



REDUCE - REUSE - RECYCLE

For specific project ideas and information, contact:

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- Reduce consumption (and expenses) at your celebration by making your own invitations using recycled paper and encouraging recipients to recycle them once the special day has passed.
- Use only biodegradable products made with the highest level of post-consumer recycled content available. And ask your food providers to do the same.
- Ask that your food providers donate left-overs to local soup kitchens.

Ask that your synagogue does the same with any food they purchase.

The Bill Emerson Good Samaritan Food Donation Law protects donors of food in good faith from any legal action. Provide them with a copy of the law:

http://www.recycleworks.org/pdf/Good_Samaritan_Act.pdf

- Eat local! Encourage your family and your guests to eat food that doesn't get trucked or flown around the world by using local foods at your celebration. If the season is right, find out what is ready to pick and make your Oneg/Kiddush local-resource based. Beautiful baskets of different types of apples will make your guests forget they are healthy too!
- If you are serving chocolate 'to die for', make certain that no one did! Purchase chocolates that have ingredients that are certified slave labor-free and are

produced according to Fair Trade standards. You might research the subject and provide information on reputable companies to your guests

- If you serve coffee, make certain that it is produced honoring ecological and ethical standards. Encourage your synagogue to do the same. Do the research and provide the synagogue and your guests with information about Fair Trade coffee that will make them feel good both in body and in spirit!
- Support The Redistribution Center (www.redistributioncenter.org/) and invite your guests to do so as well.

Their effort to reduce waste and provide much-needed items has provided millions of dollars of goods to people in need, while keeping the items out of landfills. Some of the largest chain stores in America provide their goods to the Redistribution Center. Learn the amazing story of what happened when one woman needed a box to make a package and found 500 pairs of shoes in a Denver area dumpster!

- Support REMEDY - *Recovered Medical Equipment for the Developing World* - with a donation and teach all the medical professionals you know about their work in supplying much-needed materials to Third World countries. American laws help generate tons of usable materials that can save lives but can not be used in America. REMEDY@yale.edu
- The Society of St. Andrew - AKA 'The Potato People' - observe the *mitzvah* of gleaning, taking that which has been forgotten in the fields of our farms and providing that food for the poor. You can support them with a donation and also find a farm where you live that might allow you and a work crew you put together to glean a field at the end of their growing season. Deliver the gleanings to a local soup kitchen or cook them up and deliver the prepared dishes. www.Endhunger.org
- Conduct recycling campaigns and ask your guests to bring items to your celebration or get them to you in advance.

Cell phones and Child Safety Seats: contact your local police department for requirements

Sneakers: Look for the Nike Reuse-A-Shoe Program. Nike will accept any brand of athletic shoe at their recycling centers. Some of the sneakers are recycled and made into surface material for athletic fields and playgrounds!

Crayons: Contact local restaurants about saving their used crayons for you, as well as schools and individuals. Old crayons become new crayons! Look on-line for projects in your area.

Anything worth having is worth having twice! Collect CD's, movies and gently used toys and stuffed animals for shelters and hospitals in your area or contact Family-to-Family (<http://family-to-family.org>) for suggestions on a recipient community.

Support Irwin Herman, AKA 'The Bookman', (www.thebookman.org) with a donation and conduct a book drive in your neighborhood or school. You might also use books as table centerpieces and provide decorated boxes for the books your guests contribute. Again Family-to-Family can suggest possible recipient organizations.

Talk to someone at your school about conducting a used - but useable - school supplies drive at the end of the school year. As students empty their lockers, ask that they put useable items into boxes. You might organize a group to help you sort through items and pack them for distribution. There are lots of schools in areas near you - wherever you live - that would love to have them for classroom use.

- If you and your friends are 'crafty', look online for toys that can be made out of recycled materials such as tights and plastic bottles. Ask your guests and others to save items for you and have a toy-making marathon. Donate the items to a local family shelter or toy drive.
- If you and your friends are 'handy', ask for donations of used bicycles and bring them back to life by fixing them up and donating them to a local family shelter or toy drive.
- If you are giving gifts to your guests...

Consider a tote bag for shopping. Inexpensive bags are available in numerous patterns and colors and would make great centerpieces when stuffed with paper (old newspaper, of course) and decorated with balloons (look for biodegradable balloons online).

Think about using tree seedlings which you might pot up for centerpieces and then distribute them as gifts to your guests and suggest that they plant them in their own gardens or somewhere that the tree will have a good home!

Your guests would love gifts of Fair Trade chocolate or coffee. You can do a world of good by also providing them with information about the products that they can share with others.

Create custom 'gift certificates' that show that you have provided various ecologically-based services or goods in their honor. You might have shipped two cartons of books in honor of guests that are teachers; made a donation to REMEDY in honor of all the Doctors present; collected and shipped gently used sports equipment to Family-to-Family (<http://family-to-family.org>) in honor of your friends on your teams, etc.