Banquets turn business and celebrations into fun, inclusive events, where people come together to interact, work with one another, share ideas and rejoice.

Now we’re offering you a way to make a greater impact, with the way that you banquet. Green Banquets allow you to effect positive change in your business and life, without hurting the environment.

HERE’s HOW YOU CAN MAKE YOURS A GREEN BANQUET

**E-invites:** We request you to send out e-invitations instead of paper invites. Since some people might delete the e-invite, it could also be featured on the organisers website.

**Bus it:** You can bring the guests to the venue from identified points in the city by bus. This will effectively help reduce the carbon footprint, traffic congestion and strain on city infra-structure.

**Water tumblers:** You can serve drinking water in pony tumblers, or mini-sized tumblers, to reduce the wastage of drinking water through inefficient service design.

**Daylight:** At conferences, if the hall has access to daylight, use natural lighting as opposed to artificial lighting, as it not only helps save electricity, but is also healthier.

**Mementos:** If giveaways are part of the conference/banquet design, then participants can be given an organic gift – an innovative green gift that ties in with the subject of the conference will also serve to form a lasting impression.

**The spirit of giving:** On happy occasions, people tend to be liberal with their purse strings. Carefully identify NGOs whose work you want to support and seek donations for them at the event. Participants can directly send their cheques to the NGO.

**Green menu:** We can offer organic and locally procured food at the banquet to minimise your footprint and encourage healthy eating.

**Carbon credits:** Offer CO2 sequestration by offering to reduce travel footprint by collecting a small sum of money per participant, for example Rs 100/- . The money collected may be used to plant trees or build check dams, with the help of credible social development organisations. This initiative also offers the opportunity to earn WOW value, since most people are not aware of such opportunities.

**For out-station participants:** The organizer’s invitation letter could encourage participants, in a list of suggestions, to instruct the hotels in which they are staying not to change their bed sheets for 2/3 days, thereby reducing their water and energy footprint.

**Name tags:** We recommend that name tags are not covered in plastic. Participants should be requested to return the tags at the end of the conference so that they can be recycled, thereby reducing waste and material intensity of the conference.

**Online information:** Presentation material by speakers can be made available online for participants to download to reduce the output of hard copies.

**Make your own list:** These suggestions are indicative and, we hope, inspiring enough for you to draw up your own list of Green Banquet ideas.

Please feel free to add and pass on your ideas, so that the list grows and our banquets become greener and richer in their intent, for it is from an acorn that an oak tree grows.

Happy Green Banqueting!