

Welcome

Welcome to the **Green Republic** newsletter produced by **Festival Republic** for staff, crew, precinct managers, production managers, contractors, suppliers, service providers, artist managers, and other people and organisations whose work may contribute to reducing the environmental impact of our festivals. This issue we will be focusing on the impact of purchasing materials and supplies for the festivals and how certain choices when you're deciding what to buy can help to minimise the impacts.

GREEN REPUBLIC WEBSITE: More info on greening your production can be found on the internal website Green Republic here: www.greenrepublic.com/website. Email green@festivalrepublic.com if you would like access to this site.



PURCHASING & RESOURCE USE

A mountain of 'stuff' is needed to run most events, much with a once-only use. Purchase decisions are made every day in the pre-production phase, and the right choices need to be made to reduce the impacts of consumption.

We try hard at Festival Republic to reduce the impacts of our purchasing, but as you know, sometimes there are not practical 'green' alternatives to all requirements and we understand that this will sometimes also be the case for our contractors and partners.

However, by keeping sustainability at the heart of purchasing, we can at least investigate each and every product we buy and work out which is the most environmentally preferable. We hope that you will also look at issues around green procurement and join us in taking steps to reduce the impacts of consumption.

PURCHASING, WASTE CREATION & CLIMATE CHANGE

The materials and supplies used to produce events, especially those products with a short-lived lifespan use up non-renewable resources. Everything made from plastic for example, originates from petroleum (crude oil). The amount of stuff we all buy can contribute to depleting resources, polluting waterways, and climate change. The by-product of all of our consumption is waste. And waste equals climate change. The climate change potential of a one way system of resource use, manufacture, transport, product consumption and disposal is immense. Every step along the way is causing green house gas emissions and the depletion of non renewable resources. The demand for more stuff means more mining, more transport, and more land clearing, all of which are contributors to climate change. So buying less stuff, reusing stuff, choosing products sustainably produced and managing the creation of waste is really important.

HOW TO REDUCE PURCHASING IMPACTS

Using recyclable materials, re-use and using products made from recycled materials are all ways to reduce the environmental consequences of purchasing. Choosing organic, buying fair trade, buying locally, and using products with low carbon footprints are all steps along the sustainable procurement path. The questions you need to ask when deciding to buy something are;

- Where did the product come from? (How far has it travelled)
- Is the product re-usable or more durable?
- Who made the product? (Are there fair labour conditions?)
- What is it made of? (Including raw materials, are they renewable & sustainable?)
- What does it come packaged in? Will mountains of landfill be created, or will your 'waste' become valuable resources?
- Can it be recycled, reused, composted or returned to the manufacturer, how will it be disposed of?
- Does the product conserve energy or water?
- Does the product meet the relevant eco labelling certification?

GREEN WASHING

Be careful about claims 'green' products make. Keep TerraChoice's 'Six Sins Of Greenwashing' in mind when you start investigating the most environmentally preferable product to purchase.

- **Sin of the Hidden Trade-Off:** Eg: "Energy-efficient" electronics that contain hazardous materials.
- **Sin of No Proof:** Eg: Shampoos claiming to be "certified organic," but with no verifiable certification.
- **Sin of Vagueness:**
Eg: Products claiming to be 100% natural when many naturally-occurring substances are hazardous, like arsenic and formaldehyde.
- **Sin of Irrelevance:** Eg: Products claiming to be CFC-free, but CFCs were banned 20 years ago.
- **Sin of Fibbing:** Eg: Products falsely claiming to be certified by an internationally recognized environmental standards.
- **Sin of Lesser of Two Evils:** Eg: Organic cigarettes or "environmentally friendly" pesticides.



TIMBER PRODUCTS

Events use timber for building and construction, set design, décor, fencing, staging, signage, and outdoor furniture, right down to woodchip on the ground. This timber is sourced from forests throughout the world. The problem with timber is once logged and moved from its original forest, it is very difficult to identify whether not only has it been sustainably produced, but whether it was legally logged at all.

We require all timber used on site by our contractors and suppliers to be **Forest Stewardship Council (FSC) Certified**. If you purchase timber for use in construction, set design, décor, staging or other use in association with our festivals, please ensure you ask your timber merchant to supply FSC certified timber.

- Only use FSC certified timber, preferably sourced in the UK.
- Keep your certification paperwork on file.
- Inform us if you make a considerable timber purchase.

PAPER - USE 'POST CONSUMER' RECYCLED PAPER

Most paper is manufactured from pulped trees, and the best thing is to use paper made from recycled content. Rather than using paper just marked 'recycled' make sure it is **post consumer recycled** paper which is made from paper discarded after use, from the home and office. Anything otherwise labelled 'recycled' will be from trimmings from commercial uses such as at the printers.

BLEACHING - Insist that your paper is bleached without chlorine. Look for either TCF or PCF bleached paper. (Totally Chlorine Free or Processed Chlorine Free.)

INKS & VARNISHES - If you are arranging printed materials, ask your printing company to use vegetable based inks and varnishes which are toxic free.



CLEANING PRODUCTS

As you can imagine, conventional cleaning products are a fantastic cocktail of chemical compounds, solvents, bleach, artificial fragrances and the like. They may cut through grease, decontaminate and leave a room lemon fresh, but at what cost? We insist our cleaning contractors and caterers use environmentally sound cleaning products, and we provide Ecover shower gel in our showers for the audience to use. Apart from the direct health impact on people, the black marks against conventional cleaning products include that they use **non renewable resources**, they emit **greenhouse gases** and they **poison waterways and aquatic life**.

Green cleaning should protect health without harming the environment. And so we what to look for in a green cleaning product? That they use **renewable resources**, they are **100% biodegradable**, are **non toxic**, are **solvent free**, **phosphate free** and meet Government standards.

Please ensure you use chemical free environmentally sound cleaning products in your kitchens. **Concept Products** has a range of products which were developed on our request. GreenClean products can be purchased by phone **Concept Products on 01458 274 020**. SFC, the wholesalers onsite, will also stock green cleaning products. Alternatively, Ecover has a range of commercial cleaning products.



TAKE AWAY FOOD PACKAGING

All take-away food packaging and utensils must be compostable and bio-degradable. There is a **no plastic** and **no polystyrene** policy onsite for take away food packaging, cups and cutlery. The only exception is takeaway coffee cup lids. Please choose fully compostable packaging. This means products made from recycled paper, palm leaf, sugar cane fibre, timber, etc.

- Plates, bowls, burger boxes. Coffee cups (paper please - no polystyrene!)
- Cutlery & stirrers (wooden)
- Serviettes (made from recycled paper)
- Condiment tubs (no plastic!)

Your current food packaging supplier is likely to have a range suitable for you. If not, we recommend:

- **BioPac** (www.biopac.co.uk): These can be ordered through the onsite wholesaler SFC, who can be contacted on **0845 899 4568** to obtain a product list, prices and ordering details.
- **Pronto Packaging** also can supply the festival and they are on 01179 322 374, or 07885 378 632 (Les Baldwin).
- **Packaging Environmental** also have a great range of products: www.packagingenvironmental.co.uk
- **Whole Leaf Co** has a fantastic range of palm leaf plates and bowls: www.thewholeleafco.com

