

# Lawrence Green Team

## Green Guide For Classroom events

Updated 11/26/2013

Each time you choose to recycle, or use a reusable cup, or simply use less, you reduce Lawrence School's—and your own—environmental footprint. Please consider these green guidelines when planning your classroom events.

### Every bit counts. Thank you!

*Tip: A specific description/ listing on the event's sign-up sheet may help direct parents to make greener choices.*

## Beverages

- **Skip offering water bottles and serve pitchers of filtered tap water instead of bottled water.** The bottom line, from an entire life-cycle analysis perspective, is that plastic cups are the least-bad disposable option, as well as the least-expensive and the lightest (meaning lower transportation costs). Surprisingly, paper cups have the highest environmental cost. Plastic cups and unlined paper cups without a wax coating can also be recycled.
- If you must provide water bottles, keep the following in mind: **In general, the bigger the plastic water bottle it is, the more energy it consumes.** However, it might take more small water bottles to meet the need in an event. (Please note, a 500 cc bottle does not consume twice the energy than 250cc bottle, it is measured by the weight of the plastic bottle. The cap is a big portion of the water bottle, so ideally you don't want to see many caps.
- All water bottles are not created equal! **Purchase water-bottle products that are more green than others.** For example, Poland Spring has an eco-shape bottle that utilizes 30% less plastic than their ordinary bottles. Likewise, Aquafina utilizes the eco-fina bottles which they claim use 50% less plastic than their other bottles. Both brands still offer their original, more energy-intensive bottles, so be sure to check the labels.
- **If you are serving juice, forego the individual juice boxes and pouches and serve from the largest recyclable, plastic or glass bottle available.** Provide plastic cups as noted above.

## Serving Ware

- **Switch to recycled paper napkins.** When shopping, look for napkins made from 100% recycled content. Avoid paper products that are whitened with chlorine bleach.
- **Choose sustainable dishware options.** Consider acquiring a set of reusable cups, plates, and utensils for classroom events. These can be purchased as a classroom gift along with a pitcher for water. For class breakfasts, a line can be added to the signup sheet for a parent to volunteer to wash any reusable items.
- **Avoid polystyrene (Styrofoam) products. The Town of Brookline is phasing out all polystyrene products by December 2013.**
- **Avoid the use of plastic bags.** These can only be recycled at specific collection points.
- **Consider eco-friendly cutlery and serving ware.** Biodegradable, non-compostable cutlery can be partially or completely made from renewable materials.

## Food Items

- **Strive to have as little food waste as possible.** Order and purchase carefully. Encourage participants to bring recyclable containers to take home leftovers.
- **Offer vegetarian options** (meat production has a higher carbon footprint).
- **Choose local and sustainable food.** Look for organic, shade-grown, fair trade coffee and teas. Purchase organically grown and / or locally grown products. Ask about free range and natural meats and sustainable fish.
- **Serve food and condiments in bulk instead of single-serve packets.** (e.g. buy items that are not individually wrapped, provide a pint of cream instead of individual creamers, etc.)

## Recycling

- **Check with Sarah Wolf, the Lawrence Recycling Coordinator, to ensure there are recycling bins paired with every trash bin.** Consider stationing a volunteer to direct trash and recycling into the proper bins.

Contact Sarah at: [sarah\\_wolff@brookline.k12.ma.us](mailto:sarah_wolff@brookline.k12.ma.us).

· **Know which common event items ARE recyclable.**

1. Pizza boxes (empty of food and paper waste) can go in a large recycling toter.
2. Paper milk / juice cartons
3. Paper bags / cardboard
4. Metal jar lids and bottle caps
5. Clean, balled aluminum foil and pie pans
6. Glass bottles and jars
7. Office paper
8. Cans
9. #1–7 plastic bottles and cups
10. #1–7 plastic tubs and screw top jars

· **Know which common event items are NOT recyclable and make event purchases accordingly:**

1. Plastic utensils
2. Foam cups/ plates
3. Napkins
4. Plastics #1–7 without a bottleneck (plates)
5. Paper towels, plates, and cups with a waxy lining
6. Plastic grocery bags
7. Plastic food wrap
8. Food Waste
9. Compostable items (must be collected separately and placed in a compost facility— currently not available at Lawrence. These cannot be placed in garbage cans to be composted.)
10. Bio-degradeable or compostable plastics.

· As you can see from the list above, there are many items from school events which can't be recycled. **Please purchase wisely—the choices you make can make all the difference.**

**Contact the Lawrence Green Team at [kathleenmscanlon@gmail.com](mailto:kathleenmscanlon@gmail.com) or 857-225-1026 with any questions about greening your event!**