



10 Simple Ways to Go Green at a Block Party

Event Type Overview:

Number of Attendees: 30-50

Types of Activities: Potluck/barbeque, information tables, games and other activities

Ways to Go Green:

- Provide recycling bins for cans, bottles, and other recyclables that may be produced at your event.
- Put out containers for food waste recycling. This is a great option if you have curbside pick-up of food waste/non-recyclable paper. If you do not have this option, prior to the event, ask for neighborhood volunteers who are willing to compost food waste from your event in their backyard compost bins. Note: collecting meat and dairy products for composting in backyard bins is not recommended.
- Ask event attendees to bring their own reusable plates and utensils from home. As an alternative, consider using compostable paper plates and ask for neighborhood volunteers who are willing to compost them in their backyard compost bins. If you do this, you may need to add extra water because of the high paper content.
- Only serve beverages in reusable or recyclable containers. If you do not have enough reusable cups, ask attendees to bring a reusable cup from home.
- When possible, email information to your event to attendees to cut down on paper use. If that is not an option, print all event flyers double-sided, on a minimum of 30% post-consumer content recycled paper. Most copy stores provide a selection of recycled paper.
- Encourage attendees to use local food for potluck items, such as from a farmer's market or even their own backyard garden. If food for your event is being provided by an outside source, talk to them about how they can incorporate local food into the menu.
- Use decorations that can be reused in future years and limit balloon use as much as possible. If you are printing banners or other signage, consider not including the event year so they may be used again.
- Provide condiments in bulk instead of individually wrapped servings. For example, provide bottles of ketchup instead of individual packets. Buy other products in bulk whenever possible.
- Provide an information table with greening resources for attendees, such as information on native plants, rain gardens, and how to purchase green power from your utility company. Visit our partner websites, available at www.mngreengatherings.org, for ideas.
- Provide information for attendees on efforts your event has made to go green and how attendees can help.