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Zero Waste Event Resource Guide for the Community

MT2030 Climate Summit

1:15 PM – 2:15 PM | Opera House

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Who we are



Victoria Schlaepfer

Climate Fund Manager

Park City Community Foundation



Morgan Mingle

Senior Director of Sustainable Tourism

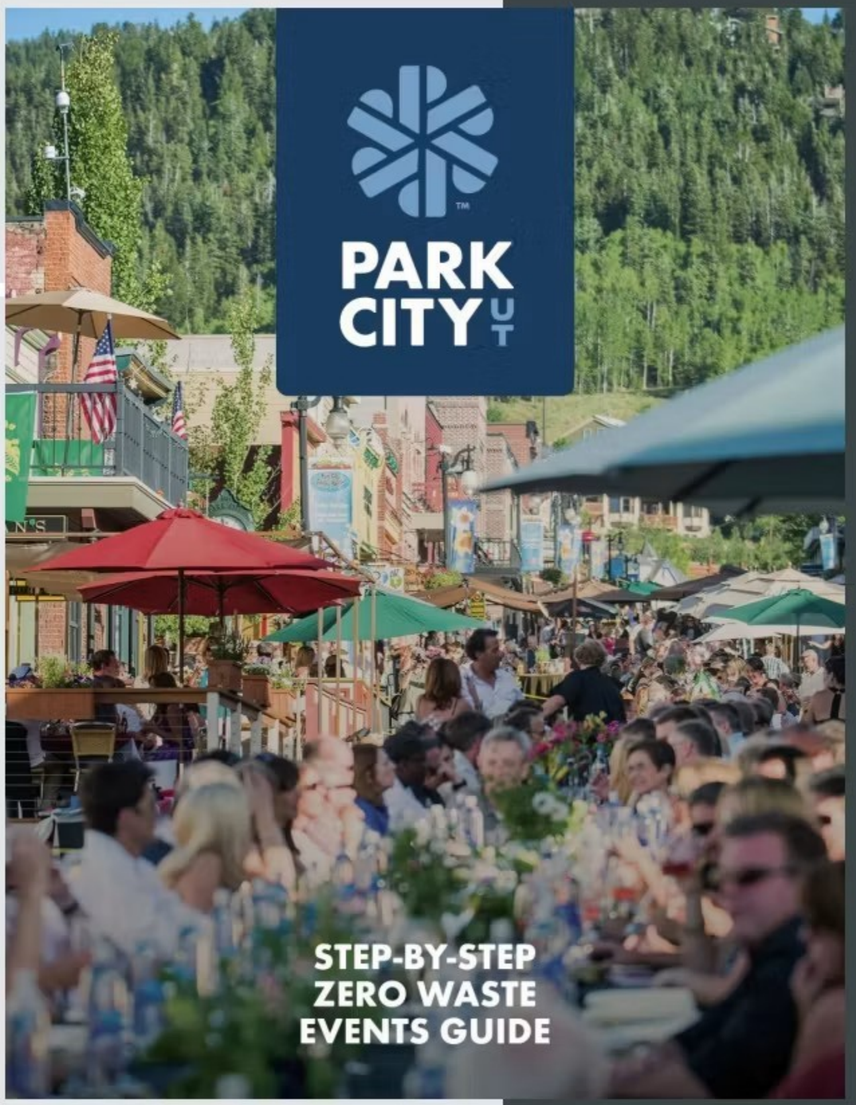
Park City Chamber & Visitors Bureau

Who are you?


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Local Government
State or Federal Government
Resort
DMO
Business
Nonprofit
Consultant
Student or Academic
Other

AGENDA

1. Background & Local Context
2. Our Process & The Guide
3. Where We Are Now



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Background & Local Context

Park City's Sustainable Tourism Plan & Grants

- Park City and Summit County's Sustainable Tourism Plan (2022) is our community's roadmap for balancing environmental, social, and economic well-being.

- Sustainable Tourism Grants allow us to distribute funds to community organizations well-positioned to make progress on STP goals



Objective 1
Cultivate local pride & respect for the Park City & Summit County experience



Objective 2
Implement sustainable infrastructure policies & initiatives



Objective 3
Manage our natural environment to enable sustainable outdoor recreation



Objective 4
Ensure the long-term resilience of the Park City & Summit County economy



Objective 5
Equalize the economic benefits & mitigate impacts of the visitor economy



Objective 6
Leverage messaging & programming to accelerate sustainable tourism



Objective 7
Foster the development & management of art & culture tourism assets

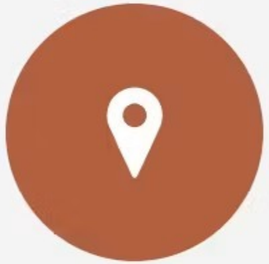
Why Event Waste



Visibility

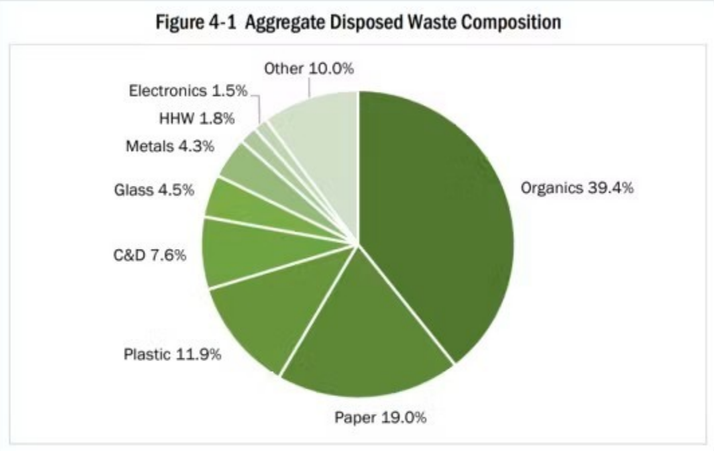


Reach

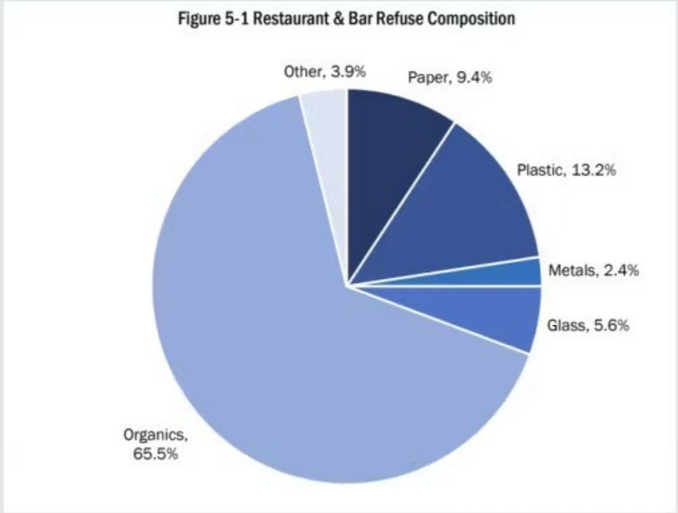


Local Solution

Local Context



2019 Waste Characterization Study – Summit County



2021 Main Street Waste Characterization Study – Park City



2024 Zero Food Waste Initiative Launched – Park City Community Foundation

Deer Valley as a Case Study

- Host multiple large public events each year, ranging from 1,000 to 7,500 daily attendees
- Resort has access controlled venues with loading docks that include all available waste diversion streams
- Dedicated venue staff help monitor waste bins and sort in back of house







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Our Process

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What pinch points do you see in your community re: event waste?

What we noticed in Summit County, UT

Infrastructure gaps

- Glass and food waste need separate haulers from mixed recycling
- Many common event items aren't recyclable in Summit County

Event organizer gaps

- General confusion around best-practices - helpful resources exist, but few organizers know about them
- Event permits requires a waste plan, but there's no clear template
- Event organizers are spread thin and the status-quo is easy

Our Process



RFP & Consultant Selection

Stakeholder Interviews & Event Observation

Strategic Plan & Resource Guide

Making It Work for the Community

Our Process

WHAT WE STARTED WITH....

Step-by-Step Zero Waste Events Guide

Common strategies to reduce event waste, starting with the most impactful, include:



Portable water stations, like these from Wallop Water, provide safe drinking water to keep your event hydrated without single-use plastic bottles.



The reusables industry is growing, featuring many types of items including these to-go containers from r.World



Condiment dispensers reduce landfill waste, product waste, and mess.

1. Providing water refill stations and encouraging attendees to bring their own bottle, instead of providing single-use bottles
2. Requesting reusable serviceware from your caterer or venue instead of using disposable utensils, cups, plates, etc.
3. Eliminating giveaways or making all gifts optional
   a. Design giveaways with generic branding so that leftovers can be stored and used for multiple events
4. Ordering food based on expected attendance and consumption at prior events to avoid food waste
   a. If your event includes multiple meal functions, ask attendees during registration which ones they plan to attend; this will provide a distinct headcount for each meal.
5. Designing signage to be reused for multiple years
   a. Leave off dates/years.
   b. Use general branding rather than a specific theme.
   c. Recognize sponsors on recyclable signage instead of durable multi-year signage.
6. Minimizing use of signs, banners, and single-use decorations
   a. Choose rentals and reusable decorations instead.
7. Serving condiments in bulk dispensers instead of condiment packets
8. Providing napkins in dispensers to keep attendees from grabbing more than they need
9. Using reusable straps or bungee cords to tie down signage and canopies instead of single-use zip ties

WHAT WE ENDED WITH...



1. Provide water refill stations
2. Require reusable serviceware from your caterer
3. Provide consumable or donation based giveaways
4. Order food based on expected attendance
6. Minimize single use signs, banners and decorations
7. Serve condiments in bulk dispensers
8. Provide napkins in dispensers
9. Use reusable straps or bungee cords

Final Resource Guide

STEP 1:
Get to know your waste

Create a list of all the materials you expect to be used at the event, including anything you intend to reuse or expect attendees to take home with them. Next, categorize the materials based on their anticipated "end of life" at the end of the event.

Common categories include:

- REUSE
- DONATE
- RECYCLE
- COMPOST/FOOD WASTE COLLECTION
- TRASH/LANDFILL

LOCAL RECYCLING OVERVIEW

ALWAYS

Accepted in Local Mixed Recycling

- Clean printer paper
- Aluminum and steel cans*
- Plastic bottles, jars, and jugs*
- Clean cardboard (flattened)

NEVER

Accepted in Local Mixed Recycling

- Polystyren plastic (Styrofoam)
- Plastic signage (foamcore, Coroplast, vinyl, etc.)
- Plastic bags
- Plastic films (cling wrap, Visqueen, etc.)
- Plastic utensils
- Batteries
- Electronics
- Paper cups
- Soiled paper
- Napkins, paper towels, tissues
- Glass (bottles, jars, etc.)**
- Food waste**

*Recyclables that contained liquids must be empty. Recyclables that contained food must be spoon-clean at a minimum.

**Food waste and glass can be diverted through partnership with specific waste processors or donation partners

Check out the guide!

AVOID these common materials



» **PLASTIC SIGNAGE** (foam-core, coroplast, vinyl, etc.) unless saved for reuse

- **Alternatives include:** Paper, iPads, TV's



» **STYROFOAM AND WAX-LINED PAPER SERVICEWARE**

- **Alternatives include:** Paper, compostable and reusable serviceware



» **SINGLE-USE PLASTIC WATER BOTTLES**

- **Alternatives include:** Aluminum water bottles, reusable water bottles for sale, water refill stations

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Some things we've learned...

WHAT WORKED

- Simplifying the guide into clear, step-by-step actions
- Building it with PCCF, PCCVB, Park City Municipal, and the Green Business Program
- Designing it for flexibility - large events on Main Street, in parks, and in other spaces without built-in waste systems

WHAT WAS HARDER

- Early guidance assumed venue infrastructure that street and outdoor events don't have
- Finding a "hero" event to launch the program
- Few local vendors offer zero waste event services
- LIQUIDS

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Where we are now

We used it! Oakley Rodeo BBQ

About the Oakly Rodeo BBQ:

- Annual pop up event with no onsite waste management available
- ~300 attendees
- 2 staffed waste diversion stations

Total waste: 114.26 pounds

- 78.1 pounds of waste kept out of the landfill
  - 51.76 pounds of food scraps
  - 24.18 pounds of plastic and aluminum
- 36.16 pounds of waste sent to the landfill

68.4% diversion rate!

(32% National Average)



Future integration

- Volunteer waste station management
- Addressing financial barriers
- Finding a hero event for implementation
- Event permitting & event sponsorship leverage
- Green Business Program checklist to certify green events



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Thank you!
Questions?

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Ask us anything!

0
questions
0 upvotes