



LOW WASTE GUIDE **EVENT VENDOR**



In a recent waste reduction survey collected by the city, 74% of respondents indicated that they would choose to purchase from a business that practices waste reduction measures over one that does not. When participating as a vendor at an event, you can reduce the need for items that lead to waste and offer options that make reuse possible. Being intentional about what you offer customers, can significantly cut back the waste you generate.





REDUCE AND REUSE

- Consider eliminating giveaway items or choose giveaway items with great care
- Only give out plastic bags, straws and lids on request
- Allow and incentivize customers to bring their own reusable items (cups, utensils, bags, etc.)
- Use stamps to brand products rather than stickers
- See the table below for suggestions on reducing single-use items

SUSTAINABLE PRODUCTS

- Wrap products in paper rather than plastic, or skip the wrapping all together
- Look for 'Pre' or 'Post' consumer recycled content when purchasing products
- Buy products with sustainable logos like FSC (Forest Stewardship Council), Rainforest Alliance Certified, Fair Trade Certified, and others

RECYCLING GUIDELINES FOR SPECIAL EVENTS

When the generation of waste cannot be avoided, the next best option is choosing items that can be recycled. Please use appropriate signage to help your customers recycle successfully.

Printable signs can be found at cityofboise.org/departments/public-works/curb-it/printable-signs/

RECYCLABLE

- Metal cans
- Mixed paper and handouts
- Cardboard
- #1 and #2 plastic bottles, jugs, and jars (if they are rigid and not crinkly)

NOT RECYCLABLE

- Biodegradable/compostable products
- Paper towels and napkins
- Paper cups, plates, and bowls
- Plastic utensils, cups, plates, and bowls
- Plastic bags, wraps and films
- Crinkly or flimsy water bottles
- Food waste

DECISION GUIDE

The suggestions provided on the next page follow a “good,” “better,” “best” strategy to help guide your business or organization toward low waste options. In order of most to least ideal, when choosing what materials to use, we suggest prioritizing as follows:

- **BEST** Items that can be reused
- **BETTER** Items that can be recycled
- **GOOD** Items that can be recovered or would degrade relatively quickly in the landfill
- **AVOID** Items that go in the trash

Please choose products made from the highest recycled content possible as it uses fewer resources and supports recycling markets. Post-consumer recycled content is preferred.

HEFTY ENERGYBAGS

Sometimes, vendors or event planners choose to use Hefty EnergyBags to collect plastics that are not acceptable as loose recycling. We do not recommend using Hefty EnergyBags at most public events unless the bags are continually staffed or not located in public areas (“back-of-house” locations are ok) because of the high likelihood of contamination. If you plan to use Hefty EnergyBags, you must gain approval from the City of Boise Special Events Committee and follow these guidelines:

GUIDELINES FOR USE

- DO NOT put out for public use unless each bag will be continually staffed to reduce contamination. Contamination in public spaces is very high and unstaffed bags should only be used “back-of-house”
- Review which items are acceptable in the Hefty EnergyBags prior to the event. Guides and videos are available at www.cityofboise.org/departments/public-works/curb-it/hefty-energybag-program
- When a bag is full, tie the top tightly and take it to the nearest recycling dumpster at the event (please provide enough recycling containers to handle the extra material that will be collected in the Hefty EnergyBags)



ALL VENDORS

ITEM	RATING	OPTION	DISPOSAL
Bags	Best	Reusable Bags	No Waste
	Better	Reused cardboard boxes or paper bags from recycled paper	Loose Recycling
	Good	Plastic bags using recycled content	Hefty EnergyBag
	Avoid	Single-use plastic bags with no recycled content	Landfill or Hefty EnergyBag
Receipts	Best	Paper receipts not offered or electronic receipts	No Waste
	Avoid	Standard paper receipt	Landfill

FOOD VENDORS

ITEM	RATING	OPTION	DISPOSAL
Cups	Best	Reusable cups owned by the vendor or brought by the customer to be filled	No Waste
	Good	Plastic cups labeled with a #4-#7	Hefty EnergyBag
	Good	Single-use compostable or biodegradable cups	Landfill
	Avoid	Plastic cups labeled with a #1, paper cups lined with wax	Landfill
Bottles	Best	Reusable bottles owned by the vendor or brought by the customer to be filled	No Waste
	Better	Aluminum or steel bottles, or rigid plastic bottles labeled with a #1 or #2	Loose Recycling
	Better	Glass Bottles	Glass Recycling
	Good	Plastic bottles labeled with #4-#7	Hefty EnergyBag
	Good	Single-use compostable or biodegradable bottles	Landfill
	Avoid	Thin, crinkly plastic bottles labeled with a #1	Landfill
Plates/Bowls	Best	Reusable plates/bowls owned by the vendor	No Waste
	Good	Single-use plastic plates and bowls labeled with #4-#7 and wiped clean	Hefty EnergyBag
	Good	Single-use compostable or biodegradable plates and bowls	Landfill
	Avoid	Single-use plastic plates and bowls that cannot be wiped clean or are labeled as a #1 plastic, paper plates and bowls	Landfill
Napkins	Best	Reusable napkins provided by the vendor or brought by the customer	No Waste
	Avoid	Single-use paper napkins	Landfill
Condiment Containers	Best	Single-use containers not offered or reusable containers allowed	No Waste
	Good	Single-use plastic containers with a #4-#7, flexible pouches	Hefty EnergyBag
	Good	Single-use compostable or biodegradable containers	Landfill
	Avoid	Single-use plastic container with a #1	Landfill

BUSINESS VENDORS

ITEM	RATING	OPTION	DISPOSAL
Takeaway info	Best	Electronic distribution (ex: email newsletter)	No Waste
	Better	Paper handouts	Loose Recycling
	Avoid	Handouts on mixed material (ex: paper with foil, or laminated paper)	Landfill
Freebies	Best	Electronic gift certificates or coupons	No Waste
	Better	Paper gift certificates or coupons, items made of aluminum or steel, items in #1 or #2 plastic bottle, jugs, or jars	Loose Recycling
	Good	Items made from #4-#7 plastics or filmy plastics	Hefty EnergyBag
	Avoid	Items made of mixed or non-recyclable materials	Landfill

LET US KNOW

Thank you for making an effort to reduce waste in Boise. Let us know about the ways your business or event reduces waste and your favorite products that use recycled content at curbit@cityofboise.org

For questions, concerns or suggestions, email curbit@cityofboise.org.