

How to keep your event out of the landfill



The Town of Charlotte has a policy aimed at reducing and sorting waste: our town “is dedicated to making **all events in public spaces as waste free as possible** by (avoiding single use items bound for trash and) collecting in three streams: recycling, compost and trash.” (see [Waste Management at Town Facilities](#) April 2014 and Vermont Universal Recycling Act 148).

We like to think that Vermont is “green”, but Chittenden County residents still send materials to the landfill that can be composted, recycled, or reclaimed for better re-use. An estimated 34% of landfill “waste” is recyclable and 26% of that is compostable.

A little planning goes a long way. Please,

1. **Communicate your landfill-free goals to everybody involved in the event**, including vendors and attendees. Help them understand what items to use (and avoid) at the event, to reach this goal.
2. **Choose reusable plates, utensils, cups and packaging whenever possible**. If not possible, choose compostable or recyclable containers or minimally packaged goods instead. Compostable food ware is preferable to using recyclable plastic, because the remaining food stuck on plastic contaminates the recycling stream.
3. **Confirm [what can and cannot be composted](#)**.
4. **Confirm [what can and cannot be recycled](#)**.
5. **Avoid single use and non-recyclable items bound for landfill**: plastic coated paper cups and plates, plastic bags and utensils, Styrofoam, small single-serve packaging (wrappers, condiments, etc.).
6. **Create one or more “sorting stations”** with one compost container, one recycling bin, and one trash can RIGHT NEXT to each other. Hot tip: tape samples of items right on the bins they go in. It’s the clearest way to help EVERYONE sort their materials properly. Please enlist “[waste warrior](#)” monitors to make this successful.
7. **Clear Stream waste stations (with signs) may be borrowed** from the Charlotte Library. For more information go to [Charlottepubliclibrary.org](#) email info@charlottepubliclibrary.org or call 425-3864.



8. **Plan to take compost to a CSWD Drop-Off Center**, or contact afoulk@gmvt.net for local options.

Great! You’ve done it. Thank you for showing how much you care for our community by making it a habit to keep your events out of the landfill!