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GREEN EVENT GUIDE



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Spirit of Sustainability Awards April 19, 2023

GREEN EVENT GUIDE

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THE SUSTAINABILITY COMPASS

THE IMPACT OF THE COMPASS





Whether hosting a meeting with your co-workers or putting together a conference for international attendees, **YOU CAN MAKE THE WORLD A BETTER PLACE** by doing things a little differently. Making small changes to "business-as-usual" can allow the campus community to engage with Auburn University's commitment to sustainability and result in positive impacts surrounding the **SUSTAINABILITY COMPASS.**



KEY PRINCIPLES

Green events strive to minimize the negative & maximize the positive impacts while promoting responsible stewardship around the Sustainability Compass. The principles shared here can apply in any setting. The more you can do, the better!

Recruit & include diverse audiences

- Plan to accommodate those with accessibility needs
- Minimize scheduling conflicts to include diverse audiences
- Advertise through varied channels

Reduce greenhouse gas emissions

- Connect to transportation options
- Reduce energy use
- Source locally

Aim for a zero-landfill event

- Minimize printing
- Use digital communication
- Provide & encourage recycling & composting
- Have a plan for food leftovers
- Reuse supplies

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• Reduce single-use items

Don't forget to share successes to educate others!

If you have questions or need assistance, please contact the Office of Sustainability. ...

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TIME & LOCATION

TIME

- Account for attendees' schedules to maximize attendance.
- Consider the university schedule & other events.
- Avoid having starting/ending times during rush hour.
- Consider holidays of various cultures.

LOCATION

- Minimize travel to venue.
- Ensure access is ADA compliant.
- Use a **LEED CERTIFIED** building.
- Check for <u>LED</u> or natural lighting.
- Offer access to outdoor space.
- Provide projector or dry erase board.
- Ensure all staff are aware of the location of accessible seating, restrooms, parking, & elevators.
- Develop an evacuation plan with Campus Safety & Security.

INSTANT IMPACT:

Enable use of sustainable transportation options.





CONFERENCES

Choose a venue that:

- > Has outlets available for chargers.
- > Provides tablecloths only upon request.

Choose a hotel that:

- > Offers a linen/ towel reuse option.
- > Provides paperless check-in & check-out.
- > Places recycling bins in rooms.
- > Follows FAIR LABOR POLICIES.

If venue or hotel doesn't address sustainability, let them know your preferences so they can improve in the future.



Consider holding conference calls or video chats.

> Trains employees on SUSTAINABLE PRACTICES.

> Follows **ENERGY EFFICIENCY** & water conservation practices.

> Minimizes landfill waste through recycling, compost, etc.

> Offers video or teleconferencing for remote participants.

> Connects to transit, bike share, or is within two miles of venue.

> Uses Eco-friendly CLEANING & LAUNDRY PRODUCTS.

> Received certification by a **<u>GREEN LODGING PROGRAM</u>**.

COMMUNICATION

WHAT

Communicate SUSTAINABILITY GOALS & PRACTICES. Promote sustainability features of the venue.

Encourage attendees to:

- Use refillable water bottles & mugs.
- Use sustainable transportation.
- Follow event sustainability practices.
- Share accessibility accommodations needed in advance.

Ask tablers & exhibitors to:

- Minimize giveaways & handouts.
- Give items that promote **SUSTAINABLE BEHAVIORS** (e.g. reusable water bottles or utensils).
- Advertise on useful items (e.g. koozies, phone cases, T-shirts).
- Bring reusable or recyclable items.
- Recycle on-site & carry away items that can only be recycled off-site.

For accessibility

- Provide information on accessible parking, entrances, restrooms, & path of travel.
- For sign language speakers, include directions to the best view.

HOW

Advertise event digitally.

- Promote with in-person invites, class visits, & tabling.
- Collect RSVPs to ensure an accurate head count.

Ensure accessibility of information to all users.

- accessible materials are needed.
- include directions for participants to the best view.

If printing is necessary:

- Print double-sided.
- Reduce margins & font size.
- Use recycled-content paper.
- Use standard paper sizes, not custom.
- Have professional printers use soy-based inks.

For signs & banners:

- Design for reuse.
- Use non-specific dates (e.g. First 56 vs. Aug 21st).
- Print on recyclable materials.



MEETINGS

Use shared electronic documents for group editing.



CONFERENCES Recruit key audiences digitally. Hold registration online. Encourage attendees to bring name tag lanyards.

• Contact the Office of Accessibility at 844-2096 if braille or other

• All videos should be captioned & have them turned on. If providing sign language interpreting & captioning, request two interpreters, &

INSTANT IMPACT:

Provide programs, agendas, presentations, & resources online.



MATERIALS

> PURCHASING

- Plan for a **ZERO-LANDFILL EVENT**.
- Borrow, reuse, or rent decor & equipment.
- Buy items made from recycled content.
- Look for minimal & recyclable packaging.
- Seek out <u>certified</u> items (e.g. foods, facilities, cleaning products).
- Use rechargeable batteries. Print on recyclable materials.

GIVEAWAYS

- Minimize or eliminate one-use giveaways.
- Choose practical, reusable, & healthy options.
- Promote **SUSTAINABLE BEHAVIORS**.
- Use event decor as giveaways (e.g. air-cleansing plants).

INSTANT IMPACT:

Make accurate headcount to avoid excess materials.

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FOOD SERVICE

CONSIDER OFFERING

- Allergen-free (e.g. gluten, nuts, shellfish).
- Vegetarian or vegan.
- Healthy options (e.g. fresh, unprocessed).
- Locally-grown.

SHOPPING

- Calculate an accurate headcount.
- Create a list.
- Bring reusable bags.
- Look for minimal & recyclable packaging.

SERVICE

- Use Tiger Catering or AU Hotel & Conference Center, if needed.
- Label food clearly.
- Choose reusable plates, napkins, silverware, glasses, & tablecloths.

- Use bulk dispensers for food & beverage condiments.
- Ask delivery personnel to not idle vehicles.
- Have straws available only upon request.

If disposables are used:

- ▶ Choose recyclable plates & utensils.
- Save extra items for future use.



• Certified foods (e.g. fair trade, organic, Rainforest Alliance).

INSTANT IMPACT:

Serve water in pitchers; avoid bottled water.

• Serve buffet-style in reusable or recyclable service ware.

• Avoid serving individually-packaged meals & beverages.

• If a guest is unable to carry their meal, provide this service.

Avoid Styrofoam, bottled water, straws, & coffee stirrers.

Arrange for The Campus Kitchens Project to pick up unserved food.

WASTE

COLLECTION STATIONS

Make bins available before, during, & after event. Set up bins for landfill, compost, and recycling. Locate stations conveniently with all bin types together. Label with clear & simple signage.

Train volunteers to monitor stations, which includes:

- Instructing participants on properly sorting items.
- Pulling recycling out of trash.
- Taking trash out of the recycling bins.
- Following safety recommendations, such as wearing gloves.

ON CAMPUS

Submit work order for recycling bins through Facilities Management. Consult the Waste Reduction <u>& Recycling Department</u>.

Recycle:

- Plastic drink containers
- ▶ Aluminum & steel cans
- Cardboard
- Mixed paper

OFF CAMPUS

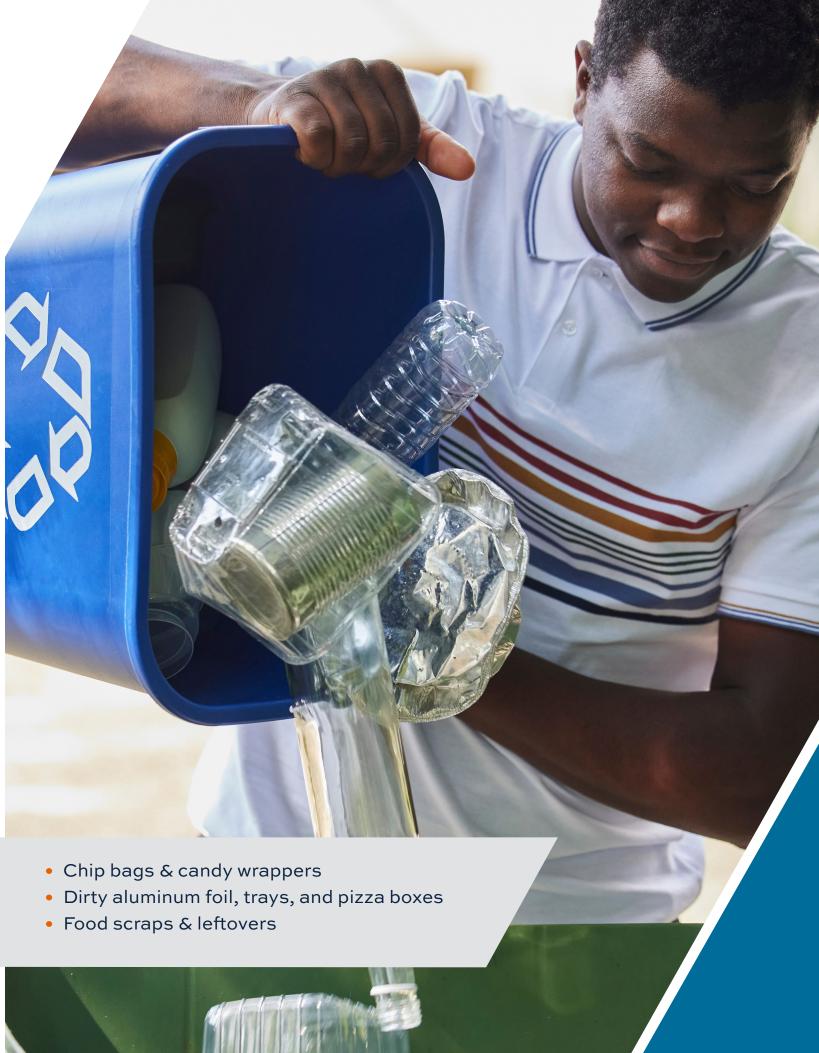
Recycle all on-campus items at the City of Auburn Recycling Center along with these items listed below.

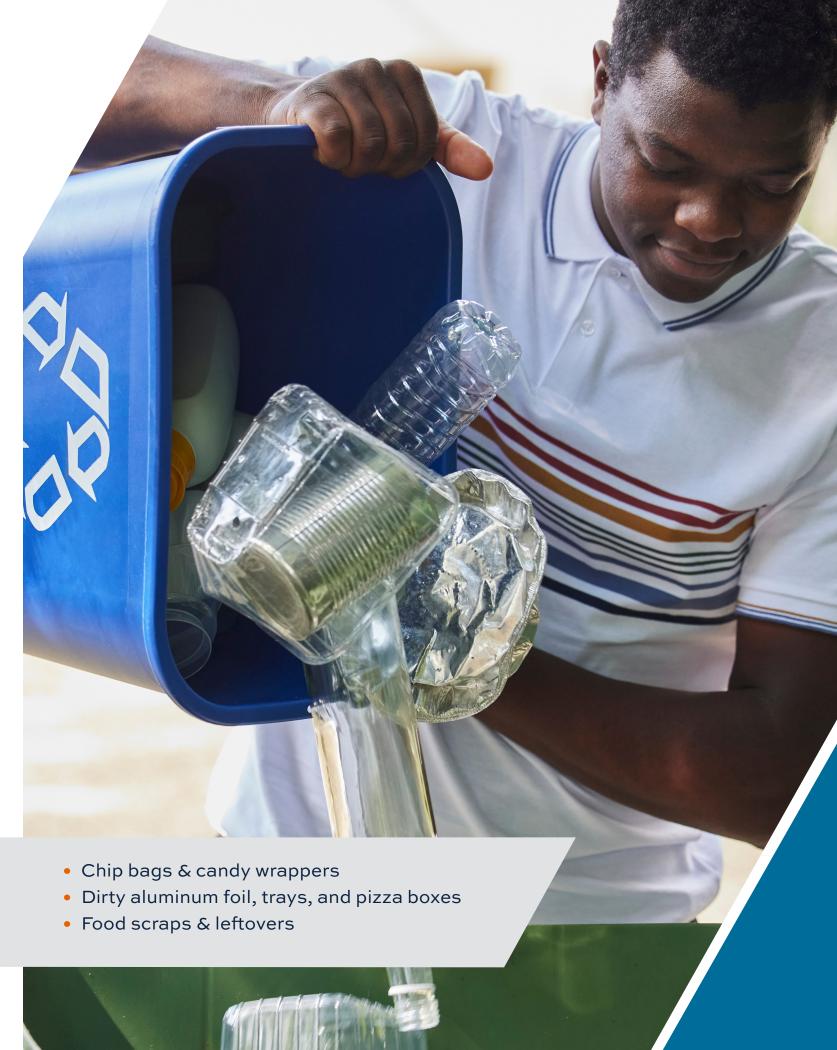
Recycle:

- ▶ Glass
- ▶ Batteries
- ▶ Cooking grease/oil
- ▶ Take plastic shopping bags to grocery stores

NOT RECYCLABLE

- Plastics without recycling symbol (e.g. silverware, straws, stirrers, & wrap)
- Styrofoam







GREENHOUSE GAS EMISSIONS

FOOD

- Purchase local to reduce FOOD MILES.
- Serve vegetarian proteins.

WASTE

- Require an RSVP in order to reduce food waste.
- Set a goal for a **ZERO-LANDFILL EVENT**.
- Choose reusable, recyclable, or compostable items.
- Coordinate composting with the Organic Garden Club.

TRANSPORTATION

- Share Auburn Sustainable Transportation Guide before event.
- Minimize distance between venue & hotels.
- Encourage attendees to reduce SINGLE OCCUPANCY VEHICLE USE.

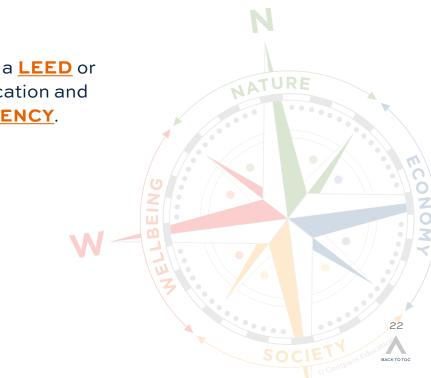
BUILDINGS

- Choose a venue that holds a **LEED** or LIVING BUILDING certification and practices **ENERGY EFFICIENCY**.
- Turn off equipment, lights, & water when not in use.
- Shut down electronics.

• Arrange for <u>The Campus Kitchens Project</u> to pick up unserved food.

INSTANT IMPACT:

Choose venues that connect to sustainable transportation.



PARTIES & TAILGATES

> PLANNING

- Consider holidays from various cultures.
- Opt for <u>outdoors</u>:
 - ▶ Avoid sensitive plants & exposed tree roots.
 - Provide shelter from sun or rain.
 - ▶ Consult the <u>Fire Safety Rules & Tips for Tailgaters</u>.
- Plan for recycling & waste.

COMMUNICATIONS

- Send digital invites, RSVPs, & sign-up forms.
- Create a Facebook event.
- Share event SUSTAINABILITY GOALS & PRACTICES.
- Minimize printing.

DECORATIONS

- Choose recyclable, reusable, &/or compostable decorations & signs.
- Design signs & banners for reuse (e.g. use non-specific dates).
- Consider fruit arrangements or native potted flowers & plants.
- Avoid balloons & confetti.
- Seek out certified items.
- Use LED LIGHTS.
- Collect decor to reuse or donate after event.

INSTANT IMPACT:

Borrow, reuse, rent, &/or make decor & equipment.





MEETINGS

Take notes digitally and use shared documents for group editing.

DURING YOUR EVENT

• Use computers or tablets for check-in.

• Monitor waste stations.

• Use verbal announcements to:

Identify locations of water stations.

▶ Review procedures of waste stations.

▶ Cover emergency procedures.

INSTANT IMPACT: Share **SUSTAINABILITY GOALS & PRACTICES.**

AFTER YOUR EVENT

• Remove & dispose of waste & recycling accordingly. • Turn off equipment, lights, & water.

INSTANT IMPACT:

Collect name tags, supplies, & decor to reuse.

COMMUNICATION

> Send electronic thank-yous to partners, volunteers, donors, & attendees.

> <u>Share successes</u> using photos (e.g. quantity of waste avoided, food donated, bikes ridden).



APPENDICES PURCHASING TO MINIMIZE

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PURCHASING CERTIFICATIONS

CERTIFICATION & LINK	DESCRIPTION	EXAMPLES		CERTIFICATION & LINK	DES
B-CORPORATION	Certifies businesses based on social & environmental performance, transparency, & legal accountability.	Hotels, retailers, food & beverage companies, businesses in all sectors		RAINFOREST ALLIANCE	Provides training foresters, and to to minimize envir
GREEN SEAL	Certifies products & services to help manufacturers, purchasers, & consumers make responsible choices.	Hotels, restaurants, paper products, & cleaning products	_	SUSTAINABLE FOREST INITIATIVE	Promotes respor management on
GREEN LODGING PROGRAM	Verifies facilities have met environmental best practice standards.	Lodging facilities	_	FOREST STEWARDSHIP COUNCIL	Promotes enviro socially beneficia prosperous mana
SAFER CHOICE	Helps consumers, businesses, & purchasers find products that perform well & are safer for human health & the environment.	Cleaning products	-	UNITED STATES GREEN BUILDING COUNCIL	Certifies building (Leadership in El Environmental D
ENERGY STAR	Helps businesses & individuals save money & protect our climate through superior <mark>ENERGY EFFICIENCY</mark> .	Appliances, lighting, electronics, & building products	-		
EPEAT	Rates high-performance electronics that supports the IT & <u>SUSTAINABILITY GOALS</u> of an organization.	Electronic products (e.g. TVs, computers, monitors)	_		W-

SCRIPTION

EXAMPLES

ing to farmers, tourism entrepreneurs wironmental impacts. Agriculture, forestry, & tourism

ponsible forest on all suppliers' lands. Wood, paper, & bioenergy manufacturers

ironmentally sound, icial, & economically anagement of the forests. Building materials, paper, & printing

30

ings for <u>LEED</u>, Energy and I Design)

Buildings, houses, & communities





DIGITAL COMMUNICATIONS

Campus Units with Digital Displays

FORMAT	UNITS
16:9 RATIO	 Alabama Cooperative Extension System Auburn University Bookstore Auburn University Facilities Management Auburn University Libraries College of Agriculture College of Architecture, Design & Construction Department of Art & Art History Department of Human Resources McWhorter School of Building Sciences Office of Information Technology Raymond J. Harbert College of Business
LANDSCAPED PHOTO, JPG	Auburn Abroad
16:9 POWER POINT SLIDE	 College of Forestry, Wildlife and Environment
21.5:15.5 RATIO, JPG	College of Science & Mathematics

Auburn University Press Outlets

OUTLET

ACADEMIC SUSTAINABILITY PROGR

AUBURN NEWS

AUBURN UNIVERSITY CALENDAR

AU INVOLVE WEB SUBMISSION

HONORS FORUM CALENDAR

DEPARTMENT NEWSLETTERS & EM LISTS

OFFICE OF COMMUNICATIONS AND MARKETING PRESS RELEASE

OFFICE OF SUSTAINABILITY CALENDAR & DIGEST

THE PLAINSMAN

THIS WEEK @ AU

UNIVERSITY HOUSING **& RESIDENCE LIFE**

Online Resources

REGISTRATIONS	> Microsc
SURVEYS	> Qualtric
VOLUNTEER FORMS	≻GivePul

	PRIMARY AUDIENCE
RAM	Sustainability minor students
	Employees
	Students, employees, & community members
	Students
	Honors College students
IAIL	Differs by campus audience
	Off-campus media
	Students, employees, & communities
	Students & employees
	Students
	Students living on-campus

oft Forms, Qualtrics

cs, Microsoft Forms

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CAMPUS RESOURCES

- > Auburn Sustainability Transportation Guide
- > The Auburn University Map with Sustainability Placemarks
- > Donald E. Davis Arboretum
- > The Campus Kitchens Project at Auburn University
- > The Hotel at Auburn University and Dixon Conference Center
- > Local Resources in the Auburn/Opelika Community
- > Office of Accessibility
- > Office of Communications & Marketing Event Planning and Protocol
- > Office of Sustainability
- > Parking Services
- > Service Support, Facilities
- > Student Center
- > Tiger Catering
- > Tiger Dining
- > Tiger Transit
- > Waste Reduction & Recycling Department



GLOSSARY

BIOBASED: "Use wood or biobased flatware." A material that is composed, in whole or in significant part, of biological products or renewable domestic agricultural or forestry materials.

CARBON OFFSETS: "Encourage attendees to buy carbon offsets." A carbon offset is a reduction in emissions of carbon dioxide & other greenhouse gases made in order to compensate for, or to offset, an emission made elsewhere. Many airline & car-rental companies have an option for travelers to purchase carbon offsets.

ENERGY EFFICIENCY: "Building practices with energy efficiency." The goal of energy efficiency is to reduce the amount of energy required to provide products & services.

FAIR LABOR POLICIES: "Hotel follows Fair Labor policies." Ideally, a hotel should pay at least a living wage. Fair labor practices identified by the Fair Labor Standards Act include the forty-hour work week, a national minimum wage, guaranteed "time-and-a-half" for overtime in certain jobs, & the prohibition of most employment of minors in "oppressive child labor."

FOOD MILES: "Purchase locally to reduce food miles." Food miles refers to the distance food is transported from the time of its production until it reaches the consumer.

LED LIGHTS: "Location uses LED or natural lighting." LED stands for "Light-Emitting Diode." LED light bulbs have many advantages over incandescent light sources, including lower energy consumption, longer lifetime, improved physical robustness, smaller size, & faster switching.

LEED CERTIFIED: "Location is a LEED certified building." LEED stands for "Leadership in Energy & Environmental Design." The LEED certification is a third-party verification that the building meets a number of sustainability criteria, thus ensuring it uses less water & energy.

SINGLE OCCUPANCY VEHICLE USE: "Encourage attendees to reduce single-occupancy vehicle use." A single-occupancy vehicle is a privatelyoperated vehicle whose only occupant is the driver.

SUSTAINABLE BEHAVIORS: "Give items that promote sustainable behaviors." Sustainable behaviors are actions that minimize a person's negative environmental impacts & maximize their ability to enhance personal or social wellbeing. Examples include reusable water bottles, shopping bags, utensils, & napkins; first aid kits; sunscreen; pens & pencils made with recycled materials; & sunglasses. For bigger giveaways, consider potted plants, gift certificates for experiences, or biking gear.

SUSTAINABLE PRACTICES: "Trains employees on sustainable practices." Sustainable practices for a hotel or event venue are numerous & may include offering recycling, drinking fountains, electric-vehicle charging station, & local food. Practices may also include connecting to public transit or offering a bike share on the premises. Examples within hotels include inroom recycling, offering a sheet-changing card, & installing motion sensors & low-flow water fixtures.

SUSTAINABILITY GOALS & PRACTICES: "Communicate event sustainability goals & practices." Sustainability goals & practices are a written commitment to specific actions & behaviors that the event will accomplish or take.

creamer containers.

ZERO-LANDFILL EVENT: "Plan for a zero-landfill event." The goal of a zero-landfill event is that after the event everything will be either saved/ donated to be reused, recycled, or composted. Nothing goes in the trash. This even includes the small things, such as coffee stirrers & individual





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