

NASHVILLE GREEN EVENTS GUIDE



The City of Nashville is committed to **80%** renewable energy use and **90%** waste diversion by **2050**. With over **16 million** visitors and thousands of events annually, sustainable events are critical to meeting our goals.

The hospitality industry is proud to partner with Metro Nashville to work toward making meetings and events more green. Hotel partners already prioritize recycling, conservation and implementing green practices in their housekeeping, and they say it is important for their properties to be eco-friendly.

The resources in this guide will help you set your event apart and be part of the solution.

59%
of event producers report
that sustainability is a
TOP PRIORITY
for their guests and clients.

BEST PRACTICES



WASTE

A zero waste event is the most tangible way to show your commitment to sustainability.

- Develop a zero waste plan
- All events receiving a Metro Special Event or Parade Permit must provide recycling [Request Recycling and Composting Containers](#) (shorturl.at/uwBOZ)
- Make recycling & composting easy for guests
- Check local rules to ensure you [Recycle Right](#) (shorturl.at/jzKQY)
- Train staff on waste diversion practices
- Buy in bulk to minimize packaging waste
- Avoid disposables
- Avoid physical giveaways; opt for digital gift cards/ passes



TRANSPORTATION

Transportation to and from events is a key factor in attendance and satisfaction. Demonstrate your dedication to sustainability.

- Incentivize carpooling (see Hytch, below)
- Promote busing options and public transportation
- Select venues that are easy to walk to
- Provide electric vehicle charging
- Provide bicycle parking
- Incentivize electric scooter and bicycle use
- Purchase carbon offsets for flights and travel



FOOD

Sourcing local, plant-based foods and eliminating food waste is key to a green event.

- Source foods locally to reduce food miles
- Offer vegan and vegetarian options
- Compost scraps
- If reusable dishware is not an option, use compostable disposables
- Donate leftovers to a local nonprofit



ENERGY

Saving energy reduces costs and environmental impacts. Supporting renewables clears the air.

- Utilize LED lights and daylight when possible
- Set venue temperatures at seasonally appropriate levels; dial back when unoccupied
- Choose energy efficient appliances/equipment
- Turn off & unplug unused equipment
- Purchase REC's to offset your energy use
- Opt for solar powered generators



WATER

Three million people and thousands of species depend on clean water from the Cumberland River. Be water wise.

- Ask guests to bring refillable water bottles
- Provide free water refill stations
- Use water-efficient portable toilets
- Ensure wastewater is disposed of properly
- Store chemicals and event materials securely



COMMUNICATION

Communicating sustainability goals for the event will help guests, volunteers, & stakeholders appreciate your commitment.

- Create a green team for the event
- Utilize digital marketing over printed materials
- Provide signage at the event
- Use image-based signs to differentiate recycling, compost, and trash
- Track your success & share with the world!

NASHVILLE VENDORS & RESOURCES

Waste Disposal:

Waste & Recycling Haulers
nashville.gov/sites/default/files/2023-12/Event_Recycling_Compost_and_Waste_Collection_Providers.pdf

Compost Collection:

The Compost Company
compostcompany.com

Compost Nashville
compostnashville.org

Food Donations:

Nashville Food Project
thenashvillefoodproject.org

Second Harvest Food Bank
secondharvestmidtn.org

Leftover Materials Donation:

Turnip Green Creative Reuse
turnipgreencreativereuse.org

Habitat for Humanity Restore
habitatnashville.org/restore_donate

Goodwill
giveit2goodwill.org/donate

The Arc
arcdc.org

Consulting:

Sheeco Sustainable Events
sheecoevents.com

Wilmot Inc
wilmotinc.com

WM
wmsolutions.com/solutions/zero-waste/

Transportation Alternatives:

WeGo
wegotransit.com

Hytch
hytch.me

BCycle
nashville.bcycle.com

Walk Bike Nashville
walkbikenashville.org

PlugShare
plugshare.com

Renewable Energy:

RECs providers
buycleanenergy.org/find-recs

