

Planning a Sustainable Meeting or Conference at WHOI

There are many ways to make your meetings and conferences more environmentally friendly. Here are some ideas put together by the Sustainability Task Force (STF).

Serving Food:

Consider reusable or compostable silverware, plates, and cups. STF has lots of ideas to help with your planning, including caterers who use sustainable options, as well as links to purchase compostable serving products:

<https://web.whoi.edu/sustainability/initiatives/waste-recycling/recycling/sustainable-event-management/>

Composting Food Waste (and all those compostable plates!):

Black Earth Composting can pick up food and other compostable waste generated by your event. WHOI does have collection bins already on campus which you may be able to use depending on volume and timing, so this should be coordinated between WHOI Meeting Services and Black Earth: <https://intranet.whoi.edu/facilities/meeting-services/>
<https://blackearthcompost.com/>

Transportation to/from WHOI

For those not taking the bus, consider offering suggestions for carpooling or van sharing: <https://www.mass.gov/service-details/carpools-taxis-and-on-demand-ridehailing-services>, or the local Green Shuttle <https://gogreenshuttle.com/>

Electric Vehicle Charging:

WHOI has 8 EV Chargers (4 on Quissett Campus, 4 in the Village). Conference attendees with EVs can charge at these stations, but will need to set up a SemaConnect account, and become an approved member of the WHOI system to do so. Please ask that they plan ahead and do this well in advance of needing to charge, as requests aren't approved automatically or instantaneously, and they only happen during business hours. Instructions to set up an account and maps of the charging locations can be found here: <https://web.whoi.edu/sustainability/initiatives/energy-climate-change/ev-charging-stations/>

Outdoor activities:

STF has some ideas for short walks people can take from either campus. If they walk between campuses, they can always take the shuttle back! Here are maps: <https://web.whoi.edu/sustainability/initiatives/social-sustainability/meet-on-your-feet-maps/>

For people interested in more intense exercise, WHOI has a beautiful, wooded fitness trail in the area between Quissett Campus and the Oyster Pond Housing. A map and info can be found here: <https://www.whoi.edu/generalinfo/fittrail/>

Participants can enjoy the Shining Sea Bikeway by bringing their own bikes:

<https://www.railstotrails.org/trailblog/2018/july/16/beautiful-inspiration-from-sea-to-shining-sea-bikeway/>, or they can rent bikes from Corner Cycle: <https://www.cornercycle.com/about/hybrid-trailer-rentals-pg60.htm>

If your meeting happens to fall over the first Thursday of the month, and you'd like your participants to have the option of participating in the monthly lunchtime STF beach cleanup at Shore Lab Beach (a short walk from Quissett Campus), here's more info: https://web.whoi.edu/sustainability/wp-content/uploads/sites/120/2022/10/Beach_CleanUp_Oct-2022.pdf