



# THINK GREEN



## WHEN PLANNING YOUR NEXT EVENT

Recycling bins for redeemable bottles and cans are available from the Mariposa County Department of Public Works for use at special events FREE OF CHARGE. Providing a means to recycle helps your community by keeping trash out of the Landfill. Your organization also reaps the rewards of cash back for the bottles and cans you recycle.

Go to [www.mariposacounty.org/solidwaste](http://www.mariposacounty.org/solidwaste) under “New Programs” or call 209-966-5165 for an application form. Bins are available at the Mariposa County Landfill, Compost Facility and Recycling Center and Mariposa County Park. Bags are included while supplies last.

## SOME OTHER IDEAS FOR A GREENER EVENT:

- 💡 Publicize your efforts to go green beforehand in press releases, fliers and on your website. Use signs at the event to explain the proper use of recycling bins and to explain the actions you have taken to reduce the event's impact on the environment. People will appreciate your environmental commitment and may incorporate what they have learned from you into their own lifestyles.
- 💡 Encourage people to carpool to your event to save energy.
- 💡 Use recycled and/or recyclable or compostable supplies as much as possible, including recycled paper for fliers and invitations, napkins made from recycled paper, cornstarch utensils, and paper or recyclable plastic cups rather than Styrofoam, which is not recyclable. Recycled aluminum foil is now also an option.
- 💡 Set your tables with reusable tablecloths and centerpieces of potted plants, baskets of vegetables or cut flowers or greens that can be given away as door prizes. Or, be creative and make artistic centerpieces from used materials. (To get the creative juices flowing, Google “centerpiece ideas” or go to <http://interiordec.about.com/od/centerpieceideas> or [www.diynetwork.com/topics/centerpieces](http://www.diynetwork.com/topics/centerpieces).)
- 💡 Decorate with potted plants that can be given away as door prizes or planted in an area in need of beautification.
- 💡 Establish green guidelines for vendors and outside organizations who will set up booths and displays.
- 💡 Look for gift items and awards that are made from recycled materials and that have a useful purpose. Promotional items ranging from recycled newspaper pencils to golf balls with cores made from recycled tires are available on-line. Baseball caps, T-shirts, ballpoint pens, reusable water bottles, packets of seeds, coffee mugs and magnets are some other green alternatives to paper award certificates, which often end up in the trash.
- 💡 If preparing a meal, put recyclable containers such as cardboard boxes, tin cans, plastic milk or juice jugs, plastic or metal coffee cans, empty salad dressing bottles, plastic produce packaging and other recyclable packaging materials in a separate container from trash. When the event is over simply sort by type (#1 plastic, # 2 plastic, clear glass, colored glass, cardboard, metal/aluminum), rinse if needed and recycle.
- 💡 Consider using locally grown, organic produce when planning your meal.
- 💡 Put purchases in cloth bags that customers can reuse rather than plastic or paper bags. Add a little to the price of products to cover the cost of the bags.

## Mariposa County Department of Public Works

[www.mariposacounty.org/solidwaste](http://www.mariposacounty.org/solidwaste)  
(209) 966-5165

