

Green Party & Event Suggestions

SOCRRA was so excited to receive the *Green Party & Event Suggestions* tip sheet from the **Oak Roots Group** from the Royal Oak School System. Did you know that almost all the schools located within SOCRRA communities currently recycle?



As the Oak Roots Group points out, students have captured the spirit of recycling in the classroom, so let's make sure we continue to reduce the trash and support recycling when planning your class parties and school events.

Many of the tips provided can be translated to your home and office functions as well. Here are a few of the highlights. The complete sheet was shared as a separate document in your e-newsletter email.

Plan!

When conceptualizing your event, be sure to consider how you will set up recycling containers, make purchases to reduce waste such as buying in bulk and purchasing recycling content supplies such as paper plates, napkins and the like.

Food and Beverages

- Prepare finger foods that don't require utensils.
- Avoid serving individually packaged items like drinks or other foods.

Decorations

- Get creative and reuse things you have or buy items that can be reused themselves.
- Use natural items like flowers, little pumpkins, gourds, etc. that can be composted.

Thanks **Oak Roots** for providing this useful information! **Happy Holidays!**

Tell SOCRRA how you reduce, reuse and recycle during the holidays! Your creative tips will be shared on Facebook and in future editions of the SOCRRA e-newsletter. Email: acollinson@recycle.com today!

Green Party & Event Suggestions

Dear Room Parents and Committee Chairpeople:

When planning your class parties and school events this year, please remember that Royal Oak Schools are Green Schools! Our students have captured the spirit of recycling in the classroom, so let's make sure we continue to reduce the trash and support recycling in the extra things we do this year. Some things to consider...

Planning

- Plan for recycling from the beginning –
 - Set out clearly marked recycling bins at all events
 - Think about all items used and which you can recycle at the school or may need to take home
 - Contact you environmental/green committee for help
- Buy in bulk instead of individual packaging
- Buy products with recycled content when possible (napkins, plates, etc)
- Buy products that can be recycled or are biodegradable
- Buy locally made items when possible

Some Items to Avoid

- Styrofoam – it is not biodegradable and its creation (and even recycling) causes environmental pollution.
- Bottled Water – the creation and distribution of bottled water has many costs to the environment.

Flyers and Announcements

- Use eNews and eFolders
- Use PTA/PTO Newsletters and websites
- Use school-televised announcements
- Use posters within buildings
- Use ½ sheet flyers or smaller (Remind people to “recycle this flyer”)
- Print on front and back when more than one page is needed

Decorations

- Get creative and reuse things you have or buy items that can be reused themselves.
- Use natural items like flowers, little pumpkins, gourds, etc. that can be composted.

Plates, Cups, Utensils, & Tablecloths

- Use reusable items when possible. Bring from home or consider buying a set of washable plates, cups, and utensils for the classroom. (Rotate or split up cleaning duties)
- If not buying reusable items, look for items made from “recycled” or “post-consumer waste” content. (Meijers even carries some of these products now)
- Look for items that can be recycled such as paper cups and plates.
- If you need utensils, consider reusable or biodegradable ones.
- Avoid plastic tablecloths. They are not recyclable and make bulky trash. Ask, “Do we really need any?” If so, then think about buying reusable ones for the classroom or event or bring from home. Butcher block paper can be used too and is recyclable.

Food & Drink

- Think about serving finger foods (veggies, fruit, cookies) that do not require any utensils.
- Serve water from a large cooler or jug.
- Buy in bulk (i.e. large bag of pretzels, large bottle of juice)
- Buy less processed foods such as fruits and veggies (extra “green” points if they are grown locally and/or are organic!)

Prizes/Giveaways

If these are necessary, avoid plastic trinkets that must be shipped great distances to get here. Some green suggestions are:

- Packets of seeds
- Books (new or used)
- Gift certificates
- Biodegradable little pumpkins and flowers
- Clay pots to decorate
- Get creative!!

Clean Up

Check with your Green Committee, maintenance personal, and/or principal to see what can be recycled at your school. Other items can be brought home and placed in your curbside bin (see www.socrra.org for acceptable items). Some items that can be recycled in Royal Oak are:

- paper plates
- paper cups
- tin foil
- cardboard
- boxboard (cracker boxes, cereal boxes)
- juice boxes
- water and juice bottles
- yogurt containers
- plastic bags (drop off only)
- plastic containers from store-bought baked goods and fruit

Compiled by Oak-Roots

Oak-Roots Mission Statement

The purpose of our group is to create a collaboration of ideas and support to maintain an environmentally friendly school district.

We hope from year-to-year to identify and apply ways to keep our schools and students aware of the positive impact they can have on the environment. Oak-Roots, as a group, would like to expand the education about the environment and as a community take positive action with a respectful and non-judgmental approach.

Oak-Roots eNews

To receive information from Oak-Roots or to ask questions, sign-up for Oak-Roots on the web. Go to Royal Oak School District’s website (www.royaloakschools.com) and click on the “Your eNews” button on the top right-hand side. Then subscribe to the Oak-Roots List.

