

## Report out from Green Partners webinar on 2/10/2025

### [Green Partners Webinar: Resource use assessment and green purchasing tips](#)

Feb. 10, 2025

11-12 p.m.

#### [Resource and Vendor Assessment Tool \(attached\)](#)

Alice Madden from Community Power shared the Local, Small, Co-op, BIPOC, Green (LSCBG) Resource and Vendor Assessment form that she created as part of their previous Green Partners grant project.

The tool can be used as a guide to assist with assessing the resources you use and inform future programming decisions, using criteria your organization believes to be important. Columns and criteria can be added or modified to suit your needs. You can calculate the costs associated with the resources used in each category and reflect on how to best use funding and resources.

#### [Discussion](#)

Meeting participants used a white board to share green ideas on the topics discussed. Their notes are summarized below.

#### [Transportation and venues](#)

- What green transportation options are available to you?
- What venues are easy to get to with green transportation options?
- How can you incentivize people to use green transportation options to get to your events?

#### *White Board Notes*

- Greener transportation options
  - Utilize businesses (or venues) on thoroughfares with bike lanes, i.e. Lake Street (midtown greenway), University of MN, for example
  - Public transit
  - HourCar and Evie car share programs
  - Carpools
  - Bike share programs
  - Dial-a-ride buses (many rural and suburban counties have this)
  - Walking and biking
  - Jefferson Lines (rent a bus or van instead of having participants drive)
  - Land to Air Express
  - Amtrack/Borealis
- Venues that are easy to get to without a car
  - Zoom meetings (no driving)
  - Libraries are often on public transit routes
  - Neighborhood meeting rooms
  - Park buildings
  - Hyper local meetings people can walk to, like coffee shops
  - Meet where people live i.e. Little Earth gym
  - Table where folks are coming to, i.e. Midtown or Suburban farmers markets

- Mississippi Watershed Management Organization has an incredible space and is centrally located at Lowry and Marshall, transit accessible
  - New Trail Head building at Theodore Worth is transit accessible
  - Midtown Global Market, will reinforce the 3 resilience hubs in Minneapolis
  - North regional library
  - Lunds and Byerly's community rooms
  - Coop community rooms
- Incentives to get people to use green transportation options
    - Purchase transit passes for participants to use
    - Share bike or walk routes for people ahead of time
    - Organize a bike caravan to your location
    - Organize carpools
    - Provide mileage reimbursement for carpools
    - Similar to a "gym discount", add a bike/walk/bus discount program
    - Purchase memberships to car/bike share programs and give them away to people who commit to using them

#### Green incentives and supplies

- What green incentives and supplies have you purchased, or do you want to buy?
- What makes them green?
- Are there greener alternatives to what you are already buying?

#### *White Board Notes*

- Finding green supplies
  - Neighborhood Buy Nothing Groups
  - Finding unused supplies. At a partner school, for example, they had unused supplies for crafts that I was able to use with their permission.
  - "Furnish" and other used office supplies for white boards, chairs, etc.
  - Salvaging supplies for experiments or labs from throw-away materials, like cardboard TP tubes, paper towel tubes, old milk jugs, etc.
  - Purchasing materials from salvage yards or Craigslist, etc.
  - Folding table from thrift store
  - 5-gallon water cooler from thrift store
  - Purchasing cups, plates, etc. from Thrift Stores/elsewhere instead of single use materials.
  - We have a whole kit of the cups, plates, etc. for neighborhood events
  - Axman in St. Paul has odds and ends
  - Art Scraps, St. Paul
- Green incentives
  - Tangletown Neighborhood gives Adopt-a-Drain volunteers with buckets, dust pans, brooms
  - Possible discount if neighbors use
  - Possible group discount for purchase, for example - combination room based air source heat pumps
  - Giveaway Box Fan Filters, HEPA 13, purple air monitors

- Home Energy kits, can we ask CERTs for mor to give away, roll caulk, etc.
- Other
  - We have no storage, which really limits the amount of "stuff" we can take in. Helps.

#### Food and beverage

- What sustainable/green food options are available to you/have you used?
- Why are they green/sustainable?
- What other criteria do you use when choosing a food vendor?

#### *White Board Notes*

- Food options
  - Sisters Camelot is FANTASTIC for catering for events, does food rescue
  - Support green businesses
- Waste reduction
  - Some vendors automatically include plastic tongs and forks, etc. but you can decline these items and bring your own
  - Prioritize reuse OVER recyclable or compostable packaging
  - Ask attendees to bring their own reusable beverage container
  - Ask vendors to provide a discount to those who bring a reusable cup
  - Bring your own takeout food containers
  - Share stories from green businesses to share with other businesses
  - Work with vendors to minimize waste by working with what they have on hand