

# Tips & Tricks for a Sustainable Conference

This year, the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC)'s report concludes with absolute certainty that human activity is the leading driver of climate change [1]. This means that we are the only ones that can slow global warming.

Sustainability must be a consideration in all aspects of our lives moving forward, and that includes our professional and extracurricular endeavours. As CEEC continues to encourage students to pursue careers in environmental sustainability, we urge other student-led organizations to incorporate environmental strategies into their events.

These sustainability strategies should address issues such as reducing food and plastic waste, proper recycling, avoiding partnering with organizations whose business ventures harm the environment, limiting carbon emissions from transportation and venue, and seeking out local or environmentally conscious suppliers for food and other event materials.

Incorporating climate action into events at Queen's is necessary to make sustainable thinking the norm. Ultimately, the hope is that students experience the changes required to save the planet, so that they may incorporate these changes into their careers and their daily lives in future.

Here are some tips and tricks to make your conference/event more sustainable:

- Ensure that recycling, garbage and compost bins are set up at the venue and that all waste is disposed of properly.
- Reduce or, where possible, eliminate plastic waste by providing reusable or more sustainable options (ie. metal or bamboo cutlery, digital brochures as opposed to paper versions).
- Purchase environmentally friendly food and beverage items, by sourcing locally and/or providing vegetarian and vegan options.
- Donate any leftover food to shelters.
- Where possible, host events outside, or book venues that are certified sustainable (ie. LEED buildings).
- Avoid unnecessary carbon producing transport, by walking or using public transport between events.
- Where possible, partner with sponsors and speakers who support environmental initiatives or have sustainability action plans, and avoid working with those who are involved in work that negatively impacts the environment.

Sources:

[1]<https://climate.selectra.com/en/news/ipcc-report-2022#:~:text=The%20IPCC%20report%2022%20warned,help%20prevent%20an%20environmental%20disaster.>