

'Green' Events Are A Growing Trend

Wedding Expo Helps Brides Go Green

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Every year, more people are realizing that planning a sustainable event not only minimizes the event's impact on the environment but also illustrates environmental commitment to the community. A sustainable event conserves resources, honors and supports those involved, adds value to the local economy and educates participants about the benefits of sustainability.

"Sustainable Events" is a catch-all phrase that is attributed to several aspects of sustainability on a broad spectrum. Sustainable events can be thought of as:

- Simple
- Organic
- Environmentally-friendly
- Use of local products or businesses
- Socially-responsible
- Less consumption-oriented
- Less waste
- Creative and more meaningful
- More in tune with personal values

Any event can be sustainable and successful. Whether the event is a wedding, reunion, meeting, birthday party, celebration, retreat, etc., it is important to realize every small step taken is a step in the right direction. It can be as simple as using recycled paper or carpooling to the event.

Educate Yourself

Many organizations and businesses in the community are striving to educate themselves on becoming more sustainable. Choosing a business that practices sustainable concepts is an

Wedding Expo!

Saturday
The Art Depot
11 a.m. to 2 p.m.
Free — All are welcome
Food, Champagne, and Prizes
Sponsored by:
One Fine Day Productions
The Travel Center at Steamboat
CK Photography
KBCR Big Country Radio
Steamboat Springs Arts Council
Champagne provided by:
Steamboat Discount Liquor
Banquet tables supplied by:
Colorado Event Rentals
For more information about this exciting event, contact
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important aspect when looking to plan an event.

With the Chamber's Sustainable Business Program, more than 60 businesses are earning sustainable certification through simple changes with consultation by Environmental Solutions Unltd. Participating in the Sustainable Business Program is something employees can feel good about while also standing out to potential clients as a company that cares about a greener community.

Minimizing Waste

Among the community's efforts to make events more sustainable, The Zero Waste Initiative is a new umbrella program under the Yampa Valley Sustainability Council. The vision for this program was started by Liz Wahl, director of food and beverage at the Steamboat Ski and Resort Corp. The ski area literally had zero waste at the past two free summer concert series. It will continue this trend during the ski season and other events held on the mountain.

Wahl's vision to reduce waste at events is now a reality thanks to community participation, dedication and commercial composting. The Zero Waste Initiative has spread valleywide through other events, such as SmartWool's Bike in Movie, and OktoberWest. This is just the beginning of a big step for a small community.

"We are on the verge of a paradigm switch on how we view waste in general and at events. We owe it to ourselves and future generations to recapture resources. We need to keep the cycles going, which is reusing, recycling, and composting. The goal is to think before you throw out, beginning with your purchase," Wahl said.

A Sustainable Event

There are many ways to step toward sustainability when planning your event, and it can be as simple as using local businesses. The Yampa Valley is fortunate to have a variety of local businesses that practice sustainability and can provide you with all of your event needs. From choosing the site, event materials, food service, publicity, registration, presenters, logistics and more, local businesses will have the knowledge and ability to help your event be a success.

The upcoming Chamber's Wedding Expo is an excellent way to focus on the "buy local" concept of sustainable events. It will showcase a variety of local businesses including florists, photographers, catering services, transportation and greeting cards.

For example, local SendOutCards representative Edie Hardage has a creative and sensible spin on personalized



COREY KOPISCHKE/COURTESY

A simple ambiance adds an elegant touch to this couple's wedding. Check out Corey Kopischke Photography at www.coreykopischke.com. Kopischke along with other local businesses will be displaying their event services at the Wedding Expo.

greeting cards. The card concept is innovative and economic for weddings and other events.

"SendOutCards is a very practical way for brides to send out announcement or thank you cards. Making each card personalized by adding photographs of the Bride and Groom, or a fun wedding photo adds to the appreciation experience. Since recipients can easily frame the 5-by-7 card and remember the joyous occasion, the cards don't end up in the trash, and they are printed on recycled paper," Hardage said.

Sustainable Events Passion

Yampa Valley residents and businesses have a passionate commitment toward protecting the natural environment and are devoted to moving forward to become a sustainable community.

Next time you plan an event, consider using your buying power to choose sustainable vendors, and evaluate potential waste to make green decisions up front. Keep in mind the impact and the simple steps it takes to go green. And, of course, a sustainable event can be stunning, creative, elegant and memorable.



Congratulations to the following businesses who have received Sustainable Steamboat Certification!

Gold Certification

Marabou
BAP and Big Agnes
Moots Cycles
Black Tie Ski Rentals
Smartwool
bistro c.v.
Moving Mountains Chalets
Drexel Barrell & Co.
Kelly & Stone Architects
Prudential Steamboat Realty
Fox Construction
Horizons
Colorado Group Realty
Big House Burgers
Postnet
Simply Steamboat Property Management
ResortQuest
Central Park Management
Colorado Mountain College
Life Essentials Wellness Spa
Mazzola's
The Ore House at the Pine Grove
Alpine Bank Steamboat Branch

TouchStone Promotions, Inc.

GO Alpine
Native Excavating
Pet Kare Clinic
Air Quality Systems, Inc.
Steamboat Pilot & Today

Silver Certification

Images of Nature
City of Steamboat Springs City Hall
Rex's American Grill & Bar

Bronze Certification

City of Steamboat Springs Centennial Hall
Steamboat Springs Chamber Resort Association
Mountain Valley Bank

On their way to Certification!:

Drahota Construction Co.
Tall Tulips Flower Shop
The Resort Group
Computer Cures
Steamboat Ski & Resort Corporation
Peabody Energy Twentymile Mine
Mountain Home Stove & Fireplace
Landmark Consultants
Irene Nelson Interiors
Pinnacle Resort Management/The Porches
Light Works of Steamboat
Lowell Whiteman Primary School
Aspire Osteopathy, Acupuncture & Wellness
Sheraton Steamboat Resort
Dovetail Design
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