

STUDENT ORGANIZATIONS'

GUIDE TO

SUSTAINABLE PURCHASING

• FOR EVENTS, T-SHIRTS, AND MORE.

• SUSTAINABLE PURCHASING •

EVENTS



FOOD

Be more eco-friendly by ordering locally-produced food, especially vegetarian options. For utensils, get compostable napkins and silverware. University Catering uses compostable materials, so they are a great place to start!



ADVERTISING

Avoid creating paper flyers by advertising on social media with Facebook events and Instagram stories. If you need flyers, print them on recycled paper and recycle any extras when you're done!



DECORATIONS & SUPPLIES

Buy decorations and supplies that are reusable and made well so you can lend them to other organizations or reuse them yourself. Try to keep unnecessary decorations to a minimum. Less is always more!



RECYCLING & COMPOST

You can request to have composting and recycling bins at your events through the Office of Sustainability and Environment.

Bonus points for having a volunteer stand by the bins to help people sort their waste!



EVENT T-SHIRTS

Avoid buying t-shirts that are just for one day or event, especially t-shirts with dates on them. For more information, look at our Sustainable Purchasing Guide for t-shirts!



SUSTAINABILITY ADVOCATE

When planning events and making purchases, designate someone on your team to prioritize environmental sustainability. This can be a Sustainability Chair or just someone with a passion!

• SUSTAINABLE PURCHASING •

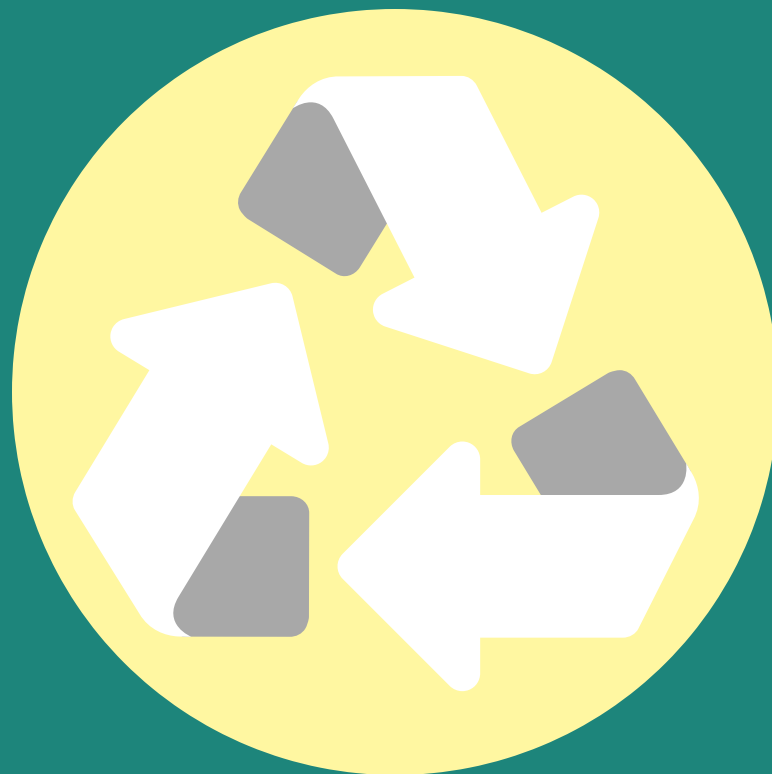
T-SHIRTS

QUESTIONS TO ASK BEFORE YOU ORDER:



DO YOU NEED A T-SHIRT?

If your t-shirt is for promotional purposes, consider getting buttons or laptop stickers. These have less of an environmental impact and you can show them off every day!



CAN YOU REUSE PAST SHIRTS?

Consider if members with extra t-shirts would be willing to lend them to others for events or one-time purposes. This saves everyone money and helps out the planet!



IS THIS T-SHIRT FOR A SPECIFIC EVENT?

If it is, consider using a general organization shirt. If it's for a recurring event, buy shirts without dates on them so you can use them more than once.

IF YOU DECIDE YOU NEED A T-SHIRT, LOOK FOR:



WATER-BASED INK

Water-based ink produces less harmful chemical runoff in production, which means less waste overall. It will also make your t-shirts softer, more flexible, and a higher quality!



ORGANIC AND RECYCLED MATERIALS

Organic cotton is produced without chemicals and pesticides that damage the earth while the cotton is growing. Recycled materials divert waste that would normally be thrown away to sit in a landfill.



LOCAL PRODUCTION

Consider buying t-shirts from small, local businesses that print locally using eco-friendly materials. If you have questions about their production processes, simply contact the company to ask.

GETTING STARTED

● REQUESTING COMPOST BINS

You can request to have Clearainers at your events through the Office of Sustainability and the Environment by clicking [here](#).

● OFFICE OF SUSTAINABILITY & THE ENVIRONMENT

Visit the Office of Sustainability and the Environment for [more helpful resources](#).

● UNIVERSITY CATERING

The utensils and supplies used by IMU Catering are all compostable. To order catering, click [here](#).

● UNIVERSITY OF IOWA STUDENT GOVERNMENT

If you have questions about this guide or would like more guidance in making sustainable purchases, reach out to UISG's Sustainability Committee or [visit our website](#).

● GREEN INITIATIVES FUND

If you need more funding to put these steps into action, you can apply to GIF by describing how your event is environmentally sustainable with [this form](#).

● GUIDE TO ETHICAL T-SHIRT PURCHASING

For more information on ethical purchasing, visit UISG's [Guide to Ethical T-shirt Purchasing](#).

● DONATE LEFTOVER FOOD

If you have leftover food at your events, post in [Free Food](#) at the University of Iowa or donate to [Shelter House](#).