

ALAG KARO ZERO WASTE EVENT GUIDELINES

We are constantly reading about the struggle Gurugram is facing with garbage. Parties at home and communities increase the mixed waste dramatically due to use of disposable paper/plastic/Styrofoam tableware. Once soiled with food and grease most of these disposables cannot be recycled and are classified as reject waste. This ends up in landfills contaminating water, soil, and air. It is time we took responsibility for the staggering amount of garbage generated at events.

Here are a few guidelines to be taken into consideration while planning your Zero Waste Event. Yes, it is possible!

Publicity Material

- Minimise the use of flex posters, use paper/digital posters and banners
- Send e-invites instead of paper invites

Awareness and propagation

- Three signage's should be displayed at the event that emphasize on Reduce, Reuse and Recycle
- Mass awareness regarding keeping the place garbage free should be created by making announcements at the event

Decoration

- *Don't use balloons.* Apart from not being recyclable, they are also a choking hazard
- Party decorations like Styrofoam balls, plastic banners etc. are not recyclable since they are usually swept up together with other party waste. *Use reusable or biodegradable decorations - small lights, potted plants, flowers, bamboo and leaves*

Stationary

- Minimise the use of stationary
- Use recycled paper and pens wherever required

Gifts and Prizes

- Use environment friendly gift items with minimal packaging and plastic
- Pack gifts in paper or cloth bags instead of laminates
- Flower bouquet not to be wrapped in plastic, no bows

Entertainment

- Have games and activities that do not require plastic/packaged items
- Organise Experience based entertainment rather than material-based entertainment

Food and Beverages

We recommend that you use reusable or compostable tableware at all events. Compostable leaf tableware can go directly into the green bin along with the leftover food. These plates need to be gently wiped with a wet cloth just like a banana leaf. Say NO to use of any disposables. You're the customer- Just ask!

- Food should be kept in big stainless-steel drums and vessels
- *Use steel plates or compostable leaf tableware like arecanut, pattals, donnais, wood, bamboo and banana leaf* instead of plastic/paper plates
- *Use ceramic, glass or steel mugs for serving coffee and tea* instead of paper or plastic cups
- *Serve water/juice in steel/glass tumblers* instead of plastic bottles/plastic cups
- Avoid packaged juice, *serve fresh coconut water/ fresh juices*
- *Use onsite water purifiers* instead of water cans
- *Serve snacks in biodegradable/leaf bowls* instead of Styrofoam or plastic/paper bowls and plates
- *Use wood or steel cutlery spoons/forks* instead of single use cutlery
- Provide snacks with minimum packaging
- Choose vendors that do not serve food in disposable items
- Do not allow take-away/ to-go packed or pre-packed food in your event. Packed food in disposable containers, to-go bags always generate excess garbage

Infrastructure

- Provide bins for collecting segregated waste: Green for food waste, Blue for dry waste and Red for hazardous/rejects. NO plastic liners should be used for the bins
- Provide facility for washing hands thereby eliminate the use of tissue papers
- Provide facility to wash/wipe plates such that the leftover food waste goes into the Green bin and the recyclable item goes into the Blue bin
- Have a dedicated team of waste-workers/volunteers/housekeeping staff to handle all zero-waste event related decisions/actions

End Destinations

- **Green Bin:** It should be sent for composting, donated to charity homes (leftover good food), cowsheds or piggeries etc.
- **Blue Bin:** Needs to be given to the Waste Workers who sort it and send it further to its respective recycling chain
- **Red Bin:** Needs to be given to the Waste Workers who sort it and send it further to its respective co-processing chain

Thank you for taking interest in initiating zero-waste events.