



Guide to Hosting a House Party

Hosting a house party is a fun and impactful way to raise awareness and support for food waste reduction. Here's a step-by-step guide to help you plan a successful event.

1. Define Your Goals

- Define what you want to achieve (e.g., raise \$1,000, recruit 20 volunteers, spread awareness to 50 new people).
- Align with us: Reach out to us for materials such as flyers and stickers.

2. Plan the Basics

- **Set a Date and Time:** Choose a date that works for your audience. Weekends or evenings often work best.
- **Create a Guest List:** Aim for a mix of friends, family, and like-minded community members. Target a group size you can comfortably host.
- **Theme and Format:** Choose a party style that fits your space and audience, such as:
 - Casual mixer
 - Potluck dinner
 - Themed event (e.g., "Trivia Night for Climate Action")
 - Wine tasting or cocktail night

3. Fundraising Strategy

- **Decide How to Raise Funds:**
 - Suggested donation at the door
 - Silent auction or raffle
 - Selling food, drinks, or merchandise

- Peer-to-peer fundraising links shared before and during the event
- **Set a Goal:** Be transparent about how much you aim to raise and how the funds will be used.

4. Prepare Invitations and Promotion

- **Send Invites Early:** Use tools like Evite, Paperless Post, or a private Facebook event page.
- **Include Key Information:**
 - Cause overview and goals
 - Date, time, and location
 - RSVP details
 - How to donate (even if they can't attend)
- **Promote:** Share on social media, community boards, and with personal networks.

5. Plan the Program

- **Event Flow:**
 - **Welcome Speech:** Share why you're passionate about food waste reduction and how guests can help.
 - **Activity or Entertainment:** Consider live music, a short film screening, or a guest speaker from Make Food Not Waste.
 - **Call to Action:** Encourage donations and participation.
 - **Social Time:** Allow space for guests to mingle and network.
- **Materials Needed:**
 - Donation jars or digital donation stations (QR codes to donation pages)
 - Informational brochures or fact sheets
 - Name tags (if it's a networking-style event)

6. Food, Drinks, and Decor

- **Food and Drink Ideas:**
 - Potluck style to keep costs low
 - Themed snacks (e.g., food scraps appetizers!)
 - Alcohol and non-alcoholic options

- **Decor:** Simple, cause-related decor like posters, infographics, and sustainable tableware can reinforce your message.

7. Engage and Inspire

- **Storytelling:** Share personal stories about why the cause matters to you.
- **Visuals:** Show videos or slideshows explaining the cause's impact.

8. Follow Up and Show Gratitude

- **Thank Your Guests:** Send personalized thank-you notes or emails after the event.
- **Share Impact:** Let guests know how much was raised and how it will make a difference.
- **Stay Connected:** Provide ways for guests to stay involved, such as newsletters, volunteer opportunities, or follow-up events.