

# Create a Reduced-Waste Block Party this summer!

## Tips from the City's Sustainability Committee

**Why?** Reduction of trash and food waste and avoidance of single-use plastics will result in less landfill production of greenhouse gases and plastic-related toxicity to our air, land and waters.

**How?** It's easy to do with some planning and preparation. Start with early communication to attendees prior to the event to explain the goal and plans.

- Ask that each brings their own reusable dishware, utensils, cloth napkins, beverage containers, cloth tablecloths.
- Provide bulk condiments instead of single packets.
- Avoid drinks in plastic. Provide water in pitchers or water dispensers, canned drinks.
- Provide some reusable dishware, utensils, napkins, cups for those who forget to bring their own.

Prepare a **WASTE STATION AREA** with **well-labeled containers** in a central area, with, ideally, a person always present to monitor accurate use of them.

Prepare **CONTAINERS** for:

1. **Glass and plastic bottles, cans** to be recycled (ask that several green recycling buckets be brought by residents who live close by to the event and label each with the owner's name).
2. **Left-over food waste** to be composted if some residents have a membership with RustBeltRiders. Use this **only** for food waste, not compostable dishware or napkins. If there is not much food waste--**less than a bucket**--it is acceptable for members to use RBR to compost this. Line the bucket with BPI certified bag. If a lot of food, or contamination occurs or no one belongs to RBR, put the food waste into the trash.
3. **Unfinished liquids** left in beverage containers—pour these into a bucket, then down a drain. Do not put liquids into trash or compost buckets.
4. **Trash** (hopefully not much of this)

**Encourage that food is not wasted:** Edible uneaten food that needs refrigeration should be put into a cooler or the frig at home to avoid spoilage.

**\*\*Skip the Stuff** like straws, balloons (use alternative non-plastic decorations)

### **Additional Resources:**

[Zero-Waste Event Guide from Sustainable Cleveland](#)  
[Low-Waste Event Tips from Cuyahoga Recycles](#)

