



CAPITAL PRIDE SUSTAINABILITY TERMS 2027

Organizers and participants of Capital Pride are taking concrete, achievable steps toward reducing and eliminating harmful environmental impacts from events. This is an important step in laying the foundation for additional improvements over the coming years.

GOALS

- Go above “reduce, reuse, and recycle” to reevaluate our default decisions and adopt both mandatory and voluntary environmental requirements.
- Reduce consumption at the source by moderating event materials.
- Source products that will diminish Capital Pride’s environmental impacts and ensure that we support vendors and suppliers that are LGBTQ+ inclusive.

CONTINGENT AND VENDOR REQUIREMENTS

The following actions are mandatory for vendors and exhibitors at the Festival:

- Distributing single-use plastic bags is prohibited.
- Distributing polystyrene (Styrofoam™) products, plastic straws and stirrers is prohibited. (District of Columbia requirement)
- Any packaging disposed of at the Festival should be recyclable or compostable.
- Failure to comply with these requirements may result in a fine and/or removal from Capital Pride events.

GUIDELINES

Vendors and exhibitors are encouraged to creatively and consciously make sustainable decisions for their booths.

PROMOTIONAL PRODUCTS

Avoid distributing single-use plastic products, such as disposable water bottles, balloons, and beads, or other individually wrapped items. Consider more creative branding items like reusable water bottles, reusable straws, plant seed packs, drink coasters, towels or sweatbands, eco-tube lip balm, etc.

RESPONSIBLE SOURCING

Vendors and participants should research the environmental and social practices of suppliers. Support local businesses to reduce shipping impacts and keep economic benefits in the community.

PARADE

Throwing or tossing items to spectators is prohibited during the Capital Pride Parade. Historically, items have included necklaces, promotional souvenirs, etc. If your contingent would like to give away items during the Parade, they must be handed directly to the spectators. Throwing items results in tons of litter on our city streets, as well as injuries to spectators.

Capital Pride discourages plastic beads and disposable water bottles as giveaways. These plastic products have been shown to cause serious harm to marine ecosystems and have clogged DC street drains. While planning your organization's parade contingent, be mindful of the environmental impacts of the materials you are using and distributing.

CAPITAL PRIDE INITIATIVES

Capital Pride appreciates everyone's cooperation in helping us make Pride a more sustainable event. The Capital Pride Alliance recognizes that recommitting to sustainability will require effort from all parties involved. Here are a few of the initiatives that Capital Pride has already undertaken. We hope to expand on this list in the future.

- Securing Renewables Energy Credits (RECs) to support renewable energy and offset the entirety of Capital Pride's electric use with renewables.
- Engage the community through sustainability education initiatives, promoting sustainability efforts, and encouraging participation from environmental groups.
- Increased consultation with the DC Department of Energy and Environment.
- Composting pilot program.
- Waste and energy-use benchmarking.