

Center for Sustainable Tourism



Trash Talk: Waste Reduction at Bed and Breakfasts

We all know the mantra “Reduce, Reuse, Recycle” Here’s how to put it into practice at your B&B.

Reduce

Reduce the amount of packaging waste you produce by ordering supplies in bulk.

Think before you print! Use less paper by printing only those documents you truly need in hard copy and print on both sides of the paper whenever possible.

Keep track of inventory, use proper labeling, and keep “use by” dates in mind to avoid throwing away “out of date” food or purchasing more supplies than you need.

Reuse

Donate old bedding and towels to homeless shelters.

Inquire at local schools to see if it is possible to donate old newspapers and magazines to their art programs.

Instead of bagging yard waste such as leaves and grass trimmings, use them as compost or mulch. Coffee grounds can also be used to increase soil acidity to create better growing conditions.

Recycle

Educate your employees on how to sort recyclable products such as glass, aluminum paper and plastic.

Provide clearly marked bins in accessible areas for employees to recycle.

Include recycling containers in all guest rooms.

Close the loop! Purchase products made from recycled materials.

Waste Management Resources

North Carolina’s Division of Pollution Prevention and Environmental Assistance can provide information on what can be recycled as well as recycling locations. Contact Tom Rhodes at 919.715.6516.

The **Homeless Shelter Directory** serves as a resource for finding a shelter near you where you can donate. Access their website at: www.homelessshelterdirectory.org

The EPA provides a directory of suppliers who offer recycled-content products including office supplies. **The Comprehensive Procurement Guideline Program** with the directory of suppliers can be found at: www.epa.gov/epawaste/conserve/tools/cpg/index.htm

Learn about composting at your property with the information provided by **the North Carolina Division of Pollution Prevention and Environmental Assistance**. You’ll learn what can be composted, what supplies you’ll need to get started, and what you can expect from the final product at: <http://p2pays.org/compost>

When Less is More

The *less* waste you produce, the *more* money you save.

The Grove Park Inn of Asheville, saw a savings of nearly \$20,000 over three years by implementing a recycling program.

The *less* waste you produce, the *more* you help the environment

The Grove Park Inn did more than save money with their recycling program, they also kept 4,500 trees and 118,000 gallons of oil from being used to create new materials.



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