

Washington Filmworks

Greening Our Film Industry

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Common Misconceptions and Questions

What keeps you from going green on your production?

- It's confusing. Not having enough info and clarity on where everything goes.
- It's too expensive. Disposable items are so cheap and fancy compostable and re-usable items are expensive.
- It takes too much time to implement.
- Recycling and food waste goes to the landfill anyway, so why does it matter?
- Is this item compostable, recyclable? How do I really know?
- How do we dispose of the food waste and recycling if we are in a location without facilities? It's easier to put in the trash.
- Our industry moves too quickly to stop and do this. Low priority compared to getting the job done.

What can you gain from becoming a Green Production?

How it benefits more than your bottom line

Your Bottom Line

- The cost to recycle vs trash at Transfer facilities. Free vs. \$30
- City and County incentives
- The cost of plastic water bottles versus re-usable bottles (about a 50% savings)
- Buying in bulk saves an average of 20%
- Going digital can save an average of \$400 (ink, paper, office supplies) per one week of production

Your Health

- Better Food-Buying less process, heavily packaged, organic foods promote healthier sets and more productivity
- Better Water-Drinks in plastic bottles container higher levels of BPA, Styrene, DEHP (all hormone disrupters, carcinogens)
- Not all bottled water is regulated

10 Practices To Implement Now

Even doing a few of these items can make a hug difference

1. Shop Sustainably (Buy Environmentally friendly products, Forest Stewardship Council for lumber, no dry cleaning, buy organic, buy local products, buy in bulk and less packaging). Ask your HMU leads if they use clean beauty products and have re-fillable packaging.
2. Reduce Plastic and Single Use Products (No plastic water bottles, pass out reusable bottles, have crew bring food containers from home, no plastic cutlery or Styrofoam)
3. Reduce Paper Consumption (Digital Call Sheets, Schedules, Scripts, Digital Wrap Books, using apps to share revisions of all)
4. Reduce Meat Consumption and bulk healthy items in Catering and Craft Service (More expensive, heavy carbon footprint)
5. Recycle and Compost (Have clearly marked and comprehensive waste management systems in the office and on set)
6. Donate, donate, donate (Wardrobe, Food, Props/local charities, schools, local theater, shelters)
7. Reduce Fuel Consumption (Efficient Travel, Trucking, Use of Hybrid Vehicles)
8. Use Renewable Power (Avoid gas generators, use electric generators)
9. Reduce Power Consumption (LED Lighting, turning lights off in spaces not being used)
10. Reuse Materials and Up-cycle (Buying previously recycled materials, used materials from Salvage yards, renting items instead of buying, donate)

How do I start?

Some Practical Tips and Resources

1. Talk to your Department Heads at the very beginning of the job. Create a simple memo that announces that your productions are Sustainable and what you expect from each department.
2. Ask your craft service and caterers to bring re-usable and/or compostable plates, cups, cutlery and have a no plastic or Styrofoam policy. No straws, no plastic coffee lids, no plastic cutlery.
3. Have your Production team armed with signage in the office and on set to help crew navigate proper disposal on set.
4. Contact your Film Office and Unions and ask them to support your upcoming production.
5. Add Green tips to your call sheet. greenproductionguide.com has great ones you can add. Example: our last shoot kept 200 plastic bottles out of the landfill and our leftover food donations fed Appx. 15 people a good meal.
6. Have a basic list of fundamental production supplies that are with you on every job: Disposal Signage, Food Waste bags if needed, Signage for refilling your water bottles, signage telling crew where the leftover food will go at the end of the job.
7. Contact local charities and schools when you start your production and let them know you will likely have food, clothing, extra paper (ART PROJECTS NEED PAPER!), lumber, paint, etc. and arrange a pickup so that it's easy.
8. Dedicate someone on your crew to help implement greener practices if possible. I know, jobs are busy and there is never enough money or time or people, but it can be as easy as having your 1st AD or Coordinator announce each day the goal of the production and remind everyone about on set waste disposal.
9. Make sure that any hard to recycle items: Styrofoam, Electronics, Paint, non-rigid plastics have been put aside and will be taken to places that can properly recycle them. You can even try TerraCycle's Zero Waste Boxes: <https://terracycle-us.myshopify.com>.
10. When in doubt, contact your City or County to ask them about proper disposing, composting and recycling.

Seattle Resources

Local resources for greening your production

Basic Seattle Recycling tips: <https://www.kuow.org/stories/watcha-gonna-do-with-all-that-junk-we-answer-more-recycling-questions>

King County Solid Waste Division: <https://www.kingcounty.gov/depts/dnrp/solid-waste/garbage-recycling.aspx>

Seattle Public Utilities: Green Your Business <http://www.seattle.gov/utilities/businesses-and-key-accounts/green-your-business>

Seattle Public Utilities: Where Does it Go? <http://www.seattle.gov/utilities/services/where-does-it-go#/categories>

Recology Guides & Resources: <https://www.recology.com/recology-cleanscapes/seattle/sorting-guides/>

Spokane Resources

Local resources for greening your production

Spokane Recycling Q&A: <https://www.spokesman.com/stories/2018/oct/07/recycling-best-practices-a-qa/>

Recycle Right, Spokane County: <https://www.spokanecounty.org/2027/Recycling>

Reduce, Reuse, and Recycle: <https://my.spokanecity.org/solidwaste/recycling/>

Got Waste? Put it in the Right Place: <https://spokaneriver.net/wastedirectory/>

Garbage Goat Blog: <https://www.spokanecounty.org/Blog.aspx?CID=3>