

**The Nikki Sherritt  
Environmental Best Practices  
for Green Production**

**Greening Our Film Industry**

By Nikki Sherritt

In Honor of her Legacy

Washington  
Filmworks

# Common Misconceptions and Questions

What keeps you from going green on your production?

1. It's confusing. Not having enough info and clarity on where everything goes.
2. It's too expensive. Disposable items are so cheap and fancy compostable and re-usable items are expensive.
3. It takes too much time to implement.
4. Recycling and food waste goes to the landfill anyway, so why does it matter?
5. Is this item compostable, recyclable? How do I really know?
6. 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.
7. Our industry moves too quickly to stop and do this. Low priority compared to getting the job done.

# 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 refillable 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 materials/sell them)

# How Do I Start?

## Some Practical Tips and Local 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. Looking for places to drop your compost bags after your production wraps? **Currently, you can only put your food waste in Residential or Commercial bins provided by Waste Management or Recology.** We are currently working on getting some film vendors to become drop off spots for food waste from our film sets. Until that list comes out, please utilize your residential service or your location's bin. Contact Cedar Grove Compost (our local food waste collection company) at 877-764-5748 for more details.
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](http://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. Contact Recology for free signage for your kit.
7. Contact places like St. Vincent De Paul, Earthwise Salvage, Friendly Earth, Union Gospel , Mission, local 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 like the Recology Store, ECycle facilities, King County Solid Waste Division, etc.
10. When in doubt, contact Recology, City of Seattle, King County to ask them about disposing, composting and recycling.

# What can you gain from becoming a Green Production?

How it benefits more than your bottom line

## Your Bottom Line

- Tax Deductible Donations
- The cost to recycle vs trash at Transfer facilities. Free vs. \$30
- City and County incentives
- If you are in the City of Seattle, the risk of fines from not properly disposing
- 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
- The reports of micro plastics in the air and water are alarming. The World Wildlife Fund and No Plastics In Nature have reported we are consuming about a credit card size amount of micro plastic each week. Bottled water and tap water. Watch the video here: <https://youtu.be/xiuxHvAaZ2M>
- Better Water-Drinks in plastic bottles container higher levels of BPA, Styrene, DEHP (all hormone disrupters, carcinogens)
- Not all bottled water is regulated

### From the Environmental Working Group:

- ▶ 9 out of 10 of the best selling bottled water brands either don't disclose information about the source of the water, contamination testing, or if and how it is purified.
- ▶ Out of the 173 bottled water brands surveyed, over 50% flunked EWG's transparency test.
- ▶ 32% disclosed no information regarding the treatment or purity of the water.
- ▶ 18% of the bottled water tested failed to make known the location of their water source.

# Resources

For more information about greening your production:

1. Basic Seattle Recycling tips:

<https://www.kuow.org/stories/whatcha-gonna-do-with-all-that-junk-we-answer-more-recycling-questions>

Whether at home or on set, basic rules of the road for recycling.

2. SPU and Recology Presentation and guide to Recycling, Composting

<https://documentcloud.adobe.com/link/track?uri=urn%3Aaaid%3Ascds%3AUS%3A475c557c-fc1a-4d27-af70-15944f35434c>

3. Green Production Guide from the Producer's Guild of America

<https://www.greenproductionguide.com>

Comprehensive Website for every department in your production on how to become more sustainable.

4. Creative BC's Reel Green Initiative

<https://www.creativebc.com/industry-sectors/motion-picture/reel-green/index>

See how Vancouver and B.C. in general are doing production the right way

5. Recology Stores

<https://www.recology.com/store/>

Drop off hard to recycle items from your production like Styrofoam, electronics, etc.

## 6. King County Solid Waste Division

<https://www.kingcounty.gov/depts/dnrp/solid-waste/garbage-recycling/recycling.aspx>

List all the transfer stations in King County.

## 7. Seattle Public Utilities

<http://www.seattle.gov/utilities/services/where-does-it-go#/categories>

Another great Seattle-specific list of where everything goes.

## 8. TerraCycle Zero Waste Boxes <https://terracycle-us.myshopify.com>

Want to become zero waste? This is the place that will help you recycle anything. Free programs for recycling beauty care products, makeup, small electronics, etc. Paid programs where you can recycle ANYTHING.

## 9. Food Lifeline <https://foodlifeline.org/>

A list of the food donation options in your area for left over catering and craft service.

## 10. Enviro Stars <https://envirostars.org>

Becoming a green film production house? Show off and get your business free advertisement for filling out this form and letting them know what you are doing.

Download here:

<https://documentcloud.adobe.com/link/track?uri=urn%3Aaaid%3Ascds%3AUS%3A46f0e292-2c1b-40d6-832f-df27f1bb8f7c>

# Spokane Resources

## Local resources for greening your production

Spokane Recycling Q&A:

<https://www.spokesman.com/stories/2018/oct/07/recyclingbest-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>

Page