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GREEN Page

Green Picnic Guide

Gearing up for a summer picnic? Here are some earth-friendly ideas to help you keep your outdoor gatherings fun, simple, and green.

- ◆ **Pack plenty of local, in-season fruits and vegetables.** Remember, fresh fruit “wraps” itself – no additional packaging needed!
- ◆ **Re-purpose your canvas grocery tote as a picnic bag.**
- ◆ **Choose a picnic destination that’s easy to get to by foot, bike, or public transportation.**
- ◆ **Skip the individually packaged drinks.** Opt for coolers or kegs filled with your favorite party beverages.
- ◆ **Choose washable, reusable cloth napkins and tablecloths.** If reusable isn’t an option for cups, plates, and utensils, choose biodegradable items or recycled products.
- ◆ **Stick to sunscreen and insect repellents made with fewer chemicals.**



- ◆ **Remember to take your waste with you.** Leftover picnic food in trashcans is often tempting to park animals. Bring an extra container for food waste and a tote bag for recycling. Also, consider using your melted ice to rinse reusable dishes and utensils.

www.earthshare.org



The Four Steps in the Recycling Loop

Want to be **green** but not sure where to start? You can get the biggest environmental bang-for-your-buck by **reducing** waste, then **re-using** products, then **recycling** products, and last but not least, buying recycled products a.k.a. **re-buying**.

Reduce

The first step has nothing to do with garbage you already have, rather the garbage you will make. There is an immense amount of garbage produced everyday by people like you and me. By reducing the waste that we make, we reduce the waste that is landfilled and thereby reduce the need for landfill space. In short, we bury less garbage, which is clearly healthier for the environment. **EXAMPLE:** using real plates instead of disposable plates.

Reuse

By reusing products, we decrease the demand for new products and thereby decrease the amount of raw materials that are stripped from the Earth. Most things these days are designed to be disposable—one use and they’re done. Disposable products lead to a disposable mentality, which in turn leads to perfectly good materials being landfilled. **EXAMPLE:** Sell unwanted items at a garage sale or donate them to a charity.

Recycle

This is something that most people feel that they are familiar with. You put the aluminum, glass, plastic, and paper in the bin and it will come back to you as another can, bottle, or your morning paper. This however is only the beginning. The opportunities for recycling materials are expanding rapidly—if you can google it, you can probably recycle it! **EXAMPLE:** TVs, tires, old trophies, old jeans, CDs, batteries, water pitcher filters, and lots more. Visit www.recyclescene.com

Re-buy

Unless we buy recycled products, there will never be any reason for manufacturers to fully utilize the pool of recycled material that is available. It is consumer’s buying power that will effectively close the recycling loop and make it less necessary to draw from the limited natural resources of the Earth. **EXAMPLE:** purchasing recycled copy paper.

Commercial Recycling—It’s the Law!

Is your department recycling? Do you own or work with public or private businesses or multi-family complexes? Assembly Bill (AB) 341 requires businesses and public entities that produce four cubic yards or more of solid waste per week, and multi-family complexes with five or more units, to have a recycling program in place.

Why recycle?

- Recycling may provide opportunities for your business, agency, or multi-family complex to save money.
- Recycling helps conserve resources and create a healthy environment for our community and future generations.
- Recycling helps promote your business, agency, or complex as environmentally friendly. Being “green” is in!
- California Redemption Value (CRV) bottles and cans are a great way to raise money for an office party fund, charity, or just about anything.

For more information, visit www.SJCreycle.org