

# Sustainable Practices For Attractions

[www.tnsustainabletourism.com](http://www.tnsustainabletourism.com)



**Attractions** are the amusement parks, museums, zoos, stadiums, arenas, etc. that draw tourists to visit your region. That's why it's so important for attractions to set a great example! Luckily, there are dozens of opportunities to minimize their impact on the environment, just by making some simple, common-sense changes – and **almost all of them can save your facility money!!** Many facilities are already doing a lot of these, and don't even think of them as helping the environment. Take a few minutes to go through the items on this list and determine any of the methods that you are already utilizing. Let your customers know about the good things you are already doing for sustainable tourism.

## Sustainable Activities.

- ♻️ **Recycling.** Providing highly-visible recycling opportunities for guests. Recycling of aluminum cans and plastic and glass bottles is always important. Collect and recycle the items that your facility sells – for instance, stadium cups. Purchasing decisions can be made that will support effective recycling and waste reduction programs. Recycling of cardboard, plastic, paper, and composting of waste foods is encouraged as well.
- ♻️ **Styrofoam / Disposables.** Eliminate or minimize the use of Styrofoam-based products and to use alternative disposables that are made of natural products and/or are bio-degradable.
- ♻️ **Water Efficiency.** Have some sort of “plan” for conserving and using water efficiently. This plan should consider water-savings faucets and fixtures and an effective landscape watering plan.
- ♻️ **Energy Conservation.** Have a “plan” that encourages energy conservation and efficiency. This plan should consider items such as the replacement of lighting and equipment to energy-efficient alternatives such as compact-fluorescent lighting, LED Exit signs, lighting sensors, efficient heating and cooling, and Energy Star/energy-efficient computers and other equipment.
- ♻️ **Green Events Package.** When hosting special events such as weddings, conferences, and other events, provide recycling and work with “environmentally-aware” customers on other techniques to reduce wastes.

### **Recycling**

- ♻️ Plenty of highly-visible signage promoting recycling and bins
- ♻️ Aluminum Cans
- ♻️ Glass
- ♻️ Steel Cans
- ♻️ Composting of excess food
- ♻️ Grease Recycling
- ♻️ Plastic
- ♻️ Office Paper
- ♻️ Toner cartridges
- ♻️ Newspaper
- ♻️ Cardboard
- ♻️ Packing Supplies
- ♻️ Fluorescent Lamps (required by RCRA law)
- ♻️ Batteries (required by RCRA law for NiCd and Lead-Acid)
- ♻️ Electronics equipment – computers, etc (required by RCRA law)

### **Waste Reduction**

- ♻️ Tracking overall waste bills and quantities
- ♻️ Purchase/design of cups to promote/allow effective recycling
- ♻️ Donation of excess food from events
- ♻️ Effective food inventory control to minimize wastes
- ♻️ Locally grown produce and other foods
- ♻️ Filtering of grease rather than recycling
- ♻️ Organic- and “sustainably-grown” foods
- ♻️ Disposable containers made from: bio-based materials, recycled content, compostable
- ♻️ Non-bleached napkins and coffee filters
- ♻️ Recycled-content paper-towels and toilet paper
- ♻️ Encouraging suppliers to minimize packaging and other waste materials
- ♻️ Office waste reduction : 2-sided copies / printing, electronic correspondence and forms, recycled content paper / toilet tissue, air-hand dryers
- ♻️ Using “Green” Cleaners ([www.greenseal.org](http://www.greenseal.org))
- ♻️ Hand-dryers
- ♻️ Purchase of durable equipment and furniture
- ♻️ Use of reused building materials or those from sustainable sources
- ♻️ Use of Latex Paint
- ♻️ Preventative maintenance of all vehicles and equipment
- ♻️ Last-in/first-out inventory
- ♻️ Less toxic materials

**Water**

- ♻ Tracking overall water usage and wastewater
- ♻ Preventative maintenance of drips and leaks
- ♻ Water-flow metering to discover leaks and areas of high use
- ♻ High efficiency dishwashers
- ♻ Discouraging water-based cleanup (sweep first)
- ♻ Microfiber technology mops
- ♻ Low flow restrictors on faucets and showerheads
- ♻ Low flow toilets or Waterless urinals
- ♻ Effective landscape management plan which utilizes drought tolerant species, metering and rain gauges, and minimizes lawn areas.
- ♻ Rain gardens
- ♻ Green roof development ([www.greenroofs.com](http://www.greenroofs.com))
- ♻ Cisterns and drip-line irrigation
- ♻ Rain barrels
- ♻ Effective storm water management
- ♻ Minimization of impervious areas (paving, concrete, etc)
- ♻ Vegetative buffers around streams and ponds

**Energy**

- ♻ Tracking overall energy bills
- ♻ Use of ceiling fans
- ♻ High Efficiency Heating & Air Conditioning (HVAC)
- ♻ Use of natural lighting
- ♻ Solar panels
- ♻ Lighting sensors
- ♻ High efficiency compact fluorescent light bulbs in all canned spotlights
- ♻ High efficiency fluorescent ballasts and lamps (T-5's & T-8's)
- ♻ Purchase of Energy Star computers, appliances, etc. ([www.energystar.gov](http://www.energystar.gov))
- ♻ Thermal-rated windows and insulation
- ♻ Use of directional (downward-facing) lighting in parking areas and other outdoor areas
- ♻ Design and operation of buildings that are "LEED" certified ([www.usgbc.org](http://www.usgbc.org))
- ♻ Purchase of "Green Tags" or "Renewable Energy Certificates" to offset the additional cost of using energy from renewable sources. (See [www.green-e.org](http://www.green-e.org))
- ♻ Purchase fuel-efficient vehicles or Hybrids

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**Thank you for support and commitment toward sustainable tourism in Tennessee.**