



FROST
SCIENCE

SUSTAINABLE EVENTS

action guide

SHORES
FORWARD

Ocean
Conservancy®

ASCENDANCE
SUSTAINABLE EVENTS



Contents

INTRODUCTION

- About this Guide
- LEED Gold Certification
- Added Benefits
- Giving and Getting Support in our Community

PREVENT POLLUTION AND PROTECT OUR NATURAL ENVIRONMENT 1

- Prevent & Remove Litter 2
- Don't Use Materials That Easily Become Litter 2
- Support Local Conservation Programs 3
- Promote Alternative Travel Methods 3

REDUCE WASTE 4

- Avoid Plastics, Foam & Glass 5
- Recycle Right 5
- Provide Water Refills 6
- Choose Reusables Over Disposables 6
- Reduce Straw & Napkin Waste 7
- Avoid Production & Packaging Waste 7
- Reduce Food Waste 7

CREATE A SUSTAINABLE PARTNER AND ATTENDEE EXPERIENCE 10

- Choose Eco-Friendly Partners & Supplies 11
- Promote Sustainability 12

FROST
SCIENCE

SUSTAINABLE EVENTS

action guide

Protecting our shared natural environment is a top priority and produces numerous benefits to event organizers and attendees alike.

We encourage sustainable practices at all events held at our venue with the goals of protecting our natural environment, reducing waste generation, diverting waste from landfills and educating event partners and visitors.

Improving and promoting sustainable practices helps events reduce their environmental footprint while attracting attendees that are increasingly aware of environmental sustainability. In many cases, events can even save on costs or generate revenue from sustainability initiatives.

THIS ACTION GUIDE IS HERE TO HELP!

Event organizers can follow these recommendations to improve their impact on our community and our planet.



OFF TO A GOOD START...

You've already made a sustainable choice by choosing the **Frost Science Museum**! Our building is LEED Gold certified and brings significant built-in sustainability benefits. Beyond our state-of-the-art venue, your event will be held in an space designed for minimal environmental impact, showcasing a commitment to green building practices, environmental education and a healthier planet.

Key Advantages

- **Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy:** The museum incorporates advanced energy-efficient technologies and renewable energy sources, reducing reliance on non-renewable energy and lowering carbon emissions.
- **Water Conservation:** The museum's innovative water system includes rainwater collection for HVAC makeup and irrigation, and a gray water collection system for flushing toilets and urinals.
- **Sustainable Building Materials:** During construction, the museum utilized rapidly renewable materials, materials with high recycled content, and low-chemical-emitting paints and building materials. These choices reduce the environmental impact and promote healthier indoor air quality.
- **Green Transportation Options:** Located adjacent to public transportation options like the bus and Metromover, the museum encourages the use of sustainable transportation. Additionally, under-building parking reduces heat islands, and ample electric vehicle charging stations support the use of electric cars.
- **Composting:** Our cafe composts with local composter, Compost 4 Life.
- **Litter Prevention:** We do not allow the use of balloons, streamers, or other decorations that can easily become litter.
- **Education:** The museum educates guests on sustainable building practices, the specific eco-friendly features of the facility, and other conservation topics. This helps raise awareness and inspires visitors to adopt sustainable practices in their own lives.

-  **CLIMATE FRIENDLY**
-  **COST SAVING**
-  **EDUCATIONAL**
-  **OCEAN FRIENDLY**
-  **POLLUTION PREVENTING**
-  **WASTE REDUCING**
-  **WILDLIFE FRIENDLY**
-  **REVENUE GENERATING**
-  **WATER CONSERVING**
-  **POSSIBLY COST NEUTRAL**



ADDED BENEFITS: Many sustainability initiatives can have added environmental and financial benefits! You will see the added benefits on the right of this page called out for each initiative throughout this guide.



SUPPORT OUR COMMUNITY PROGRAMS

One of the ways your event can contribute to protecting natural elements and sensitive ecosystems is by supporting Frost Science's MUVE (Museum Volunteers for the Environment) program. MUVE is a volunteer-based habitat restoration group that leverages citizen science, museum exhibits, outreach initiatives, and eco-art to engage residents and enhance coastal environments.



Volunteers leave behind a living legacy of native habitats, enriching biodiversity and promoting human well-being. Support MUVE and be part of the change by joining a public workday, booking a MUVExclusive private event, or donating to our "Adopt a Sea Oat" program!

GET SUPPORT FROM OUR COMMUNITY

The development and implementation of your sustainability program or certain initiatives like recycling, and composting may require the help of outside partners to be set up for success. Below are our recommended partners.

- [Ascendance Sustainable Events](#): Comprehensive program development and implementation.
- [Lady Green Recycling](#): Waste sorting, bin rentals, pick ups and specialized recycling services.
- [Compost for Life](#): Compost guidance, bin rentals and pick ups.





PREVENT POLLUTION *and* **PROTECT OUR** **NATURAL ENVIRONMENT**



BACK TO
CONTENTS



1

PREVENT & REMOVE LITTER

Events should remove and properly dispose of all litter and waste from the venue. This includes small litter such as zip ties and cigarette filters. Events should also engage attendees, staff and vendors in preventing litter via advance communications, onsite signage and sufficient trash receptacles.

Sustainability Tips

- Be proactive as you build! Instruct construction crews to properly dispose of all trash and small production materials rather than allowing litter to accumulate and provide them with sufficient trash receptacles in build areas. This prevents litter from being buried or wind-blown throughout outdoor event grounds.
- Instruct cleaning crews to pick up small litters such as cigarette filters, zip ties, screws and other small plastics, metals and/or papers.
- Before the event begins, assure you have enough trash receptacles to adequately cover event grounds, particularly in waste generating areas such as food and beverage stands and bathrooms. It is also helpful to have spare receptacles to add to areas that start to produce more trash or litter than expected.
- Disposable Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) such as masks and gloves can easily become litter too. If disposable PPE is used, ensure easy access to trash receptacles. If appropriate, provide reusable PPE or encourage staff and attendees to bring their own reusable PPE.



EDUCATIONAL



OCEAN FRIENDLY



POLLUTION
PREVENTING



WILDLIFE FRIENDLY



COST SAVING



EDUCATIONAL



OCEAN FRIENDLY



POLLUTION
PREVENTING



WASTE REDUCING



WILDLIFE FRIENDLY

2

DON'T USE MATERIALS THAT EASILY BECOME LITTER

Events at Frost Science are not allowed to use balloons, streamers, confetti, glitter, pyrotechnics, spray paints, aerosols, smoke machines, or other decorations that can easily become litter. We recommend you avoid loose feathers, sequins, and attempt to reuse or repurpose any decorations you may want for your event.

Additionally, you may consider banning these items from entry, which may serve as an educational opportunity as to why they are environmentally problematic.

3

SUPPORT LOCAL NATURE CONSERVATION PROGRAMS

The Frost Science MUVE program is funded through grants and donations. One of the ways you can support is by booking a MUVExclusive event. MUVExclusive Workdays include an exclusive morning of nature-based volunteerism specially planned for your private group.

You can make a lasting contribution to MUVE and the restoration of Miami's coastal habitats by adopting a sea oat which will be planted at one of MUVE's restoration sites. Interested in supporting Frost Science conservation efforts? Email conservation@frostsscience.org.



EDUCATIONAL

POLLUTION
PREVENTING

WILDLIFE FRIENDLY



OCEAN FRIENDLY

4

PROMOTE ALTERNATIVE TRAVEL METHODS

Events should promote bicycling, walking, carpooling, micromobility options, electric vehicles and the use of public transit to travel to and from the event.

Sustainability Tips

- Did you know the City of Miami has a [FREE local trolley](#)?
- Learn about more [local public transit options here](#).
- The museum garage includes six charging stations for electric vehicles and six parking spots for fuel efficient vehicles.
- There are several bike racks located around the museum, including 8 in the onsite museum parking garage, four by the promenade and two by the plaza stairs.

COST SAVING



CLIMATE FRIENDLY



EDUCATIONAL

POLLUTION
PREVENTING

WILDLIFE FRIENDLY





REDUCE WASTE

BACK TO
CONTENTS



5

AVOID PLASTICS, FOAM & GLASS

Due to threats to the environment and inability to recycle these materials locally, events should avoid the use of expanded polystyrene (commonly referred to as "Styrofoam"), glass containers, plastic cups, plastic straws, plastic bags, plastic lids, plastic beverage stirrers, plastic food containers, packaged condiments and/ or packaged seasonings. **Ask how Constellation Culinary can remove single-use items from your event!**

Sustainability Tips

- Sustainable alternatives can generate revenue!
[See Guideline 8](#) for more information.
- Other sustainable alternatives include paper cups and bags or other natural fiber material containers.
- When using paper products, use recycled or sustainably sourced paper.
- Beware of "compostable" or "plant-based" plastics.
[See Guideline 9](#) for more details.



6

RECYCLE RIGHT

If the event must use disposable materials, ensure they're recyclable, such as aluminum cans (preferred) and plastic bottles. A proper recycling plan must be in place to avoid contamination. This includes clear understanding and communication of which materials are and are not recyclable, as well as thorough education and supervision of event staff and waste sorting operations.

Sustainability Tips

- Partner with a recycling service to assure recycling is uncontaminated. See the "[Get Support from Our Community](#)" section in the Introduction.
- Refer to our [Recycle Right Decision Tree](#) for best practices.
- Aluminum cans have higher recycling value than plastic and glass containers.
- Assign recycling volunteers to waste stations to assure attendees understand how to recycle right!



7

PROVIDE WATER REFILLS

For both the purposes of sustainability and attendee safety, events should promote access to free water fountains or water refills instead of providing disposable plastic water bottles. **Ask Constellation Culinary about beverage station options.**

Sustainability Tips

- Attendees may be encouraged to bring their own empty reusable water bottle, if appropriate.
- These items can also be branded and sold as merchandise.
- There is at least 1 water fountain on every floor at Frost Science! There are also bottle filling stations in "The Deep" near the Oculus and in the café.

CLIMATE FRIENDLY



EDUCATIONAL



OCEAN FRIENDLY



POLLUTION PREVENTING



REVENUE GENERATING



WASTE REDUCING



8

CHOOSE REUSABLES OVER DISPOSABLES

Events should provide or allow reusable items such as washable water bottles, cups, bags, plates, bowls and cutlery in place of disposable, single-use items. If appropriate, many of these items may be branded and sold as merchandise or made available on a rental/ deposit system. **Ask how Constellation Culinary can remove single-use items from your event!**

Sustainability Tips

- Attendees may be encouraged to bring their own reusable items, if appropriate.



CLIMATE FRIENDLY



EDUCATIONAL



OCEAN FRIENDLY



POLLUTION PREVENTING



REVENUE GENERATING



WASTE REDUCING

9

REDUCE STRAW & NAPKIN WASTE

If an event must use disposable straws and/ or napkins, they should not be automatically provided nor displayed in beverage service areas. If a straw is requested, events should make reusable straws available (perhaps for purchase, if appropriate). If reusable materials such as bamboo or stainless steel cannot be used, events should provide paper straws and/or napkins, upon request only. Ask how Constellation Culinary can remove these items from your event!



CLIMATE FRIENDLY



COST SAVING



EDUCATIONAL



OCEAN FRIENDLY



WASTE REDUCING



10

AVOID PRODUCTION & PACKAGING WASTE

Events should strive to store and reuse production materials such as metal, wood, fabric, furniture, signage and decor. If storage is not possible, community organizations may be willing to pick up materials that can be donated. Avoid packaging waste, such as plastic bags, plastic wrap, bubble wrap, packing peanuts and Styrofoam, by procuring food and supplies in bulk with minimal to no packaging or recyclable packaging.

Sustainability Tip

- Buying from local vendors can help limit the amount of packaging material required to protect products during transit. This supports the local community and generates connection with small businesses.
- Food vendors and merchandise teams can assist in reducing packaging waste by not automatically providing bags or wraps and avoiding the use of plastic materials.

11

REDUCE FOOD WASTE

Events should limit food waste by carefully estimating food needs to avoid over-ordering. To manage surplus food, consider food rescue and donation programs that follow food safety guidelines and/ or gifting food to staff. Composting can be used to reduce waste from food scraps or food that becomes unfit for donations.

Sustainability Tips

- Partner with a composting service for guidance on collection and compost pick up. See the [“Get Support from Our Community”](#) section in the Introduction.
- For best practices, check out this [Toolkit for Food Waste Free Events](#) or find places to donate food at [Food Rescue US!](#)





CREATE A SUSTAINABLE PARTNER *and* ATTENDEE EXPERIENCE





12

CHOOSE ECO-FRIENDLY PARTNERS & SUPPLIES

Keep sustainability in mind when choosing partners and procuring event supplies, such as signage, decor, merchandise, gifts, cleaning products and more. If disposable food and beverage service wares must be used, events should use supplies made of sustainably sourced materials such as certified sustainable paper or fiber cups and plates, and/ or wooden cutlery and beverage stirrers.

Sustainability Tips

- Ask your vendors and partners about their experience or ability to incorporate sustainability into their service offering and include your sustainability requirements in contracts.
- Choose high-quality gifts that attendees will find useful long-term rather than items that may quickly become trash.
- Beware of plastics labeled “plant-based,” “bio-based” or “compostable”. Many bio-plastics are not compostable at all, and most only break down in industrial composting facilities, which we do not have locally.
- The most sustainable materials are generally marked as unbleached, non-coated, recycled-content, sustainably-sourced, fiber-based, backyard compostable, BPI-certified and/or PFAS-free.



CLIMATE FRIENDLY



EDUCATIONAL



OCEAN FRIENDLY



POSSIBLY
COST NEUTRAL



WASTE REDUCING

13 PROMOTE SUSTAINABILITY

Events should use online communications such as website, email and social media in addition to onsite signage to share sustainability initiatives and set behavioral expectations for event attendees before, during and after the event. Events should also use internal communications to share these guidelines and all sustainability initiatives with relevant employees, staff, vendors, partners, sponsors and crew.

Perhaps most importantly, events should be sure to be authentic in communications and follow through on sustainability commitments with full transparency. Events can also create demand for sustainability by preferring local vendors who follow these guidelines and operate sustainably.

Sustainability Tips

- ▶ A key to the success of any sustainability program is to have someone on your team who truly cares about it and knows how to oversee it.
- ▶ If you do not have a qualified internal team member to oversee your program, you can partner with a local sustainability consultant to properly plan, communicate and implement your program. See the "[Get Support from Our Community](#)" section in the Introduction.
- ▶ Consider creating a legacy project such as tree plantings, habitat restoration or other long-lasting environmental projects that will leave a positive impact on your community long after your event has ended.



EDUCATIONAL



THANK YOU FOR CHOOSING FROST SCIENCE

By having a sustainable event with us you can be confident that your organization is making a difference.

We hope that this guide inspires you to continue to reduce your environmental impact. Remember to share your progress with your community to invite them to join the movement!

You can continue your sustainability journey with Frost Science by supporting our conservation programs like MUVE and our annual ReefFlorida Symposium.

Email conservation@frostsscience.org or check out the frostsscience.org/conservation to learn more about supporting our programs.

This guide was made with expert insights from [Ocean Conservancy](#) and [Ascendance Sustainable Events](#)!

FROST
SCIENCE

• **SUSTAINABLE
EVENTS**
action guide

