

ELEGANT WEDDINGS BY ANGELA & EVENTS BY AP
How to plan a “green” wedding or event

- **Location**

- Choose an outdoor venue, with a picturesque landscape or scenic view to surround you while you say your vows, which will reduce / eliminate the need for a lot of flowers and decorations that are needed with indoor weddings.
- Outdoor lighting can be as simple as tea lights in mason jars hanging from trees or fence posts.
- Combine your ceremony and reception site locations – to reduce fuel usage for guests and decorating at dual locations.

- **Paper**

- No programs for guests or only give one per couple / family.
- Use china instead of disposable plates, cups, utensils, etc.
- Consider bio-based / compostable products such as bamboo, sugar cane, corn or potato based cutlery, plates, napkins and straws from www.greenhome.com or www.bambuhome.com.
- Get attractive goblets, stemware and vases made from recycled old glass from the Green Glass Company: www.greenglass.com.
- Use cloth napkins rather than paper ones.
- Choose invitations from a stationery vendor who can do them on recycled paper, such as:
 - Twisted Limb: www.twistedlimbpaper.com – offers beautiful handcrafted paper made from recycled materials, including soy-based inks.
 - Green Field Paper Company: www.greenfieldpaper.com – carries a line of “grow a note” cards with seeds embedded in them. Each handmade card will recycle naturally into the soil as the seedlings grow. You can let your paper serve as the wedding invitation and yard beautification.
 - www.naturallyeverafter.com
- Skip the “save the date” cards by sending emails and having them visit a detailed wedding website for all the details.
- Do not include return envelopes with response cards – have guests rsvp on line to a wedding website or include a postcard response card.

- **Décor**

- Use Eco candles from Paddy wax: www.paddywax.com or soy candles.
- Fashion party favors from local ingredients or arrange a selection of organic jams and honey as centerpieces – which is sure to create a conversation piece at the event. Visit www.ecofriendlyfavors.com for ideas of organic goodies as favors.
- When using signage for your wedding / reception, use biodegradable signage – made from corn from www.fastsigns.com.

- **Food and beverage**

- Feature locally farmed produce as a part of your reception menu. Visit www.picktnproducts.org for a vast range of options that include food, flowers, plants and even wine.
- Buy wine from wineries who pursue organic methods for eco-friendly production, such as Heller Estates, Frog’s Leap, Bonterra and Lolonis.
- Purchase wines in “magnums” rather than ordering the same amount in more numerous small containers to reduce container waste.
- McCormick Distilling Company has the first “eco-luxury vodka” in every stage of the distilling, packaging and marketing: www.vodka360.com.

- **Post Event**

Here are a few things to think about toward the end of the event:

- Rather than throwing away food, consider collecting it all for compost.
- Donate leftover food to the Nashville Rescue Mission.
- Rather than tossing away those expensive and beautiful flowers,, bring vases or buckets so local guests and family members can take flowers home.
- Consider participating in the local “perenity” movement by donating your floral arrangements to local nursing homes, hospitals or hospice agencies.

- **Other tips**

- Consider an alternative gift registry to reduce wrapping, shipping costs, etc.: www.alternativegiftregistry.org.
- In lieu of blenders and new towels, guests can give a wedding gift to you to a charitable organization by setting up an account with www.globalgiving.com.

- Offer a charitable focus to your nuptials by registering with the I Do Foundation (www.idofoundation.com). A portion of any gift items purchased from your registry at Target or Home Depot will go to the cause of your choice.
- Support humane working conditions by shopping at Ten Thousand Villages which sells only fair trade items, internationally made. Unique ornaments, food items and jewelry can make unique gifts for bridesmaids and groomsmen. Plus, they have a gift registry found online: www.tenthousandvillages.com.

- **On-line recycling community**

- The Freecycle Network www.freecycle.org
- The ReUseIt Network www.reuseitnetwork.com
- FreeSharing www.freesharing.org

- **Planning websites:**

- www.treehugger.com
- www.thegreenguide.com

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