

**SUGGESTIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS
FOR ENCOURAGING ZERO WASTE FOR
VENDORS AT CITY EVENTS**





WHAT IS ZERO WASTE?

Zero Waste is a philosophy and design principle for the 21st Century. It includes recycling and composting, but goes beyond both by taking a 'whole system' approach to the vast flow of resources and waste throughout human society. That said, it is an ideal that we work towards as we take steps to minimize the waste we create.

WHY ZERO WASTE?

There is no such thing as away. When we throw out a piece of trash, whether at an event or at home, it must go somewhere. There are many reasons why it is important that we move towards a Zero Waste future. Firstly, no community has the space or desire for the continual growth of landfills. Secondly, it costs Akron a great expense to put waste in the landfill system; whereas recycling actually makes money for the city. Thirdly, it's a relatively easy first step towards a more sustainable future for the city and her citizens.

VENDOR RECOMMENDATIONS

In order to move toward Zero Waste initiatives with City of Akron sponsored events, it is important to include and inform event vendors of our aim, and especially to invite your creativity to the challenge!

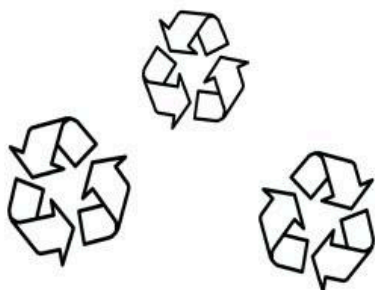
The following materials CANNOT be recycled or composted, and we highly recommend that vendors for City of Akron events NOT use these:

- Styrofoam (of any sort)
- Aluminum foil
- Regular plastic utensils
- Plastic wrap
- Plastics smaller than 3 inches in diameter (they clog the recycling machine)
- Paper products with Coatings and Colorings
- Pizza Boxes



The following materials ARE advised:

- Compostable plates, cups, and utensils
- Plastic cups
- Plastic plates
- White or brown paper products (without coatings or coloring)
- Reusable plates, utensils
- Refillable water stations



WHERE CAN VENDORS FIND COMPOSTABLE AND RECYCLABLE PRODUCTS?

Here's a small list of places to locate these materials, this is by no means a complete list:

- Restaurant Depot (1062 Sweitzer Ave, Akron, OH www.restaurantdepot.com)
- Worldcentric.org
- Ecoproducts.com
- GFS Marketplace (has recyclable materials - 620 West Ave, Tallmadge, OH www.gfs.com)

ZERO WASTE EVENT

In order that this event be as successful as possible, we have compiled some best practices from events both locally and nationally.

Set-up: Prior to Event (Organizing Logistics & Volunteers)

- Identify how many Zero Waste Stations will be set-up around the event
- Determine what bins and how many of each are being used for trash, recycling, and compost. Contact the correct organizations to organize delivery and pick-up dates. Each Zero Waste Station at the event should have a Landfill, Recycle, and Compost* receptacle (* only place a compost bucket at station if there is a Zero Waste Team Volunteer there to manage what is being put in the compost). There tends to be more recycling than anything so plan accordingly. Encourage participants of your event to recycle by placing more recycling containers than any others at each station.
- City of Akron - city recycling & trash receptacles
- Keep Akron Beautiful - trash bins and recycling A-frames
- Compost - buckets lined with bags - connect with Let's Grow Akron about compost pick-up
- There should be one Main Zero Waste Sorting Station at the event. This is where all of the sorting will take place.
- Determine where this will be at the event. Suggested: 2 long tables & 1-2 EZ-Up Tents
- Organize how trash, recycling, and compost from other stations at the event will be brought to the main station and how often this drop-off will occur.
- Signage: Organize as much signage as possible for each Zero Waste station. Each station should include a separate Landfill, Recycle, and Compost* (* only with direct management at station) bin/bucket/receptacle. If possible, place a sign in front of each bin for extra direction.

-Vendor Products: Connect with event vendors as soon as possible to inform them of what supplies they are encouraged and discouraged using to help reduce what ends up in the landfill. If possible, make it part of the requirements to vend at the event as it will make the sorting much simpler:

-Vendor Waste - Determine who is responsible for packing out vendor waste? Vendors? Event? For best results towards zero waste, have it part of what volunteers sort.

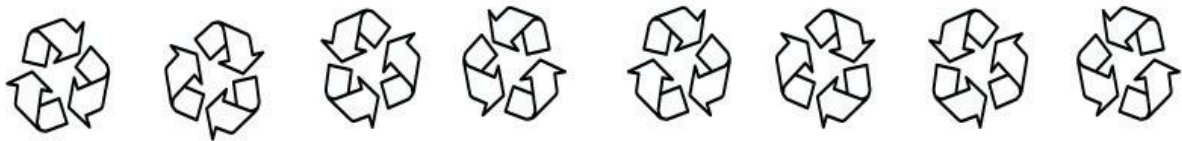
-Organize Volunteers specifically for the Zero Waste Team
Volunteers will be needed to help sort trash at the main Zero Waste Station at the event. More volunteers are useful during peak times and closer to the end of the event. If possible, schedule at least one volunteer at each Zero Waste Station around the event to help guide event-goers where to place their “trash”. This helps to reduce the amount of time in sorting at the end of the event and is an additional educational piece.



Set-up During & After

-Each Zero Waste Station at the event should include a separate Landfill, Recycle, and Compost* bin/bucket/receptacle (*only place a compost bucket at station if a Zero Waste Team Volunteer is there to direct what is allowed to go into the compost). If possible, place a sign in front of each bin for extra direction. There tends to be more recycling than anything so plan accordingly. Encourage participants of your event to recycle more of their waste by placing more recycling containers than any others at each station.

-As recycling, trash, and compost are removed from the stations around the event (reduce the number of plastic bags wasted by consolidating the trash and recycling and reusing the bags as many times as possible), they should be taken directly to the main Zero Waste Sorting Station so that sorting may begin.



Sorting

-Depending on the size of the event and the number of volunteers you have to sort trash, you'll have to determine the best set-up and flow to efficiently sort. **Suggestion:**

-Have two people set-up on each side of the table (line the table with a tarp) as well as separate containers for recycling, trash, and compost.

-Set a bag of trash on the table and begin sorting! One person on each side of the table can work on one bag while the other end of the table sorts another bag.

-Have designated areas surrounding the pop-up tent(s) to place sorted materials of Landfill, Recycle and Compost. Expect for there to be a large amount of Recycling.

SORTING GUIDELINES

TRASH:

- Straws, lids, and bottle caps, as they are too small to go along the conveyor belts in the recycling plant
- Plastic utensils, paper cups, napkins & plates that have wax or coloring
- STYROFOAM
- Plastic wrap
- Aluminum foil
- Meat
- Dairy
- Anything covered in oil/wax
- Waste from dogs, cats, and other carnivores/omnivores
- Yard waste with pesticides or herbicides on them

RECYCLING:

- Glass bottles, aluminum cans, plastic bottles, plastic & paper cups and plates that don't have coloring or wax coating (be sure that items in recycling aren't really dirty)

COMPOST:

- No dairy or meat
- No or very limited oil/fat
- Paper products as long as they are not oily, have a wax coating, or have dyes on them can go into compost
- Any plant materials (fruits and veggies) that are not diseased, heavily covered in oil/fat
- Tea, Coffee grounds and filter paper
- Ashes from wood, paper and lumpwood charcoal
- Wool
- Feathers
- Vacuum bag contents
- Old natural fiber clothes (cut into small pieces)
- Tissues, paper towels, and napkins
- Shredded confidential documents
- Manure from herbivores (cows, sheeps, chickens, or rabbits)



Plastic Bags:

Plastic bags that are not extremely dirty can be collected and taken to a plastic bag recycling station at various local grocery retailers. For example: Mustard Seed Market, Giant Eagle, Acme

WHAT COMES NEXT?

What happens with the “waste” after the event?

- Before the event, you need to identify what is going to happen with the “waste” after the event and have pick-up dates determined.
- City of Akron - City Trash & Recycle bin pick-up
- Let's Grow Akron - Compost
- Drop-off at Keep Akron Beautiful 300 gallon dumpster (if that goes forward)
- Recycling available at near-by Fire Stations or Community Centers
- It is also important to keep track of the number of trash & recycling bags, as well as the number of pounds of compost generated from the event.

RESOURCES

- Please contact your closest community garden to your event
- Let's Grow Akron - www.letsgrowakron.org has the largest network of community gardens in the city
- Summit ReWorks - www.summitreworks.com
- City of Akron Recycling Department - www.akronohio.gov/cms/public_works/recycling/index.html

Feel free to contact The Big Love Network for training, consultation & results of your sorting bigloveakron@gmail.com





Tips for composting in your own yard!

Location for Compost: When you are planning an outdoor compost system, choose a location with access to a water source, in an area that receives moderate sunlight. You do not want to completely dry out the composting material, but the added heat from sunlight does speed along the process.

Thinking in Greens and Browns:

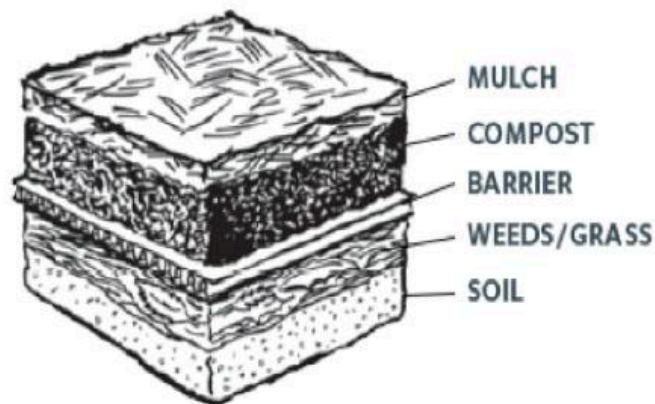
Decomposition of organic materials in your compost pile is greatly increased when you create the proper balance between the carbonaceous materials (called BROWN because they are dry that mushrooms eat) and the nitrogen-rich materials (called GREEN because they are more fresh and moist that bacteria eats).

Styles:

Heat composting- a process that allows for compost to be piled either in a whole in the ground, on top of the soil or in a bin. It is important to combine your browns (carbon) and greens (nitrogen) in a 2 browns: 1 greens ratio. This allows for more oxygen to help breakdown materials which keeps the pile from smelling. If your compost smells then it has turned anaerobic, lacking of oxygen, and needs more browns added. It is important to regularly turn your pile and to make sure it does not get dried out.

Vermiculture- the process of using worms to decompose food waste, turning the waste into a nutrient-rich material capable of supplying necessary nutrients to help sustain plant growth. This can be done inside or outside and requires further research as it is a form of animal agriculture.

Sheet Mulching/ Lasagna Gardening- This is a technique used to create new soil for garden beds. It is unnecessary to till with this method. It is simply layering the above list of greens and browns. The more layers of greens and browns the deeper your soil will be. The diagram to the right gives an example of how to begin this process. First pick the footprint of your new garden bed. Then place down cardboard over your grass, dump a layer of greens onto the cardboard and then top it with your larger layer of browns. The brown/green ratio should remain 2 brown: 1 green. It takes anywhere from 6 weeks to 3 months to create soil, depending on the materials being composted. This method creates dark, humus based soil that is loose.



THANKS FOR READING!

“Unless someone like you cares a whole awful lot,
Nothing is going to get better. It’s not.”

-Dr. Seuss. The Lorax