

# FIRST NIGHT AUSTIN

## GREEN GUIDELINES FOR EVENT VENDORS

Thank you so much for helping to make First Night Austin a GREEN event!

### PROHIBITED MATERIALS

There are two types of materials that are **banned from being distributed** to customers at **ALL** City facilities, park grounds, and events:

- **GLASS.** Glass is difficult to recycle. When broken, glass can cause injury.
- **STYROFOAM.** Styrofoam cannot be recycled in the City of Austin's recycling program. Styrofoam easily becomes a serious litter issue and can cause harm to wildlife.

**FACT:** A Styrofoam cup takes up to 50 years to "break down" in the environment

### DISCOURAGED MATERIALS

Vendors are discouraged from using the following items that are difficult to recycle:

- Plastic bags and wrapping
- Plastic plates
- Plastic stirring straws
- Plastic utensils/utensil packs (plastic wrapped fork, knife, napkin, and pepper/salt)
- Individually packaged condiments and drinking straws
- Drink boxes

**FACT:** Materials to be recycled should be relatively clean and void of food particles

### ENCOURAGED MATERIALS & PRACTICES THAT SAVE MONEY

- **FOOD CHOICES.** Serve food items that do not require utensils, such as: hot dogs, corn dogs, hamburgers, sandwiches, fries, tacos, pizza, ice cream cones or bars, etc.
- **SMART FOOD PACKAGING.** Make food convenient and portable for customers by wrapping it in materials such as foil or paper. Bulk foil or paper tends to cost less than plates, is easy to transport and can be rolled up into a small ball for disposal.
- **BUY IN BULK.** More savings, less waste! Avoid anything individually wrapped!
  - **Utensils.** Fork, spoon, knife or spork? If you choose to serve food that requires utensils, carefully consider which utensils will be needed.
  - **Straws.** Avoid plastic straws. If you need stirring straws, opt for wood.
  - **Condiments.** Supply your customers with self-serve bulk condiments, such as mustard, mayo, ketchup, creamer, salt and pepper. This costs less, is more convenient and helps avoid the extra waste of individually wrapped packets.
  - **Recycled Content Plates & Napkins.** Using paper plates and napkins made out of post-consumer recycled paper is an excellent way to close-the-loop.

**CLOSE-THE-LOOP** means buying recycled and is an equally important step in the recycling process. Even though trees are a renewable resource, much energy and landfill space can be conserved when we buy recycled content items.







- **Beverages.** Beverages can be served in bulk using commercial dispensers. In the absence of a dispenser, we recommend reusable cups or aluminum cans.
  - **Reusable Cups.** Sell reusable cups. Serve water or other beverages from coolers and provide discounts for refills. The discount encourages customer loyalty. Remember to follow all health department requirements.
  - **Aluminum or Plastic?** Through the City of Austin, aluminum is easier to recycle and when recycled, has a longer reusable life span than plastic. **We will have recycling available for BOTH aluminum cans and plastic containers.**

**IMPORTANT: PLEASE DO NOT BREAK THE RECYCLING SYSTEM!** Compostable and other plant-based plastics **CANNOT** be recycled. If you choose to use compostable products, instruct your customers to throw them in the trash not in the recycling bin.

### **THE CITY OF AUSTIN WILL PROVIDE VENDORS**

1. Two roll-off dumpsters for trash (one at City Hall and one at Auditorium Shores)
2. Two recycling dumpsters for cardboard and other recyclable materials
3. Clear Stream event recycling containers and clear bags for customer use throughout event
4. Collection of customer's recyclables and trash
5. Volunteers to assist with recycling efforts

#### **Materials that CAN be recycled:**

-  Glass, generated by vendors
-  Rigid plastic containers (#1 thru #7)
-  Aluminum, tin, and steel
-  Paper fliers and documents
-  Paperboard
-  Cardboard

#### **Materials that CANNOT be recycled:**

-  Plastic bags
-  Styrofoam
-  Food
-  Paper cups
-  Paper plates
-  Napkins

**EVENT RECYCLING CONTAINERS** will be placed next to each trash container throughout the event to collect aluminum cans and plastic bottles from attendees. Only vendors will be able to recycle all the materials noted above.

### **VENDORS CAN HELP**

1. Break down boxes and haul all cardboard to the recycling dumpsters.
2. Recycle any other material using the recycling dumpsters.
3. Share the following recycling rules with your staff and customers:
  - **RECYCLING = CLEAR BAGS**
  - **TRASH = BLACK BAGS**
  - Containers **CANNOT** be recycled if they have food or grease on/in them, this includes paper beverage cups, plates and utensils
  - Aluminum cans and plastic bottles must be emptied before recycling
  - **DO NOT** put food, utensils, styrofoam, paper products or any other non-recyclable material in the recycling containers

### **COOKING GREASE**

Instructions on what to do with your used cooking grease will be provided by the First Night Austin vendor coordinator.

**IMPORTANT: PLEASE DO NOT dispose of your used cooking grease in portable-potties.**

**Questions or Concerns?** Contact: Alanna Reed; Phone: 512-974-1978;  
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