

BCHPA Environment/Green Initiative Task Force Chair 2020 Report

October 30, 2020

At last year's 2019 BCHPA Conference support was given to develop a ³green² advisory committee to help inform the association about making environmentally sound choices for promotional materials and all that goes into a conference. As proponents for the stewardship of bees and pollinator habitat it seems only natural for the association to incorporate these kinds of planet-friendly practices.

Since then, due to COVID-19, we haven't had an opportunity to meet nor work any further on this initiative. In fact some recommendations are not possible until we do turn the corner on this pandemic.

One of our guests at the conference, Sarah Red-Laird from Oregon kindly shared steps that she implemented at the last Western Apiculture Society meeting that she hosted.

These include:

Food - ask the venue to buy food from local producers.

List places in the host community that buy food from local farmers, and give folks enough "time off" to go in the town and support them.

Tee shirts - organic cotton tees, and print locally with an alternative to petroleum ink like soy ink. Pay a BCHPA member to design the shirt, this can be turned into a fun competition.

Choose nice recycled cotton bags with the logo for the swag bags (something that people would like, and not throw in the trash.)

Reuse name holders and lanyards. Collect them at the end of the conference.

Limit single use paper and plastics. Ask people to bring a water bottle and a coffee mug. Ask the venue to always have water pitchers and not offer disposable cups, instead have mugs and glasses. You could also get some reusable stainless steel pint glasses or mugs sponsored - source these from a conscious company like Kleen Canteen or Hydroflask, avoid cheap brands from China, etc.

Partner with a local compost company and make sure all of the post-consumer waste is composted. And/or send food scraps for chicken or pig feed.

Most important CREATE AWARENESS! Make a big deal about all of the steps taken to be green-friendly, and how cool it is that attendees supported local family farms and businesses. Also, estimate how many pounds of waste you kept out of the landfill. More in this blog:

<https://www.beegirl.org/blog/whatsnext>

Our committee welcomes new members and ideas. Please contact Diane at beehappyhoney@dunawayranch.com Environment/Green Initiative Task Force Chair

Volunteers for the committee to date:

Diane Dunaway, Williams Lake

Susan Steidle, Prince George

Heather Sosnowski, Telkwa

Anna-Marie Hunter, Kamloops

Emily Huxter, Armstrong