

# GREENING YOUR FOURTH OF JULY SOIREE WITH STYLE



Nicole Cardi, VP, Marketing & Communications at Cereplast

When it's your turn to play gracious host, invoke your inner Emily Post. A proper party caters to the occasion, and paying homage to the Heartland means protecting and preserving it. As Vice President of Marketing & Communications of Cereplast, a sustainable plastics (a.k.a. "bioplastics") manufacturer, Nicole Cardi lives and breathes Green. Cereplast uses renewable resources like corn, tapioca, potatoes, sugar, and algae to create bioplastics, a Green alternative to traditional plastics that are biodegradable, compostable and recyclable. When Nicole entertains, she focuses on two key elements: high style and low carbon footprint. Use Nicole's party planning tips to Green your Fourth of July soiree.

## Virtual Invitations, Actual Benefits:

Need another reason to skip the papery, printer, and letter opener? Sending online invitations might be the easiest part of greening a party. Evite is casual and cost-free, and Paperless Post offers a little more polish at a small price.

## Service Over Stuff:

If you want to underscore liberty with luxury, consider hiring a local sommelier to acquaint guests with nearby vineyards. Together, the North and South Forks boast almost 60 wineries. Toast to the New World with Wolfner Estate's popular Noblesse Oblige, a sparkling rose.



## Clean Green:

Chemicals have no place in eco-friendly entertaining. If you're the one scrubbing—or if you're hiring out—use %100 natural cleaning products, like the Berkley Green line.



## Everything Has a Lifecycle:

Green parties require mindful planning. Run potential purchases through a 3-step test:

1. Where did it come from?

Local ingredients should inform food and drink decisions. Try to buy fish, meat and produce from sources within biking or walking distance—actual footsteps mean lighter carbon footprints.

Take the local trend a step further: give your party some personality with a signature Fourth of July cocktail made from

local ingredients. The more specific the geographic inspiration, the quicker guests will down the drink. Sagaponack Strawberry Fizz, please!

Most likely, you'll invest in some manufactured goods—don't buy blindly! Focus on products made from plants, and not petroleum, like Cereplast Solo Bare Cups available at [buy.com](http://buy.com).

2. How am I using it?

Hosts with sustainability savoir-faire don't waste space or energy—they decorate with purpose. A little lighting can go a long way. Parse through a wide collection of solar powered lights, including string lights, lanterns, and spotlights, and festoon accordingly.

A thematic playlist, usually, hits the mark. Stream the sounds of Americana through eco-friendly speakers for a resounding reminder of the occasion. To bring patriotism alive in your table settings, offset fresh flowers with Bambeco's eco-friendly table liners, available in a series of textures and prints.



[gardenshoppingclub.com](http://gardenshoppingclub.com)



[mercuryinnovations.com](http://mercuryinnovations.com)

3. Where is it going?

Dispose of anything you're not keeping in an eco-friendly way. In the Hamptons, the real haute-horticulturists are composting. Buy a portable bin from Home Depot, like the ComposTumbler, and head over to the closest drop-off site.

Share your Green tips and ideas by visiting "Cereplast" on Facebook. Or, email Nicole Cardi at [greentips@cereplast.com](mailto:greentips@cereplast.com).