

Tailgating and cooking out



Wisconsin tailgates and cookouts are great opportunities to reduce, reuse and recycle.

For Wisconsin sports fans, tailgating and grilling out are a matter of pride. Whatever your team's colors, you can take a few simple steps to make sure your tailgate remains green.

Buy supplies in bulk

Buying drinks and snacks in bulk reduces packaging waste. Clean cardboard and plastic film around beverage cases are recyclable.

- [Reducing, reusing and recycling plastic bags and wrap](#)

Use reusable dishware

Bringing reusable dinnerware and cloth napkins to a tailgate cuts down on the amount of waste that has to go to a landfill. People can bring their own reusable plates, cups and containers. You can also often find low-cost, durable dishware for tailgating at a local thrift shop. Having a sealable container to hold dirty dishes while you enjoy the game will keep your vehicle clean.

Grill green

At the grill, using a chimney starter and lump charcoal or all-natural briquettes cuts down on air pollutants. An electric grill does too.

Bring your own bags

Bring separate bags for collecting trash and recycling. Collect all of your recyclables as you eat and drop the bags off at the public recycle bins on your way to the stands or back home. This makes sure you recycle everything you can while avoiding the need for multiple trips. If there are no public bins on site, you can save the bagged materials easily and recycle them at home.

Place and label bins clearly

If you are hosting a sporting event or are in charge of an event venue, be sure to place trash and recycling bins in easily accessible, visible locations where visitors will be able to see and use them. The DNR offers tips on how to promote recycling and waste

reduction at your event and free signs for labeling your recycling bins.

- [Recycling away from home \(scroll down for links to free signs\)](#)
- [Recycling and Waste Reduction at Your Special Event \[PDF\]](#)



Pairing recycling containers with and next to trash bins reduces waste and litter at public events. Photo by Amanda Haffele.

Make recycling part of the fun

For larger groups, especially those involving kids, you can turn recycling into a pre-game activity. Put out multiple recycling bags and label them with players' names. Tailgaters can vote on their favorite player by tossing their recyclables into the corresponding bag. This gives people an extra reason to recycle and makes final clean-up easy.

Organize a car pool

Organizing a car pool to the tailgate or cookout site is not only eco-friendly; it also makes finding parking easier and limits the need for multiple designated drivers.