



## Ready for your next event or party to go **ONE BAG?**

That's one bag of trash to the landfill for an entire event, from birthday party to holiday open house. Sound crazy? Not with smart planning.

### LET'S TALK TRASH: HOW TO PULL OFF A ONE BAG EVENT

#### BEFORE THE EVENT:

- **Email the invitations.** Begin by using online invitation sites. You can use sites like [Evite.com](#), [Ping.com](#) or [punchbowl.com](#).
- **Give your guests a heads up on your green theme.** Give 'em ideas on how to be a green guest—like reusing gift bags, avoiding gifts with excess packaging, or giving 'experience gifts' such as dance lessons or show tickets (no waste there)!
- **Keep the menu simple.** Remember kids prefer fun and games to fancy food. For an adult get-together, bite-sized party food eliminates plates and utensils.
- **Check RSVP's.** Get an accurate count of guests and plan your food accordingly to minimize food waste.
- **Buy in bulk & pay attention to packaging.** From chips to juice, shrimp to wine, you can please your guests with big box options. Swap a punch bowl for juice boxes.
- **Use real dishes, napkins, and reusable containers.** Shop nearby thrift stores for an extra stash to reduce your waste or consider renting dish ware or linens (they'll usually wash them for you!).  
**...Or, choose compostable.** If reusable dinner ware isn't in the cards, choose compostable: sugar cane, fallen palm leaves, and corn are some of the most popular materials. Chopsticks are a great option for a theme party.
- **Consider food donation for leftover food.** Contact local shelters, churches or food-to-farm-organizations to understand food donation opportunities.
- **Don't stress the clean up.** How about using the money you saved on disposables to hire a young neighbor to wash the dishes?
- **For decorating, enlist the kids.** Choose décor that can be reused or recycled, or re-purpose things you already have such as ribbons, lace, beads, glass jars framed photos, cards or fabric. Bring in flowers or other natural choices.
- **Forego common waste offenders** such as wrapping paper (reuse gift bags), tinsel, plastic utensils, plastic cups and anything Styrofoam.

#### THE DAY OF THE EVENT:

- **Set out an easy-to-use sorting system** with separate containers clearly labeled for glass, plastic, aluminum, compost and trash.
- **Use reusable dishes to store food** before and after serving. Try to avoid foil or plastic wrap.
- **Skip the straws.** Use bulk dispensers instead of single servings. (Think sugar bowl instead of individual packets.)
- **Remind your guests** to check out their disposal options, and follow the signs.
- **Consider providing sustainable favors**, such as a potted plant, or gifts made from reused or re-purposed materials.

#### AFTER THE EVENT:

- **Send guests home with leftover food in reusable containers.** You have less to clean up; they have an extra bite to eat.
- **Re-sort recycling as necessary.** Savvy separating takes a bit of practice.
- **Visit [FindAComposter.com](#) to find a compost site.** If you and your city don't compost, contact your city's solid waste or environmental services department.
- **Share your One Bag success.** Talk, blog or email this PDF to others. Also, share your success story on [www.Facebook.com/Glad](#).
- **Congratulate yourself.** You're taking a small step to help keep the Earth cleaner for your kids, and their kids to come.

GIVE THE LANDFILL AND THE PLANET **A BIG BREAK!**

- ✓ Reduce
- ✓ Compost
- ✓ Reuse
- ✓ Recycle

#### KNOW WHAT'S WHAT.

Here's the down and dirty on what you don't have to send to the landfill:

##### RECYCLABLE ITEMS



##### Glass

Soda, beer and wine bottles, package bottles and jars, and anything with a "g" logo.



##### Aluminum

Soda and beer cans, food cans, clean aluminum foil.



##### Plastic

Big soda bottles, milk jugs, and anything with a "1" or "2" code.

##### COMPOSTABLE ITEMS

Food scraps, used paper napkins, paper cups, paper plates and paper towels, coffee grounds, tea bags, pizza boxes. If you compost at home, avoid meat and dairy. If you're bringing compost to a collection facility, both are OK.

