



# National ZERO-WASTE Night Out!

Keep your community safe,  
Keep your community clean

## Why Think About WASTE?

The average person in the Twin Cities generates seven pounds of waste each day. That's enough to fill the former Metrodome 11 times each year—and more than half could have been recycled or composted.

Reducing waste at your National Night Out can help divert tons of material from landfills and burners, saving water, energy, and reducing air pollution. Learn how to divert waste and use these tips to plan a National Night Out that is safe and clean for everyone!

## You Can Divert Waste!

### Single-Sort Recycling:



More than 40% of material we throw away can be recycled. Use blue residential carts to collect recyclables at your event and leave them at your collection point to be emptied on your recycling day.

#### ✓ Recyclable:

- All plastic containers and bottles
- All clear and colored glass bottles and jars
- Aluminum food and beverage cans
- All clean paper
- Cardboard boxes
- Cartons

#### ✗ NOT recyclable:

- Plastic bags
- Food soiled paper
- Food Scraps
- Plastic silverware
- Styrofoam™ products
- Plastic wrap and dirty aluminum foil
- Syringes and needles

For more information on how to recycle, go to:  
[www.minneapolismn.gov/solid-waste/whattodo](http://www.minneapolismn.gov/solid-waste/whattodo)

### Organics Recycling:



Collect food scraps, food soiled paper, and compostable plastics at your event and take it to one of several Minneapolis organics drop-off sites to be collected for composting.

#### Make sure your bags are certified compostable!

Material for organic recycling in Minneapolis must be bagged in paper or certified compostable bags. This is to ensure the bags will actually break down during the industrial composting process.



Look for this symbol on all of your compostable bags and plastic-lined products to be sure they are compostable.

### Don't have a Green Organics Cart? Sign up now to receive one before National Night Out!

Many Solid Waste & Recycling have already signed up to receive an organics recycling cart. If you haven't already signed up, you can sign up at any time and your new green organics recycling cart will be delivered within two weeks of signing up to participate.

- There's no extra cost to get a cart
- Organics are picked up weekly on your garbage day
- Sign up by visiting [www.minneapolismn.gov/organics](http://www.minneapolismn.gov/organics), by calling 612-673-2917, or by sending an email to [SWRcustomer@minneapolismn.gov](mailto:SWRcustomer@minneapolismn.gov)



# 12 easy steps toward Zero-Waste

## Getting Started

### Planning for success:

1. As you advertise your NNO event, be sure to highlight your zero-waste goals and ask your neighbors to help meet them. Also, encourage them to RSVP early or share what they plan to bring so you can plan for the right amount of food.
2. Evaluate all the items you will need for your event and eliminate as many disposable materials as possible. Try buying food in recyclable packaging or serving it in reusable, recyclable or compostable dishware. 
3. Avoid purchasing Styrofoam™ - it's not recyclable! Paper plates that don't have a plastic lining (colorful designs indicate a plastic layer) can be composted and plastic cups are recyclable. 
4. Invite your neighbors to bring their own reusable plates, cups, bottles and silverware. Make finger foods that don't require any utensils, and tell everyone to bring their own containers to take leftovers home. 
5. Choose decorations and display materials that can be reused or recycled. 

### More Useful Websites:

- Minneapolis Recycling:** [www.minneapolismn.gov/recycling](http://www.minneapolismn.gov/recycling)  
**Minneapolis Organics:** [www.minneapolismn.gov/organics](http://www.minneapolismn.gov/organics)  
**Rethink Recycling:** [www.rethinkrecycling.com/learn-educate/toolkits/green-events](http://www.rethinkrecycling.com/learn-educate/toolkits/green-events)  
**Hennepin County Signs and Info:** [www.hennepin.us/eventrecycling](http://www.hennepin.us/eventrecycling)

### Contact Solid Waste & Recycling:

Email: [SWRcustomer@minneapolismn.gov](mailto:SWRcustomer@minneapolismn.gov)  
 Phone: 612-673-2917

## During the Event

### A Zero-Waste Night Out:

6. Always place recycling, organics recycling and trash receptacles together to form a waste station. This makes disposal more convenient and will reduce contamination. 
7. Use consistent signage to clearly mark all recycling and organics recycling containers so they are easily recognizable.  For free signs, go to: [www.hennepin.us/business/recycling-hazardous-waste/recycling-at-events](http://www.hennepin.us/business/recycling-hazardous-waste/recycling-at-events)
8. Have volunteers stand by sorting stations to help attendees recycle correctly.
9. Take the opportunity to see if your neighbors have any questions about how to dispose of their household items. If you're unable to answer them, tell them to contact Solid Waste & Recycling. 

## Wrapping Up

### Ending on a High Note:

10. Weigh or estimate the volume of your organics, recycling and trash to calculate your diversion rate. Share your success with your neighbors! 
11. Leave your recycling and organics carts out to be emptied on your collection day or take organic material to a park drop-off. Visit: [www.minneapolismn.gov/organics/dropoffs](http://www.minneapolismn.gov/organics/dropoffs) to find the site nearest you.
12. Don't forget to thank your neighbors for their efforts and note any improvements for next year.

