

DO YOUR PART



***10 Ideas
for Post-Pandemic
Sustainable Practices
Meetings, Incentives &
Events***



MENU

MENU CARDS:

Print your menu on "Seed Paper" to leave a meaningful impact by adding a little more beauty to our world.

Print your menus on seeded paper and ask your attendees to take them home with them. This is a win-win- for all in many ways:

- No trash left behind.

-The attendee can plant this seeded paper in his yard or flower pot, where the paper will turn to compost and the embedded seeds will turn into flowers.

- A few weeks later, your event will still be remembered - in your attendees garden!

<https://www.bloomin.com/>

FOOD CONTAINERS:

Use eco-friendly containers made out of 100% compostable natural fibers from harvested wheat, corn, bamboo or even better: Agro-waste banana leaves. These boxes are gluten-free, eco-friendly, microwave and oven safe. Unlike plastic and Styrofoam containers, no harmful chemicals will leach into the food.

For some foods, containers made out of paper might be the solution: BioPlus Terra II boxes are made in the USA from 100% recycled paperboard and certified by BNQ to be 100% compostable in a commercial facility. Grease & moisture resistant, these boxes have no plastic, PFAS or flourine-based chemicals.



DISPOSABLE CUTLERY:

A great alternative to plastic are those made from bamboo, wood or Avocado pits!

BTW: Using real silverware that will be washed later in a dishwasher are safe as well!



IN-ROOM TECHNOLOGY:

By using smart technology in hotel rooms or meeting space from temperature controls to lights you can make an almost effortless positive impact, especially when you don't forget to turn it off when not in use!



SIGNAGE:

Instead of print-outs, make signs reusable (for instance by avoiding the year of the conference), or even better: Make use of electronic sign boards!



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EVENT APPS

Luckily, we live in the tech age and many things that once were disposable such as hand-outs or even binders are almost a dinosaur of the past. So let's embrace it by using Apps instead of printed agendas. By using e-signage over printed signs, especially those on foam-boards. By sending invitations and registrations strictly digitally (so much easier to track as well!).



PENS, PENCILS AND PAPER:

Use note pads made out of recycled paper. If you want to offer pens for a one-time use, consider those made out of paper, which will compose centuries faster than plastic. And to note down great ideas with pencils, try using a “sprout pencil”. When it’s time to stop writing, you can start planting the end of it! It contains seeds, that you can plant (anything from “Forget-me-not to Thyme). Before you know it, you will see vibrant flowers or fragrant herbs.



WATER:

Plastic water bottles seem the easy solution, but it's the worst for our planet! There are plenty of alternatives that in the long run are more healthy. Remember that with each sip you take from a plastic bottle, you are ingesting a tiny part of the plastic - sometimes you can even taste it. Use water-filling stations instead that meet today's hygienic standards: Touch-free and provide a reusable container, whether it is a glass or a reusable stainless steel bottle. Over the course of a day, the cost you save from using water dispensers and offering branded stainless steel bottles will offset the cost a hotel has to charge you for the plastic bottles.



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TEA BAGS:

Forget about plastic spoons and stirrers, the Sprout® SPOON is a fully biodegradable spoon and tea bag in one. Simply unfold, brew in hot water and enjoy a cup of delicious fair trade tea. And what tastes great feels even better. This clever spoon can be broken down by nature's own composting processes.



STRAWS:

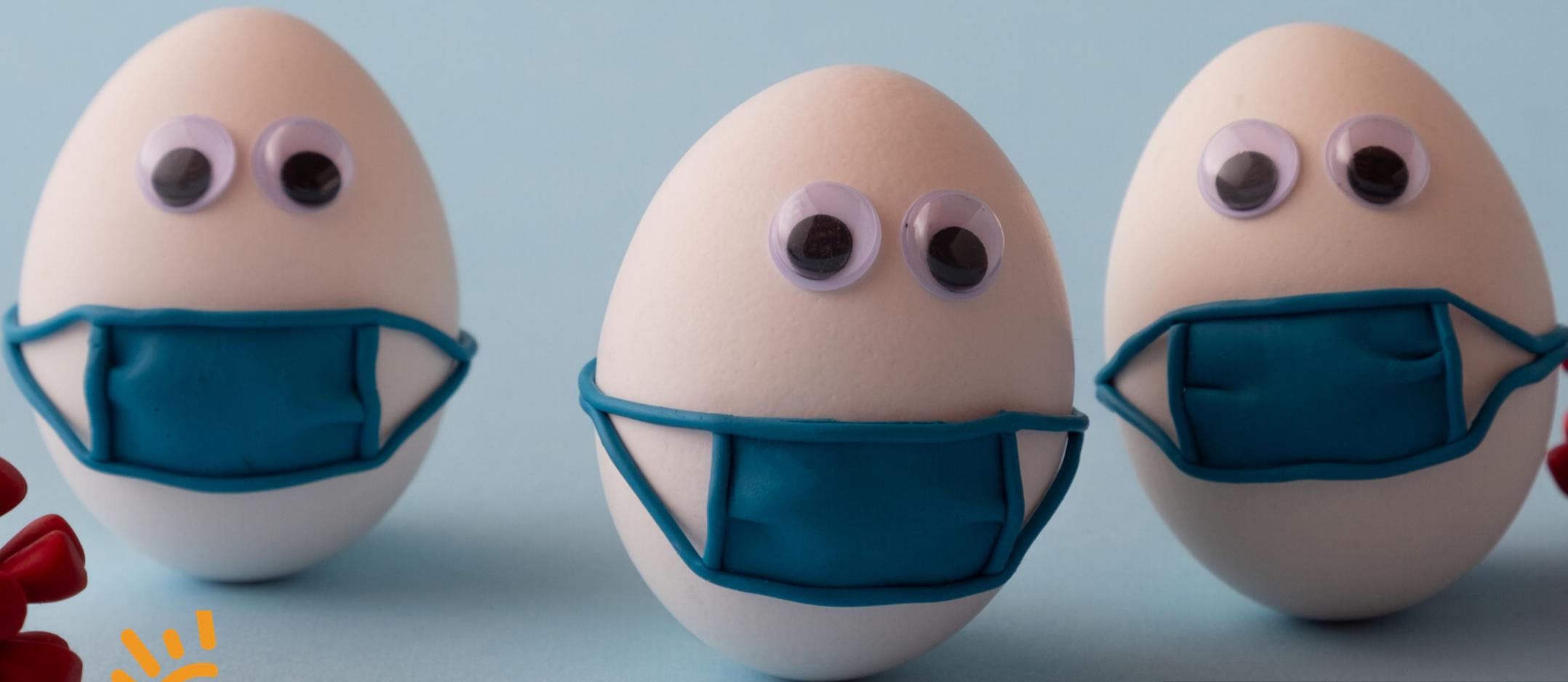
Traditional plastic straws are nearly impossible to recycle as their shape makes it difficult to fit through recycle sorter machines. These typically end up in the landfill or worse. Compostable & biodegradable straws fully compost in commercial compost facilities and paper straws are marine degradable. There are several types of great alternatives: Paper Straws - made from FSC Certified paper in a variety of colors and sizes.

OR PLA Straws: Made with corn-based bioplastic PLA that is compostable, non-toxic and as strong as traditional plastic. OR "The Naked Straw" made from Avocado Pits! The added benefit here is that it's made from agro-waste! To keep it hygienic, look for packaging made out of paper, for instance rice paper, rather than plastic! The devil is sometimes in the details!



BONUS: REUSABLE MASKS!

Support a local charity producing hand-sewn masks! This will surely be a good conversation starter and won't end up in the trash! In fact, it will be a good reminder of your event!



Wish-Cycling Alert:

While most people want to recycle, sometimes they put items into the recycling bins that are not recyclable, or even worse contaminate the recyclables. Check your local recycling procedures to make sure you not wish-cycling but truly recycling. For instance, plastic gloves or -bags are absolutely not recyclable! If they get caught in the machinery, they can cause costly mistakes.

But to end on a positive note: We found one at <https://www.globus.co.uk/biodegradable-gloves> This is certainly a field that needs further exploration and innovation!



Disclaimer:

You can customize almost all of these products with your logo or brand message, making it an ideal way for your company or organization to spread your story and get people talking. Most of the products are also made in the USA (or source in your country to minimize your transportation carbon footprint) with the idea to produce less shipping-carbon-offset as well as supporting the local economy.

This list was put together by Cocoon Incentives, a Miami based DMC and Incentive House, with the best of intentions to keep a tsunami of pollution at bay as participants face some uncertainty in the post-Corona pandemic. The vendors mentioned have not endorsed us in any way and there are others out there, this might just be a start for you to explore. It is not a complete list, please share other good sustainable practices and ideas with us! Reach out to us if you like a dose of sustainability in your next event! Let's do our part!

Thank you!

