

Organizing **BIG GREEN AEGEE** events

MOTTO

REduce → **REuse** → **REcycle** → **REstore** → **REplenish**

STRATEGY

Who? Everyone - Organizers / participants

When? Every AEGEE event - from small to the biggest

Where? Everywhere - lodging place, plenary rooms, eating halls, party places etc.

How? Little by little becomes big - reduce consumption, re-use and recycle materials

Why?

1st - because of sustaining our future and saving our nature,

2nd - because action costs less than reaction,

3rd - because acting environmentally will reduce organizing costs

TIPS HOW TO ORGANIZE ENVIRONMENTALLY ORIENTED AEGEE EVENTS

Communication (some nice ways to reduce use of paper and other materials):

- use electronic way of communication (e-mails, msn, skype, phone)
- use multifunctional devices (fax machine, printer, scanner, photocopier) It consumes less energy and you reduce usage of plastic and components.
- reduce consumption of paper (print only if you really need printed documents otherwise use electronic version of documents + rather send document as attachment via e-mail than via fax machine. Always print and photocopy double sided).
- use recycled ink cartridges (it is cheaper too!) and try printing using *ecofont* (saves 20% ink on printing: www.ecofont.eu)
- welcome packages: try to put inside just the most important printed materials like booklet, map of the city and badge; send all other materials by email before the event (and ask participants to print them by themselves if they are interested in having this documents also in printed version). Doing this you can avoid the costs and too much paper in the garbage, if the participants are not interested in the content or they cannot carry all the stuff around:)
- PR materials: try to convince AEGEE antennas and other bodies to make less PR materials in printed version and encourage them to make promotion with short movies, or presentations etc. (reduce consumption of paper and also ink for this kind of promotion which usually also doesn't give the results this antennas and other AEGEE bodies expect). Offer them maybe also space for promotion in front of the plenary rooms (promotion tables or something like that) or offer them to make promotion between the short breaks (energizers, team building games and

stuff like that, on the theme of the project they wish to promote)

- voting ballots: encourage Chair team and Juridical commission to develop new system of voting by which we would not need to spend such a big amount of paper every time. We need to find also a system which wouldn't be so complicated for Juridical commission, organizers and also participants/antennas (the whole process is really complicated from selection of the paper, printing, redistributing and counting of the votes,...it is a big amount of paper-ballots, envelopes, voting boxes and ink).It is a complicated thing to improve, but at least we should be aware of the amount of paper that is wasted here. And maybe someone gets an idea!

Transportation (reducing use of fossil fuels and CO₂ emissions):

- If possible, try to have the facilities into walking distances.
- If possible, use bicycle or public transportation (if not: at least 3 people in one car).
- weight of the luggage when traveling around: inform participants what do they need to bring with them and also ask participants to bring just the necessary things with them (this suggestion have many good side effects, one of them is also less air pollution and reduction of the energy needed for transportation :)
- Encourage participants to offset their carbon emissions; some flight companies like Easyjet already have that possibility when booking your flights. In case not, suggest them to use websites like <http://www.carbonfund.org/> or maybe one that is linked to your country. Even better, you could cooperate with a local green NGO for neutralizing the carbon footprint of air travel of participants – make a tree planting activity. Or ask participants to pay small extra fee (optional) as “eco-tax” for their air-travel and donate to some green organization (alternative energy projects etc).

Food and drinks (reducing use of petrol-derived materials, mainly):

- avoid using plastic bags when distributing food to participants. Often no packing is needed at all, and if it is, use paper bags.
- if possible no plastic plates, spoon, forks and knives. Nowadays there are also already developed biodegradable plastic dishes. Also possibility might be to ask participants to bring some of their own things. Carrying around a your own spoon is not a big thing to do ☺
- if possible no plastic cups for water on breaks - use of bottles which you can easily refill. Encourage use of participants' own mugs. You can order some reusable plastic mugs (lighter to carry than ceramic ones) with your antenna/event logo and sell them to participants as souvenir.
- water supply in water canisters (large water bottles), water sources, or recoverable bottles.
- Try to find locally produced food (reduce transportation) and organically grown, if possible (reduce pesticides and chemicals use) – sometimes they can even give you discount for promotion of their products.
- When buying food at supermarkets, try to go for family sizes (avoid single-units as they need a lot of packaging, and they are also more expensive); choose those ones with more environmental friendly packages, this is try to choose the ones that use less plastic or other polymers for packaging.
- If you sell drinks yourself in parties, you can make the drinks a bit cheaper in the

case people come with the same cup/glass again, and a bit more expensive if they need also new cup/glass with their drink. This way people don't throw the cups so much around and you need to clean the place less later.

Garbage separate waste disposal and recycling allow reutilization of materials:

- provide separate boxes for the garbage (at sleeping place, at plenary rooms, at eating halls, if possible also party places)
- use of the organic/biodegradable bags for the garbage instead of PVC/plastic bags if possible
- encourage participants to clean after themselves and to separate different kinds of garbage (less work for the organizers)
- if possible (it depends on country or even city), recycle all possible things like:
 - a) paper and cardboard, printing cartridge
 - b) plastic, packing materials
 - c) glass
 - d) organic garbage

(in some countries you can get reimbursement when disposing the bottles at the shop)

Energy and water (we cannot create these things, so we'd better save them):

- save with the electricity - turn off all devices when you don't use them anymore (all electronic devices + LIGHTS)
- unplug electrical devices when not using them: electricity transformers consume when plugged.
- Control temperatures at rooms (avoid freezing rooms in summer and oven-classrooms in winter): recommended temperatures are 20° in winter and 26° in summer.
- save with the water – when you are taking shower, washing hands, cleaning

IDEAS HOW TO ENCOURAGE PEOPLE TO BEHAVE MORE GREENLY 😊

Eco energizers / team building games
Prepare thematic ecological party or organic European Night
Prepare some kind of ecological contest (suggestion: photo contest)

VERY IMPORTANT ☺

- You can try to get specialized help from some local NGO's related with environment in your country. In Spain WWF is campaigning to reduce ecological impact of NGO's and offices. They will for sure be happy to see other NGOs are on the same task, and it will provide visibility for the event. You can find a local branch of WWF, Greenpeace, Friends of the Earth, or a local NGO; maybe at your university has a green office. You can check at <http://www.foeeurope.org/members/list.htm> for NGO's in your area.
- we are not the only ones doing this effort: http://www.iucn.org/congress_08/about/green/
- there is plenty of information on web: for instance <http://www.eea.europa.eu/green-tip>
- Sponsorships: maybe local organizers could try to get some sponsorship for the projects if they stress out they will organize the event which will correspond environmental requirements (maybe from the local government/ municipality/ university). Newspapers also like this kind of initiatives, so it is good for promotion.
- It's really important to inform the participants about the ideas already before the event to prepare them in advance! Also, give them the reason, why are you making it this way. Make them participate also on this common task.
- We need somehow to make fun out of this – to encourage them in the positive way and try to make this as funnier as possible cause like this we will attract people to be more active on this field.
- Some ideas for the signs on the separate waste boxes:

a) together with the picture of earth:

- In Europe we throw the paper in the bin.
- Good planets are hard to find.
- Ummm...it's getting hot around here.
- Keep the earth clean - it's not Uranus.
- It's in your hands.
- Don't let anyone trash our planet.
- You have only one Mother / There is no other like Mum

b) together with the picture of tree:

- May the FOREST be with you!

c) together with the picture of dinosaurs:

Stop global warming. The dinosaurs thought the ice age was a myth too!

d) at the party:

- Is it hot in here, or is it just global warming? (picture of woman/man undressing her/himself)
- Am I or on yours "to do" list? (picture of recycling)