



# Environmental Council of Huron Valley

## Sustainable Classroom Party Checklist

Here are some ideas to help make your next classroom event more sustainable while saving money, too!

### REDUCE

- Avoid individually wrapped items. Choose bulk items to reduce packaging waste.
- Choose finger foods so serving ware is not required.
- If needed, use eco-friendly serving products (bamboo or compostable if facilities exist); recycled content napkins.
- Make sure to have vegetarian and vegan food options.
- Do not offer disposable water bottles (most children bring their reusable water bottle with them daily).
- Skip the plastic disposable table cloths and consider reusable, paper or question if they really need to be used at all!

### REUSE

- Encourage kids to bring their own reusable water bottle and/or cup.
- Consider a set of classroom reusable cups, utensils, cloth napkins.
- Have a food donation plan for leftovers.
- Choose an eco-friendly upcycled craft. A quick search will provide many!  
Some ideas:
  - **Halloween:** Cardboard tube Halloween characters. Decorate cardboard tubes with markers, paint and scrap paper to create bats, ghosts, etc.
  - **Christmas:** Sustainable "tree cookie" ornaments. Find a 1.5-2" down branch, cut in  $\frac{3}{4}$ -1" thick slices. Color with markers or collect beautiful dried leaves, seedpods, etc. to have them glue on, attach string to hang.
  - **Valentines Day:** Paper bead bracelet. Cut long triangular strips of magazines in varying widths (thicker for younger students, thinner for older). Apply glue to the top  $\frac{1}{3}$  thin part of the triangle and roll around a pencil (for younger kids) or bamboo skewer (older kids). Thread on string.

### RECYCLE

- Set up and clearly label recycling bins. If your school doesn't recycle there is likely an active parent willing to take off-site. Even if single stream, use this as an educational opportunity to have separate bins for cardboard/paper, plastic, metal and glass.
- Plastic bags and clean and dry single ply plastic table cloths can be recycled via in-store drop off at your local grocery store.