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## Eco-Friendly Party Supplies and Ideas

*Eco-Friendly Tips for Planning your Next Backyard Bash*

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Getting ready to throw your first warm-weather party this coming month? If you're looking for ideas for easy eco-friendly summer party planning, you've come to the right place! These green party tips will help you create a fabulous bash without the earthly trash.

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## Use eco-friendly dishes and cutlery

The greenest choice is to skip the disposables altogether and choose reusable plates, cups, straws, napkins, and cutlery. But when a quick clean-up is required, **choose partyware** made of recycled materials or biodegradable plastic and ensure it's either compostable or recyclable. Remember: You can put biodegradable plastics in your backyard compost pile, but they'll take a good long while to break down if you don't hot compost. For a quicker return to earth, biodegradable plates, cups, straws, and cutlery should be sent to a commercial composting facility to break them down much more quickly.

## Choose eco-friendly party decorations

As with dishes and cutlery, try to choose durable, reusable items to provide ambiance at your summer party. Skip the disposable plastic tablecloths and one-use paper streamers and instead think bowls of fruit, towers of cupcakes, cut flowers from your backyard, potted plants, or candles. Your empty trash bin may seem hungry at the end of the day, but that's a hunger you can live with! Check out ideas for reusable party decorations on sites like [Pinterest](#) or [Etsy](#) for inspiration.

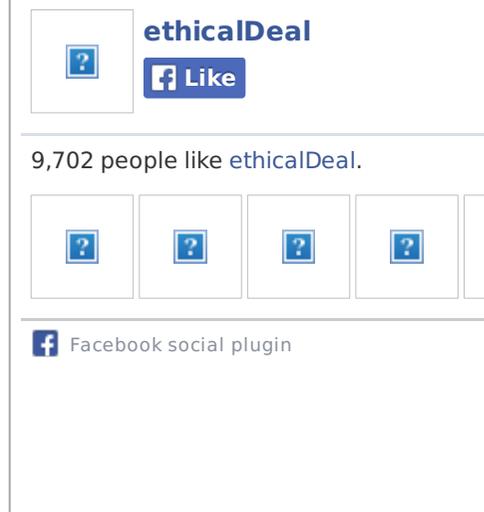
## Give eco-friendly party favours

If your eco-friendly summer party planning involves events with kids (or even for some adults) you may be in need of eco-friendly party favours as well. Without sounding like a broken record...go durable, recycled, recyclable, reusable, or compostable! A really fun idea for kids is to create practical take-home items as a party event: personalized soaps, chocolates, potted plants, cookies-in-a-jar, or customized fabric bags. Your end goal: Keep your garbage can as empty as possible at the end of the festivities.

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## Serve vegetarian party food

Create a party menu that's light on meat since animal products leave a pretty big environmental footprint. Instead, choose [vegetarian party food](#) like veggie kebabs, veggie burgers and dogs, and other plant-based delights. Check out our [recipe section](#) for healthy recipes.

## Compost and recycle waste

Whatever your menu, be sure to compost any food waste (and your biodegradable plastic) and recycle any paper, cardboard, plastics, glass, and cans at the end of the event. To make it easy, set out three separate trash cans with labels: One for food waste, one for recyclables, and one for actual garbage. For composting, you can choose: a backyard compost bin, an indoor vermicompost system, or your local compost facility; all other recyclables can go in your curbside bin or to your local recycling facility.

Happy green summer partying!

## About the Author:

*Maryruth has been seeking the keys to environmental justice - both at home and at work - for over a decade. Growing up adjacent to wild spaces, Maryruth developed a healthy respect (and whimsical appreciation) for things non-human, but her practical mind constantly draws her down to earth to ponder tangible solutions to complex eco-problems. With interests that range from green living to green business, sustainable building designs to organic gardening practices, ecosystem restoration to environmental health, Maryruth has been exploring and writing about earth-matters for most of her life. Of special interest is the subject of ecopsychology and the role the natural world plays in the long-term health and well-being of humanity. You can learn more about Maryruth's work by [visiting her site](#).*

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