

Green Guidelines for Multi-Tenant Buildings

Follow these simple suggestions to make your building more sustainable. You will help make your building, our community, and our planet a greener place to live! (see also GGW's "Green Tips for Businesses")

Getting Started;

1. Designate a "Green Leader," "Green Team" or "Green Committee" to oversee the environmental impact of your building's policies and practices
2. Meet with your building HOA or Board
3. Set up a meeting with a small group of interested residents
4. Set up a meeting with your HOA Board or renters' group if one exists
5. Meet with your building management or owners

Waste Diversion;

1. Review recycling policies and practices
2. Review food waste/composting options

Retrofitting / Renovations;

1. Review water use – low flow toilet and shower heads
2. Review HVAC systems and energy use
3. Review lighting in all interior public areas, outdoor areas and garages
4. Review paint (low or no-VOC) and carpet choices (rental units)

Building Maintenance and Cleaning;

1. Review pest-control policy and practices
2. Review cleaning products and practices (including carpet cleaning)
3. Review landscaping/grounds keeping products and practices – use of native plants, pesticide/herbicide use, leaf blower use

Management;

1. Review purchasing for building supplies
2. If there is an on-site management office, see Greening Your Business tips

Party Policies;

1. Pre-plan any building parties or gatherings early to reduce waste and minimize the carbon footprint of the event – reduce the use of paper, plastic, fuel, energy and water. Reduce all unnecessary consumption.
2. Provide before-the-event communications and at-the-event signage and announcements about low waste efforts
3. Purchase materials that can be consumed, reused, or recycled. Avoid Styrofoam & unrecyclable plastic.
4. Try to limit or avoid single - use plastic items such as table cloths, silverware, glasses and plates. Consider renting supplies.
5. Consider packaging and transportation impact before buying or ordering food items.
6. If water bottles absolutely must be used, recycle them after use. Reusable water bottles are a better choice.
7. Recycle all recyclable waste. Pair every waste can with a recycling bin with clear signage indicating what goes where.
8. Make sure that all trash is picked up and disposed of appropriately after the event. Make sure you have "green" volunteers assigned to the clean up team, so that recyclables are not put into the garbage.
9. Consider hiring a service to collect and compost all food waste after the event.
10. Consider pilots and trials as they are easier to get approved than permanent changes.
11. Communicate helpful suggestions and updates to all residents through posters, bulletin boards, building newsletters and resident emails. Consider announcements/posters in elevators. Make sure that all residents know they can count on the support and guidance of this committee.

For more help with greening your building or event, contact us at info@gogreenwilmette.org.