your Recycling Coordinator. (Main campus, Joshua James; HRE, Frank Sitton; University Student Housing, Rick James.)

[ ]  Recycling bins are clearly and conveniently placed adjacent to all trash cans. Arrange with the building custodial crew or the area recycling coordinator.

[ ]  Clear signage is put up indicating which materials go into what recycling bin.

[ ]  Attendees are informed about the Green Event Checklist and asked to help meet goals.

[ ]  Volunteer(s) are available to help guests sort their waste.

[ ]  Leftover food and beverages are donated. This can be done by inviting students to eat any leftovers or by contacting the [U of U Food Recovery Network](https://www.facebook.com/foodrecovery.uofu/), email foodrecovery.uofu@gmail.com. (2 points)

[ ]  Reusable items are used to minimize waste.

**3. Transportation (7 points)**

Nearly 40 percent of all campus emissions are transportation-related.

[ ]  The event is held on campus.

[ ]  Venue is accessible by foot, bicycle, Campus Shuttles, or public transportation.

[ ]  Secure bicycle and locker storage is provided for participants. Contact [Commuter Services](http://www.commuterservices.utah.edu/)
for bike corral costs and information.

[ ]  Event time is scheduled with consideration for [public transportation](http://www.rideuta.com/) timings, including buses
and TRAX. Remember: Bus frequency drops after 6 p.m.

[ ]  Out of town/state guests attend via video or teleconferencing.

[ ]  [Green Travel Fund](http://sustainability.utah.edu/resource-center/get-involved/green-travel.php) – Contribute to the U’s efforts to reduce emissions by telling your travel prepare to click the “Yes, I will donate” box when processing travel. Suggested $10.00 donation.

[ ]  [Public transportation](http://www.rideuta.com/) timetables, maps, and routes to the event are made available. These can be provided as part of the event/meeting invitation.

**4. Marketing and Handouts (10 points)**

Distribute materials electronically and look into reusable alternative solutions.

[ ]  Give-away items are minimized to avoid excess waste and reduce costs. Or, if give-away items are used, there is a convenient drop off point for unwanted items.

[ ]  Registration, announcements and updates for event are done electronically.

[ ]  Event guides/agendas/programs are distributed electronically.

[ ]  Printing is entirely eliminated. Or, unavoidable printing is double sided on FSC Certified,
post-consumer recycled and/or chlorine-free paper.

[ ]  Printed materials are printed with an eco-friendly font (i.e. Century Gothic, Times Roman, Calibri, Verdana, Arial, Courier, and [Ecofont](http://www.ecofont.com)).

[ ]  There is a convenient drop off point for all unwanted handouts and accessories.

[ ]  Dry erase boards, blackboards or projectors are used instead of paper flip charts.

[ ]  Name tags or badges are collected at the end of the event to be reused or recycled.

[ ]  Sustainability terms or concepts are displayed at the event.

[ ]  Gifts or favors are locally made.

**5. Energy and Offsets (3 points either option)**

Consider energy alternatives you can utilize at your events.

[ ]  Natural light is utilized instead of indoor lighting and/or only lighting that is necessary is used. Please include a count of how many fixtures were kept on or turned off at your event.

 Fixtures On:       Fixtures Off:

[ ]  Event space chosen utilizes only energy efficient LED lighting.

**6. Innovation Credits (5 points)**

Did you integrate something green and unique to your event that is not listed above?

[ ]  Innovation:

[ ]  Innovation:

[ ]  Innovation:

[ ]  Innovation:

[ ]  Innovation:

**Last step:** The Sustainability Office wants to hear about your event! If you would like us to share information about your Green Event, email us a copy of this checklist, summary of your activities, and any photos you would like us to share on social media or via other outlets. Karren.Fultz@utah.edu

