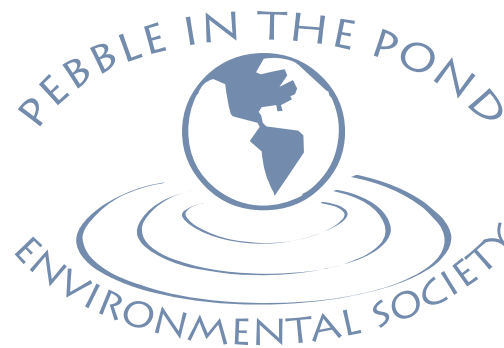


PLANNING AN EVENT?

MAKE IT ZERO-WASTE. HERE'S HOW!

CONSIDER!

The #1 thing to do is consider all aspects of your event and ways that you can eliminate waste and disposables. Events often depend heavily on donations so explain to your donors that you want a zero-waste event, and work with them for creative solutions to minimize waste and packaging. For instance, if you have pretty service trays, deliver them to your food donor beforehand for plating rather than having the food delivered in plastic and transferring to your own trays at the event. It's been our experience that donors are more than happy to rise to the challenge and often have amazingly creative solutions themselves!



DID YOU KNOW?

Pebble in the Pond's strategies helped the 2010 Powell River Film Festival divert more than 13kg of waste from landfill to compost.

Congratulations PRFF!!

BUT I RECYCLE ALL MY PLASTIC!!

The Myth of Plastic Recycling

Your municipality has a recycling program that accepts plastic so that means it's being recycled into new products, right? Not necessarily. It's disheartening, but recycling is a commodity and it needs a buyer. If it's not cost-effective (i.e. if there is no buyer for that type of plastic, or it costs more to recycle than anyone will pay for the resulting material) it just gets lumped in with the rest of the garbage. Municipalities have worked hard to get you into the recycling habit so they maintain curbside collection even though they may not have a buyer. And it's still a GREAT habit so don't stop now!! In Powell River, all plastics except #3 are picked up for recycling; however, only #1 and #2 plastics actually go to a recycling facility. The rest are landfilled :(

PROVEN STRATEGIES

COMPOST!

Much of the waste from an event can be composted. Be sure to have compost buckets available and arrange to drop them off at a local farm. Be sure to use compostable service items like unbleached napkins and no-frills toothpicks. Don't know any farmers? Call us and we'll hook you up!

REUSE!

*If you have a kitchen or dishwashing area, use **REAL** cutlery, glasses and dishes instead of paper or plastic. There are great deals to be had at thrift stores. It doesn't have to be matchy-matchy. Mix it up & make it fun!*

AVOID!

*Avoid disposables, especially plastic. Yes, it's hard, but we need to make a big effort to eliminate disposable plastic from our lives. Recycling is **NOT** the answer - see *The Myth of Plastic Recycling* for more about that ...*

OK, you've read all this and you've done your level best, but for one reason or another it's impossible for you to avoid disposables. Don't fear. In Powell River, vendors like Ecossentials and Aron Vending now stock compostable disposables. Not lucky enough to live here? More and more stores and party suppliers everywhere stock earth-friendly disposables so call a few up and throw your support behind businesses who are getting with the program. But be careful: some things like compostable cutlery can not be put into home composters so your friendly farmer won't take it. These types of compostables typically require very hot municipal compost facilities which are not in all communities.

Please visit our website for more great ideas for reducing your plastic consumption: www.pebpond.com