

# PLASTIC-FREE EVENTS

## Reduce Your Plastic Footprint in 5 Simple Steps



Plastics are a problem. **Together, we are the solution.**

### 1. BYO reminders.

Make sure all meeting flyers and agendas include a reminder to bring reusable water bottles and mugs

- Here's some suggested text: *We're cutting down on plastic waste to protect the Gulf Coast. Help us preserve our local charm by bringing a reusable water bottle and mug for hot drinks.*

### 2. Have vendors sign a Plastic-Free MOU.

Your memorandum of understanding should include:

- Information about the event's commitment to reduce plastic waste to protect the Gulf Coast.
- Information about alternatives to plastic and where to find them. Email us for a list of products and suppliers.
- A requirement that straws and lids will be provided only upon request during the event.
- A ban on single-use plastic bags.
- Special promotions for vendors that use only non-plastic cups, lids and cutlery.

### 3. Ensure water is readily available.

Provide adequate access to water bottle refill stations.

- Consider renting or buying a water station. You can sell a sponsorship to recoup costs. You can also sell or give out branded, reusable water bottles.

### 4. Ensure Recycling Services are Available and Easily Accessible.

- If needed, contact a local or private waste management service and ask to have receptacles brought to the venue.

### 5. Recruit Volunteers for Cleanup

- Organize a cleanup crew to help pick up any litter leftover from the event before it drifts into nearby waterways.

**QUESTIONS?** We're happy to help. [PlasticFreeGulfCoast.com](https://PlasticFreeGulfCoast.com) or email us at [e.englebretson@msstate.edu](mailto:e.englebretson@msstate.edu).