

1. Title - Green / low-waste Wedding / Event

2. What need/ pain point is this playbook addressing?

Events generate a lot of waste but since a lot of stakeholders are involved in this the segregation doesn't happen properly. So How do we make an event a zero waste or a low waste event? How to plan waste management as part of an event.

3. Who can use the playbook?

The event host

Event management companies

Catering companies - Focusing on food aspect - which is the biggest contributor

4. What are the benefits to stakeholders?

This is a step by step procedure of how to make an event a zero waste event. This playbook will help you understand what and how to do and you don't have to reinvent. Rather than the host having to talk and learn from 5 different people, they get a curated version.

This would be more useful for already eco-conscious people.

5. Who created this playbook?

SWMRT India - through the Sustainable Living Campaign / Initiative.

Contact : www.swmrt.com ; info@swmrt.com for any further clarifications.

6. Where and when has this been tried successfully?

Weddings:

- They have 3 wedding Videos (**Youtube Videos** - Vani Murthy's son, Dr Meenakshi, Kaavya) where the Zero waste event is documented.
- There is also a wedding where the team involved in planning and did the actual work and have the stats (extrapolated numbers). - Anupama Harish's son's wedding **Anuradha Govind** **Sowmya Raghavan**

Other events:

- Many small events like a 50 people meeting or get togethers, a temple celebration of 30000 people (by @anuradha govind) - but no document proofs.
- Case studies by Hasiru Dala

7. Based on your understanding of the enabling environment for these solutions, where else do you think this solution can be tried with high chances of success?

Weddings or private events (especially planned well in advance) - you control most of the things.

Few marathons are very low on waste - create a brand value around it.

But in public events, people may not agree with/ listen to your ideas.

The fundamental principles apply to all events.

8. What are the core principles behind this solution?

Reduce waste

- Don't generate (reduce)
- Whatever waste is generated, segregate
- Dispose it responsibly - composting place / dry waste centre

9. What steps does this solution take? (Steps 1 to max. 7)

Planning phase: 70% effort is needed here.

1. Invitation - Eco-friendly or E-invites etc ; messaging : E.g.- please don't give us gifts/ bouquets / donate to a cause etc.
2. Decoration - Reusable or Natural decorations - flowers / cloth , no plastic cover when the flowers arrive / no green sponge or any other non-compostable item.
3. Food (choice) - Be aware of the food selection(Eg we might need extra cutlery for things like Soups or Payasam etc. Can we replace it with things like Ladoo?
E.g. Can I plan for the extra food to be given to the needy instead of it going to the compost?
4. Beverage (Are we serving Maaza or Sugarcane Juice or Lime Juice - which would need cups/ glasses?)

E.g. If you can't get a steel glass, can you get a compostable bagasse glass?

5. Cutlery - Everything needs to either be reusable or biodegradable cutlery options. (Need to plan the logistics of procuring it from the given vendor and also returning them safely.)

Enough cutlery for circulation considering the RSVPs

- **would need a service directory of cutlery vendors/ People who give reusable cutlery on rent.**

6. Napkins + hand-wash facility - Hand wash station is simpler though Napkins can be brought on rent. Sometimes we can mention in the invitation to get their own Napkins.
7. Gifts - We have very little control on gifts we are getting (Unless we mention things like this in the invite) . We can think about ways of giving low waste Tambulam or eco friendly gifts.

During the event: Ensuring signages and enough bins for separate categories of waste and enough staff to manage

Washing and drying facility (cutlery wiped well) - enough cutlery for circulation or banana leaves

- 20% effort

Post Event: Disposal and Publicising etc

10% effort - you may or may not have control over this.

Packaging - ensure that it reaches a dry waste centre

Excess food - giving off to Robinhood Army / needy people nearby

Food waste generated needs to be given for Composting or Onsite Composting is an option.

Flowers from decoration can either be composted or given to orgs that make Dhoop/Agarbattis etc.

Paper on top of table - either don't use it or dispose of it separately.

10. What caveats / disclaimers / risk factors do we need to keep in mind?

A lot of people have their questions on the amount of water used so we need to give information on how we can use bio enzymes or soak the cutlery and minimise the water consumption.

Sometimes we need to use the Bagasse products instead of Rented steel cutlery for the different sizes and proportions of the cutlery.

11. Do you have any other remarks / suggestions?

Segregation in the current weddings though it's not zero or low waste is important. So at least a part of the waste generated will be compostable instead of the mixed waste going to a landfill.

12. Please add links to .pdfs or videos you may have.

a. Dr Meenakshi Bharath's son's Green Wedding

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=XrrnPaBS6xk>

b. Vani Murthy's son's eco wedding event

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Y1yB0fNCm_4&

c. Kavya (Earth Sitters) shares her own low waste wedding

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Opm7_u9Zqlg&

13. What prerequisites does implementing this playbook need?

People need to have an inclination to make an event a low waste or a zero waste event.

14. What is it applicable for?:

Any Event.

15. What internal and external resources (human and financial) were needed to make this happen?

Might be slightly more expensive than a regular event(But if it's ordered in bulk and in large quantities, this might not be much of an issue).

But you need to do the right thing and not the convenient thing.

16. Are there companies that provide services available?

Anuradha Govind and Sowmya Raghavan

In Bengaluru - Hasiru Dala Innovations, Sahas Zero Waste, Green Utsav

In Hyderabad - The Bartan Company (Nidarshana Saika Das)

In Chennai -

Form available here : [Playbooks \(google.com\)](#)