



Friendliest Fair Becomes Earth-Friendliest

The Gravenstein Apple Fair is striving to reduce waste and bring awareness to community-focused waste diversion. After a successful pilot program last year, Green Team volunteers at the new "eco-stations" will help guests minimize landfill waste.

[VOLUNTEERS](#) NEEDED FOR OUR GREEN TEAM

Here are some of the ways the Gravenstein Apple Fair is becoming one of the greenest events in the state:

Reduce—With GAF guidance, vendors have agreed to choose earth-friendly serviceware. Plastic straws will be replaced with compostable paper straws. No bottled water will be sold, but guests are encouraged to drink free filtered water from the eco-station fountains or to bring or purchase reusable water bottles to fill at the stations. Commemorative, reusable glasses for beer, cider and wine will be sold at cost.

Reuse—Food waste will go to local pigs. Unsold food will be collected from vendors by Sonoma Food Runners and donated to food pantries. Under the guidance of Sonoma Compost/Renewable Sonoma, paper and plant materials will be composted. Vendors will not be using so-called "compostable" plastics as they contain a chemical not allowed in organic compost.

Recycle— Consistent with the latest guidelines from Recology, our local waste hauler, all glass and plastics larger than 4 inches will be recycled.

Education—Each city and county has its own recycling guidelines, so what you do at home might be different from what we do in Sonoma County. Volunteers will answer questions, provide recycling guides and assist visitors at the ecostations.

In the Do-It-Yourself Arena, Will Bakx of Sonoma Compost/Renewable Sonoma will host a Home Composting Workshop to show how easy it can be to turn food waste into a natural soil amendment for your yard. Local vermicompost expert Dave Bailey will demonstrate how worms can help convert organic waste into fertilizer at home and in our schools.

Transportation—Bus, bike, walk, shuttle—Guests are encouraged to make their way to the fair in the most energy efficient way possible.

Together, we can make a difference. Please stop by the ecostations to say “Hi” to the volunteers.