

Eco-friendly Weddings and Meetings



PARTY FOR THE PLANET

Eco-friendly weddings and meetings



Does anyone really want a
green wedding or green meeting?

Eco-friendly weddings and meetings



YES – brides and grooms

- surveys by bridal magazines and businesses - and a thriving mini-industry of green wedding websites and online stores - point to a “noticeable trend”
- NYT July 2010

YES – meeting planners

- 71% ask about green initiatives
- nearly 30% incorporate green considerations into their travel policies
- nearly 25% prefer green meeting suppliers
- 30% will use hotels in the future that feature environmentally friendly amenities and practices
- Meetings and Conventions, October 2009

Eco-friendly weddings and meetings



The first inquiry made,
the first question asked,
the first step taken
by a prospective green-minded client?

Is the venue green?

Eco-friendly weddings and meetings



Set up some sort of facility-based green program and **certify** at the global, national, state, city or brand level



Eco-friendly weddings and meetings



- Put that certification on your home page with a navigation tab and...
- Now we can party (and meet)!



Offering a beautiful outdoor setting saves on heat, lighting and general energy consumption, provides a built-in natural theme and easier to decorate.

Consider “green” landscaping and the use of native plants.



Decoration - Outside



dimmmable
conventional
or CFL
lighting

LED lights,
string or
“candle”

soy- or
beeswax-
based, lead-
free candles



Decoration - Inside



Fresh, local, organic –
try the local Farmers
Market

OrganicBouquet.com

Sharing is green –
wedding to reception
to entry hall

Displays without
floral wire or foam are
easier to compost

Choose re-usable ,
eco-friendly
containers:
blumebox.com



Flowers



Centerpieces and Favors

edible,
plant-able,
re-usable and
generous



charity wedding
favors





On The Table

Renting = Recycling

Organic cotton or
recycled-plastic
“linens”

Compostable,
disposable, bio-
degradable – and
beautiful WASARA





Signage

Choose to re-use:
chalkboards and
white-boards;
generic signs

Calligraphy/
handwritten

Electronic
signage





Organic golf courses and spas

Local outdoor pursuits

Community-minded efforts

Solar-powered generators for outdoor music events

iPod receptions
(13% of brides are doing it)

Acoustic bands



Entertainment



The Send-Off

Eco-friendly
confetti

Organic flower-
petal confetti

Bubbles

FSC-certified
balloons





Minimize transportation:
wedding, reception,
honeymoon in one
location

Green Limo service

Hybrid vehicles

CNG vehicles

Hydrogen shuttles

Biodiesel

Pedicabs

Rickshaws

Horse and buggy

Public transportation

Offer the purchase of
carbon offset to the
couple/attendees:
carbonfund.org



Transportation



Food

Well, that's
one way to
get fresh,
local, organic
food...
the rooftop
garden





Seasonal menus

Responsibly-raised
meat

Responsibly-caught
fish

Vegetarian where
possible

Sit-down meal vs.
buffet

Minimal packaging –
go with “finger foods”

Buy in bulk and serve
in re-usable
containers

(remember the mini-bar)



Food



Nearly everything
is available
organic

Local

Kegs and
Cambros

Organic Open Bar

Rent the glassware
and recycle the
bottles

(remember the mini-bar)



Drink



On-line registration
and communication

Discourage paper-
based presentations

Double-sided printing
on recycled paper with
low-toxicity ink

Recycled-content paper,
binders, pens/pencils

Whiteboards

Recycle nametags,
signage and give-aways

Room-based recycling

Motion-detecting
climate control

Disposable-free
meeting breaks



Meeting-specific Suggestions

Sourcing the Eco-Friendly Event



- **FOOD**
- www.localharvest.org – farm to fork
- www.localdirt.com – local food in your area
- www.montereybayaquarium.org – seafood watch
- www.comanzo.com – organic bakery in Smithfield, RI
- www.directory.sustainableri.org – list of many organic sources



- **BEVERAGES**

- www.organicvintners.com – organic wines from around the world; national distribution
- www.theorganicwinecompany.com - world-class organically grown wines from around the globe
- www.bonterra.com – organic and biodynamic American wine
- www.brewersassociation.org – local brewing companies
- www.craftbeer.com – local, by state, brewing companies
- www.squareonevodka.com – certified organic 100% American rye vodka
- www.vodka14.com – certified organic from the Rocky Mountains
- www.benromach.com – organic single malt Scotch whisky
- www.casanoble.com – organic tequila
- www.combierusa.com – organic triple sec
- www.modmixbeverages.com - organic mixers

Sourcing the Eco-friendly Event



- **DECORATIONS**

- www.environmentallights.com – LED lights galore
- www.lightenergydesigns.com – LED lights for commercial use
- www.organicbouquet.com –organic flowers suitable for gala events
- www.vivaterra.com – earth- and people-friendly centerpieces, vases, accessories; “earthera” climate-friendly shipping
- www.greenfeet.com – “ecospheres” centerpieces; carbon offset for shipping to warehouse and to customer
- www.greenshop.com.uk – FSC-approved balloons

- **ENTERTAINMENT**

- www.auduboninternational.org – golf & environment
- www.mobilesolarpower.net – solar-powered generators

Sourcing the Eco-Friendly Event



- **ON THE TABLE**

- www.macys.com – Barwil Evolution table linens collection – 100% post-consumer recycled RePET polyester
- www.branchhome.com – the most beautiful disposable tableware (WASARA)
- www.greenhome.com – 100% organic American cotton napkins and tablecloths made in the USA
- www.vegware.us – natural starch cutlery and tableware (eco-friendly disposable)

- **TRANSPORTATION**

- www.newportpedicab.com – pedicab service in Newport, RI
- www.chepachetfarms.com – horse and carriage rentals in Chepachet, RI

Sourcing the Eco-Friendly Event



- **WEDDING-SPECIFIC**

- www.aveda.com – locate a nearby natural/organic skin-care salon
- www.beau-coup.com – eco-friendly confetti and plant-able favors; edible wedding favors
- www.littlethingsfavors.com – eco-friendly favors, etc – partnered with carbonfund.org – green wedding poppers (!), freeze-dried flower petals (as confetti)
- www.greenworldproject.net – seed- and tree-seedling-based favors
- www.plantmemory.com – seed- and bulb- and flower-based favors and centerpieces
- www.idofoundation.org – virtual favors – donate! (charity donation favor cards)
- www.ecoparti.com – flower-petal confetti

- **MEETING SPECIFIC**

- www.rebinder.com – “waste-free office products”
- www.greenlinepaper.com – “for the office/hotel that cares for the environment”; 100% post-consumer-waste recycled paper, including Strathmore and Post-it notes; carbonfund partner
- www.staples.com – “eco-easy” program
- www.rosinco.com – recycled plastic dry-erase markers that don’t smell(!) and other pens
- www.greenhome.com – meeting-ready “eco-packs”

Sourcing the Eco-Friendly Event



- **CONFERENCE SPECIFIC**

- www.absolutepromo.com – eco-friendly and made-in-USA-eco-friendly items
- www.eco-promotions.biz - eco-friendly and made-in-USA-eco-friendly items
- www.farfromboring.com – eco-friendly promotional items
- www.tandus.com – recycled/recyclable carpeting for hospitality – “unwavering environmental accountability”
- www.evoexhibits.com - line of environmentally-friendly trade show displays

- **GENERAL**

- www.carbonfund.org – “zero-carbon events” (carbon offset calculator)
- www.earthera.com – to offset travel and benefit renewable energy producers
- www.greenamericatoday.org – national green pages
- www.recyclingbin.com - event-specific recycling containers