



2024

# Sustainable Events GUIDE

RESOURCES, TIPS, CHECKLISTS & MORE

Presented By

Keep Port Aransas Beautiful

In Partnership With

The Respect Our Island Home Campaign,  
and Texas SandFest

 Port Aransas, TX

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 <https://kpab.org/>

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# Why We Want to Help

Creating the best practices for a more sustainable Port A



## MISSION

To make local events even better with the best sustainable practices



## VISION

To join forces with locals to improve our events footprints on the local environment

Keep Port Aransas Beautiful wants to support local event hosts as they work to improve the footprint of their events on our community, the beach and our bays. The importance of helping to keep our natural resources clean and healthy will help to ensure the fidelity of visitors and the success of events well into the future. Take the suggestions in this document as helpful tips to increase the sustainability of your event, phase things in over time working to a cleaner brighter future.

As part of your pre-event communications, share your sustainability goals with all of your participants, inform them of how the different waste bins are going to look and be clear about what items are recyclable and compostable. By doing so you can get your attendees excited about your eco-friendly initiatives and also let them know how they can play an important role in helping your event hit its sustainability goals.

KPAB will recognize events, vendors and businesses that take on these efforts to help Keep Port Aransas Beautiful. We can put anything you create and share on social media and kpab.org. We can also help you reach out to local and regional newspapers, television stations, and magazines to promote your organization's sustainability mission to the community. Don't hesitate to reach out to KPAB for support, we are here to help!



# WHO TO CONTACT

For help with making your event more sustainable



**Rae Mooney**  
KPAB Secretary  
Nature Preserve Manager  
City of Port Aransas

[rmooney@cityofportaransas.org](mailto:rmooney@cityofportaransas.org)

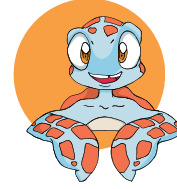
Rae worked on the World Youth Sailing Zero Waste Event and helped develop a sustainable event guide for the City of Corpus Christi. She has been working in the science field and focused on sustainability for over a decade in Port Aransas.



**Colleen Simpson**  
KPAB Chair  
Parks & Recreation Director  
City of Port Aransas

[csimpson@cityofportaransas.org](mailto:csimpson@cityofportaransas.org)

Colleen works with many special events in Port Aransas and has been a member of KPAB since 2011. She spearheaded the sustainable event guide and looks forward to seeing it implemented at many future events.



**Cameron Fowler**  
KPAB Vice-Chair  
Stewardship & Branding Specialist  
Port Aransas Tourism Bureau &  
Chamber of Commerce

[cfowler@visitportaransas.com](mailto:cfowler@visitportaransas.com)

Cameron is the driving force behind the Chamber's "Respect our Island Home" campaign and works closely with residents, visitors and businesses in Port Aransas on improving sustainability in the community.





# WASTE MANAGEMENT

Cut down on immediate environmental impacts from your event

## TIPS & TRICKS TO CUT DOWN ON EVENT LITTER



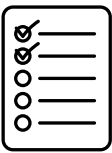
Consider setting up signs around your event to remind people that trash belongs in the can, not the sand.



Follow the Disney method and place at least one trashcan every 20–30 feet around your event to cut down on littering.



Identify a clean up crew for the event; the more people focused on keeping trash off the ground the better.



Set up a post-event clean up plan. One way to do this is have every person working the event line up and sweep the area for trash to pick up and throw away.



Avoid contaminating rainwater run off by having dog waste stations and cigarette butt receptacles.

## HOW KPAB CAN HELP

- Connect with us to set up volunteers for your event.
- KPAB has thirty 40gal recycling bins that can be borrowed.
- Contact Cameron Fowler to get event signs for reminding attendees to not litter.
- We also have recycling frames with clear bags best suited for indoor events.
- We have cigarette disposal containers that can be borrowed as well.



## RESOURCES LIST

### [City of Port Aransas Citizen's Collections Station](#)

- Recycling Dumpsters located at 1500 Ross Ave

### [Dawsons Recycling](#)

- [Aluminum & Cardboard Recycling](#)
- [Amber Dawson, 361-643-4589, dawson@dawsonn-recycling.com](#)

### [Republic Event Recycling](#)

- [Recycling & Waste Solutions](#)

### [Texas Disposal Systems](#)

- [Event Recycling, Composting, Portable Restrooms](#)

### [Compost Queens](#)

- [Special Event Composting](#)
- [Trash Can Rental \(Dustin Mills\)](#)



# VENDOR INVOLVEMENT

Empower your event with vendors offering environmentally responsible products and services

## RECOMENDATIONS



Reduce single use plastics and styrofoam, like using rope or bungee cords instead of zip-ties.



Use eco-friendly swag, branded reusable water bottles and tote bags are great sellers at local events.



Create eco-friendly prizes, for example the winner of a game or raffle can choose a local organization for the vendor to donate to like the Port Aransas Nature Preserve or the ARK.

## HOW KPAB CAN HELP

- KPAB can share their network of organizations that you can donate to:
  - Port Aransas Preservation and Historic Association
  - Port Aransas Community Theatre
  - Port Aransas Art Center
  - Port Aransas Education Foundation
- Discuss creative ideas to reduce single use plastic. Eliminate straws, bags, and any disposable plastic by replacing with more sustainable options. Rent or purchase reusable items like water pitchers, tablecloths and flatware.



## RESOURCES LIST

### Webrestaurant Store

- [Eco-friendly Disposable Servingware, Utensils, & Cookware](#)

### Aluminum Water Bottle Sources

1. [Rain](#)
2. [Open Water](#)
3. [Aquafina](#)
4. [Path Water](#)
5. [Brita Water](#)

# CATERING

Choose both flavor and sustainability for your event

## RECOMENDATIONS



Grow local  
Seek out caterers that provide “farm-to-table” options



Organic, plant based  
offering more vegetarian or vegan options is a great way to decrease your event’s carbon footprint



Responsibly sourced seafood  
Look for vendors that are “Certified Ocean Friendly”.



Consider donating leftover food to a local food pantry.



## HOW KPAB CAN HELP

- KPAB can help you reach out to local businesses and organizations to find sustainable food sources
- KPAB can help you locate a place to give leftovers after an event



## RESOURCES LIST

### Sustainable Seafood

- [The G.U.L.F. \(Gulf United for Lasting Fisheries\)](#)
- [Gulf Wild](#)
- Monterey Bay Aquarium [Seafood Watch](#)

### Catering

- [Local places that cater](#)

### Donating Leftovers

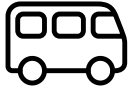
- [Helping Hands Food Pantry](#)



# TRANSPORTATION

Navigate the path to sustainability with transportation choices that reduce your carbon footprint

## RECOMENDATIONS



Commission eco-friendly hybrid or electric vehicles to shuttle your attendees



Incentivize public transportation and carpooling - Provide parking discount or VIP parking to carpools



Promote attendees to ride bicycles to event and provide bike racks

## ENVIRONMENTAL FUN FACTS

- Vehicles on the Road Can Release an Average of 1 Pound of CO<sub>2</sub> Per Mile.
- Public Transportation Helps Reduce CO<sub>2</sub> Emissions by 45% .
- An Estimate of 37 Million Metric Tons of CO<sub>2</sub> is Saved Annually in the US Due to Public Transportation.



## RESOURCES LIST

1. [Visit Port A - Bike Rental Companies](#)
2. [B Bus Schedule](#)
3. [Island Motor Bikes](#) will rent bike racks





# ENERGY & LIGHTING

Navigate your event with the brilliance of alternative energy and lighting that's gentle on the night

## RECOMENDATIONS



Consider renting trailer-mounted solar and/or wind generators to replace gasoline generators for food trucks or area lighting.



Be sure to use Dark Sky approved lighting for your events as artificial light pollution can greatly affect local wildlife. For example, sea turtle hatchlings navigate towards the water by the light of the moon—artificial lighting can confuse them and make them go away from the water.



## WHAT IS LIGHT POLLUTION?

Light pollution is the human-made alteration of outdoor light levels from those occurring naturally.

## WHAT ARE THE EFFECTS?

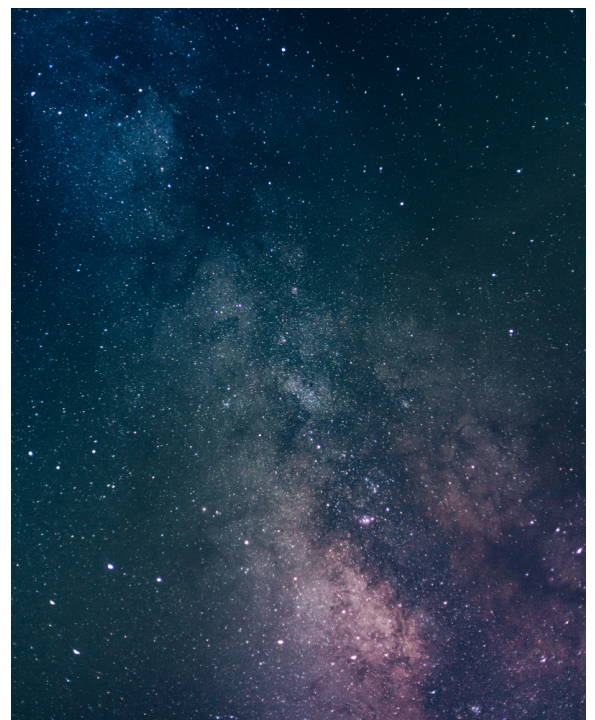
Light pollution disrupts wildlife, impacts human health, wastes money and energy, contributes to climate change, and blocks our view of the universe.

## INTERNATIONAL DARK SKY ASSOCIATION

The International Dark Sky Association is a group dedicated to providing leadership, tools, and resources for individuals, policymakers, and industry, in order to reduce light pollution and promote responsible outdoor lighting that is beautiful, healthy, and functional.

## RESOURCES LIST

1. [Solar Power Integrator](#)
2. [Dark Sky Approved lighting](#)



# GO LOCAL

Choose local suppliers and services to reduce your event's carbon footprint and strengthen local connections

## RECOMENDATIONS



Choosing decorations, rentals, vendors and other supplies within the area supports local commerce and reduces the carbon footprint of traveling from out of town.

## THE MORE YOU KNOW

Support local businesses: When you choose to shop at local stores, you're directly supporting small businesses, artists, farmers, and other entrepreneurs in the community. This helps them thrive and grow, contributing to the overall health of the local economy.



## RESOURCES LIST

### Party Supplies

1. Gratitude
2. IGA
3. Doller General
4. CVS

### Catering

- [Local places that cater](#)





# WILDLIFE ACTION PLAN

Protect local wildlife by implementing sustainable practices in every event

## RECOMENDATIONS



List the places to call if injured wildlife is encountered, share with vendors and attendees.



Post signs showing the negative effects which litter has on wildlife. Remind participants to dispose of garbage properly



Survey the area to ensure no nesting birds are present. If nesting birds are identified, fence the area to keep participants out to minimize disturbance to the nests.



## LOCAL WILDLIFE FUN FACTS

- Turtle nesting season in Port A runs from early April to mid-July, you can help keep them safe by doing a Turtle Check before setting up your beach events.
- Port Aransas attracts more than 400 species of birds, one way to help keep these birds safe is to have educational materials around your event about why feeding the birds harms them.
- Portuguese Man O' Wars, also known as Bluebottles, are stinging jellyfish that tend to wash ashore from spring to late summer, keep your guests safe at beach events by properly removing the painful beauties from the area.

## RESOURCES LIST

[Amos Rehabilitation Keep](#)


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Together, we can  
change the future  
of events in  
Port Aransas