



**PRESIDENT'S
SUSTAINABILITY COMMISSION
COLORADO STATE UNIVERSITY**

Sustainable Tabling Recommendations

Prepared by the President's Sustainability Commission – Engagement Sub-Committee

This guide is intended to be a resource to departments, student groups, and organizations within Colorado State University who are tabling to engage students, employees, alumni, or community members. Colorado State University continues to work towards the goal of being an environmentally just, zero-waste campus. This means we must challenge ourselves to take into consideration the full life cycle of materials given away at tabling events, as well as the source of the materials. Often, cheap single-use plastic objects are selected because they are affordable and easy to find but they often end up in our landfill, or worse, in our environment or waterways.

If you are giving out promotional materials, consider:

- Goods made from recycled, repurposed, compostable, or rapidly renewable materials (like 100% recycled plastic, bamboo, or 100% compostable items).
- Reusable goods (like reusable water bottles, cutlery, towels, socks, or pens that are refillable).
- Energy conserving or efficient items (like solar chargers, LED lighting, or even automatic timers to reduce energy consumption).
- Goods that are Fair Trade Certified – demonstrate safe working conditions, environmental protection, and sustainable livelihoods for the workers who made it.
- An experience rather than an item (e.g., a drawing for tickets to a show, a gift card to a local restaurant or shop). Experiences can be a bigger draw to your table and studies show that experiences produce longer-lasting impact and memories than physical items.
- Consider where the materials were made and by whom. For example: *How far did they travel? Was child labor used to produce the materials?*
- Consider the purpose of the material. *Will it promote health (both physical and mental health)? Will it promote thoughtful consumption?*

If providing food (including packaged foods), consider choosing:

- Fair Trade, USDA Organic, or other third-party sustainable certifications.
- Locally grown/produced Colorado foods/products (locally grown is often considered within 250 miles of our university or within the state of Colorado).
- Vegan or vegetarian options, as they tend to have a lower carbon and nitrogen footprint than their meat counterparts.

Finally, avoid trinkets. Strong engagement through meaningful conversation or a game are often better than trinkets such as water bottles or pens, which are often disposed of shortly. Engaged students and employees feel a greater sense of belonging and community - welcome to the Ramily!

For more general recommendations visit the PLAN (Post-Landfill Action Network) [Hierarchical Ethical Guide to Swag](#)

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