Colorado State University Green Tailgating Guide

This guide is intended to be a resource for anyone planning to tailgate on a CSU Football Game Day or at any other CSU hosted or sponsored event. CSU is well known for its commitment to sustainability best practices – both in the classroom and throughout university operations. Ram fans can support these efforts in all the ways you plan for and participate in the tailgating experience. You can help CSU to embody and achieve its sustainability goals – as a fan, a guest, a partner – YOU are on the TEAM! Your thoughtful planning keeps Game Day fun and green.

Before we get into our sustainability-focused considerations – please take a moment to review the Colorado State University Tailgating and Game Day Activities Policy & Rules.

To incorporate sustainability best practices for tailgating at a CSU event, please consider:

• **Plan** your menu ahead to reduce over-buying, reducing general waste and food waste

• **Food & drink**: When you hit the store to purchase your tailgating foods, snacks, and drinks:
  - Buy in bulk whenever you can to reduce the amount of packaging
    - Avoid single serve or individually packaged items
  - Purchase local / organic fruits and veggies. Buy Colorado Proud
  - In fact, buy locally produced products as much as possible
  - Lighten your food-related environmental impact. Consider non-red meat options.
    - Or, best of all, create and enjoy a meat-free tailgate extravaganza!

• **Reusables**: Just as you might prepare for a camping trip –
  - Prep your tailgating foods, snacks, and drinks at home before coming to campus
  - Transport and serve in re-usable bowls, trays, and jugs
  - Stock your tailgating ‘box’ with re-usable and unbreakable plates and cups
  - Use re-usable service ware (forks / knives / spoons)
  - And, just like camping – consider ‘pack-it-in, pack-it-out’ and leave no trace!

More tips →
• **Decorations:** Be sure to only use re-usable, sturdy decorations:
  
  o Please, do not bring or use paper streamers, balloons, confetti/glitter – they are likely to just blow away and become litter
  
  o Check out the [CSU Bookstore](#) or our [CSU Rams Official Team Store](#) for the CSU Rams flag or banner you’ve always wanted
  
  o Be classy – bring cloth napkins and table covers. Then, after each event you can take them home, wash them, and use them again and again

• **Waste:** If you have trash and recyclables to leave in campus bins – please recycle right:
  
  o ‘Wish-cycling’ is a practice we want to avoid. Just because we want something to be recyclable, doesn’t mean it can be recycled. Help us keep our recycling ‘stream’ clean. Please, no wish-cycling
  
  o When in doubt – throw it out!
  
  o No liquids or food waste in the recycle, please. Only recycle containers that are empty
  
  o Need an on-campus recycling refresher? Here is our [Waste Sorting Guide](#)
  
  o If you’re a real champion – and have items that could be composted – we hope you’ll practice that camping type trick listed above – ‘pack it out,’ take it home and add it to your compost pile at home. Be green, go green and grow green!

Thank you for supporting our CSU Rams through your recognition and practice of sustainability-focused Game Day actions. Go Rams!

Do you have questions or suggestions? Contact Stacey Baumgarn, CSU Campus Energy Coordinator: [Stacey.Baumgarn@colostate.edu](mailto:Stacey.Baumgarn@colostate.edu)

Updated August 2023