

**Savoury's Catering at Palm Springs Convention Center
Switching to Sustainable Goods**

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"Savoury's," a popular catering service based at the Palm Springs Convention Center, is doing their part to become a Sustainable business in the City of Palm Springs by switching over to Sustainable goods.

"We have replaced all of our disposable plates, cups, utensils and to-go containers with new eco-friendly products," said Glenn Schmidt, Savoury's Catering Sales Manager.

Schmidt said some of the items they have switched to include:

- Plate ware that is all natural with no bleach, chemicals or lamination and made completely from renewable sources such as bamboo, rice and sugar cane
- Utensils, called "Spudware," that are made of potato and corn starch rather than plastic. This high-heat tolerant, bio-based cutlery is biodegradable, sustainable and durable.
- Paper cups created from fully renewable resources that are compostable and biodegradable. The insides are coated with polyactide which is a vegetable plastic with biodegradable additives making it heat resistant

Schmidt noted that Savoury's plastic containers and clear plastic cups are also manufactured using the polyactide -- as well as biopolymer made from corn that is grown in the United States.

"We are also switching over to bulk containers versus the small individual packets as well as changing our current kitchen chemicals to more natural, earth friendly brands," Schmidt said.

He added that the kitchen now recycles all cardboard boxes and that food servers no longer offer pre-filled water glasses during functions, but instead offer ice water in pitchers.

Statistics show that by doing this at lunches for groups of 1,100 people over a three-day period 260 gallons of water can be saved, according to Schmidt.

“It’s the right thing to do... and these days many of our potential clients ask us about it before signing contracts,” Schmidt said. “Just doing a little bit makes a big difference.”

He also noted that the cost of becoming a Sustainable business is going down and that Savoury’s is fully behind the City’s goals as it heads down the path to Sustainability.

During a priority session last March, the City Council chose Sustainability as one of their top five priorities for focused attention and action. Shortly thereafter, the council approved a set of 20 first steps towards making Palm Springs a Sustainable City -- and last month the council approved contracts for a Sustainable Master Plan.

As part of those 20 first steps, the City will host a Sustainability Summit Nov. 5-8, featuring a free 4 p.m. lecture on Nov. 8 from world famous environmentalist and Sustainability expert Dr. David Suzuki at Palm Springs High School.

For more information, visit the City’s Web site at www.ci.palm-springs-ca.us/

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