Green Wedding Party
How to Plan an Eco-friendly Wedding Party

Students:
張祐婷  Zoe  0961417049
李慈英  Claire  0961417019
曾思瑜  Naomi  0961417051

Advisor:
Professor Alex Liou (劉煌城)

Department of Applied English, Yuanpei University
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Zoe, Claire, Naomi
Abstract

Recently, environmental deterioration and resources depletion have become a global issue. On TV news we often see how celebrities compete with each other to show luxurious wedding parties. That really hurts the idea of the motto, “simplicity” and that really cause endless waste. We assume that having a green wedding party will contribute more or less to environmental protection and resource conservation. We made a comparative study between the traditional wedding party and a green wedding party. Also we conducted an e-survey to estimate people’s attitudes toward green weddings. Then, we collected the data and showed the findings by statistical pie charts after analyzing the data. We find that most respondents support the idea of a more economic and eco-friendly wedding party.

We all know that wedding is one of the special things in our life, but saving the earth and keeping better life have turned to be major concerns of both scientists and humanists. The great way to make your wedding more memorable is to set the goal of a green wedding. Just follow three things: First, reduce the use of non-renewable resources. Second, reuse and repurpose things for your wedding. Third, recycle products when possible. Practice these tips, you could reach your environmentally conscience wedding goal.

Key words: resource conservation, simplicity, e-survey, 3-R.
Introduction

More recently with the increase deterioration of environment caused by human destruction, we have seen serious problems of consuming time, energy, resources and emitting too much co2 for the occasion. In recent years we have seen increased attention being manage a green wedding, our team members intend to manage a green wedding party that may reduce the waste of resources, time, and energy on special occasions in Taiwan. Take a Taiwanese traditional wedding as an example, the bride and groom will be as busy as bees in order to prepare their wedding. It seems that there are more than millions of items waiting for them to complete before wedding party, such as the invitation, the decoration of the party, the wedding gowns, and then the luxurious banquet with more than ten dishes. Can you imagine how much resources will be waste? In response to this trend, planning a wedding is now an environmental affair, and green weddings offer couples the opportunity to celebrate a wedding while respecting the earth. Let’s learn how to plan a green wedding.

Purpose of Study

The main purpose of our project is to determine how to organize a green wedding party in order to develop an eco-friendly society. So we designed a green wedding party which emphasizes meaningful activities but not wasting resources and time or causing serious pollution.
Literature Review

Mireya Navarro advocates, “Environmentally conscious couples are often appalled by the cumulative carbon footprint of traditional weddings and are seeking ways of expressing their earth-friendly values as they express their love. Green Wedding shows there are smart alternatives — products and services as well as planning decisions — that can reduce environmental harm while ensuring a joyous, memorable and stylish celebration.”

When high-school sweethearts Alicia Gomer and Mark Wittink got engaged in December 2001, they pledged that their wedding would reflect their commitment to ecological issues. Gomer, who is working on an M.S. in environmental science policy, and Wittink, a project director at the Resource Conservation Alliance in Washington, D.C., were "shocked at the lack of green options in wedding planning. We had no idea what a consumptive, high-impact industry weddings can be," Gomer says.

About 2.4 million couples get married every year in the U.S., at an average cost of $20,000 per wedding, generating total revenues of some $70 billion, according to theknot.com, an online wedding resource. "Since you'll probably spend more on your wedding than any other single expenditure except your car or home, it's a chance to support and open markets for local, organic, recycled, and recyclable goods," says Eric Brown, communications director for the Center for a New American Dream. Michelle Kozin, founder of Organicweddings.com, a full-service, green-wedding-planning company, agrees. "You have a captive audience you can influence with your choices," she says.

When selecting a venue and caterer, Kozin recommends:
• Consider supporting a location and/or a nonprofit organization that’s already interested in or dedicated to green causes: parks, museums, or retreat centers, for example.

• Rather than having everyone come to you, consider choosing a venue close to where the majority of your guests live. This will help cut down on the environmental costs associated with travel.

• For the same reason, hold the ceremony and reception at the same venue and help your guests arrange carpools.

• If you're looking at a hotel, inn, or restaurant, ask if the food director will cater to your organic and local wishes. If not, ask if you can bring in your own caterer, baker (Gomer's is a family friend), and wine purveyor.

• Choose organic fresh flowers. Seek out a local provider.

• Decorate with fruits or greenery.

• For more information on choosing environmentally friendly flowers.

For more and more couples, getting married provides a natural time to vow to treat the planet, as well as one's spouse, with respect and love. "A wedding is a time of hope for the newlyweds," Gomer says. "Why shouldn't it be that for the environment, too?"

The British wedding gives off 14.5 tons of carbon—on just that one day. To put that in perspective: The highest per capita carbon footprint in America belongs to Lexington, Kentucky, at 3.81 tons—so one U.K. wedding gives off as much carbon as the annual output of more than four people in Lexington. (Planet Green)

Marriage is one of the few things that haven’t changed much over the past couple of generations, and one thing we don’t stop to think about is how much it costs to have a
wedding not in dollars but in social and environmental damage. A gold diamond ring? Very pretty, but mining for gold is one of the most environmentally hazardous of human occupations, releasing toxic chemicals into the surroundings as its ore is removed from the ground. And diamonds, from places like Sierra Leone, have become so closely associated with war, smuggling, and other conflict that the phrase blood diamonds is now familiar.

Luckily, there are plenty of alternatives out there (you can buy or ask for a vintage ring, for example, which is way cooler than a new one anyway). If you are planning a wedding, here are a few simple ways to change it up and get married consciously and in style. The Ring, The dress, The invitations, The food, The flowers, The honeymoon. (The Eco-Friendly Wedding Planner).

**Methodology**

**Research Design**

We would like to know students’ viewpoints about green weddings, so we interviewed students at the DAE and designed a survey using an on-line questionnaire that was distributed to the students of the DAE; then we collected data and did the analysis to find out possible answers to our research questions.

**Participants**

The respondents to the survey were students at the Department of Applied English at YPU. Of these respondents, 21 were male and 79 were female.
Results

Data Collection and Data Analysis

(Table 1)

Have you ever attended a traditional wedding party?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Yes</th>
<th>No</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Percentage</td>
<td>91%</td>
<td>9%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

From the results, we know that most of these respondents, more than 91% have attended a traditional wedding, only 9% haven’t attended a traditional wedding. The high percentage shows that it is quite popular for people in Taiwan to host the traditional party instead of the green wedding party.

(Table 2)

Do you like the complicated ceremony of traditional weddings.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Strongly Like</th>
<th>Like</th>
<th>Neutral</th>
<th>Dislike</th>
<th>Strongly Dislike</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Percentage</td>
<td>18%</td>
<td>12%</td>
<td>41%</td>
<td>25%</td>
<td>4%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

41% participants hold neutral about the traditional weddings. Moreover, the other 51% participants were mixed. 29% of participants said they like the complicated ceremony of traditional weddings but 30% of participants didn’t like. To gain further information, the study group interviewed some of the participants and found that most people attend
the wedding for the feast, but not for the ceremony.

In table 1 and 2 we can see the respondents’ opinions about traditional weddings. Compared with those respondents of “Strongly Dislike” and “Dislike” (30%) from Table 2, more than half of the respondents (70%) still enjoy a traditional wedding. That’s why we need to encourage people to manage a green wedding.

(Table 3)

The result appeared that 85% of participants agreed to have a cocktail party which can avoid wasting too much food. 12% think neutral about this view, and only 3% disagreed to have a cocktail party; they still like a banquet.
The result shows that 44% of participants strongly agreed that eating less meat can help land conservation. 37% agreed and 19% of participants didn’t care about it.

Most of the participants (93%) thought that having organic food is helpful to environmental protection, and 7% thought neutral. Still, the study group interviewed some of the participants about the organic food. Most of the interviewees didn’t think that there is clear standard for organic food.
The result shows that 43% of participants strongly agreed that serving fewer dishes will be good for the guests and the host, 46% were agree, 9% were neutral and only 1% were disagree, also 1% of participants shows that they’re strongly disagree with that. Clearly, there are usually excessive foods, drinks, and refreshments served on the banquet. Though guests will carry away heavy doggy bags after the feast, the participants treated it a waste of foods and a burden to the host. From the “Food Parts”, it is clear that in Table 3 and Table 6, many people feel there are usually excessive foods, drinks, and refreshments served at wedding banquets. Though guests often carry away heavy doggy bags after such feasts, the participants treat it as a waste of food and a burden to the host. It also hurts our health.
More than 95% of the participants were “agree” or “strongly agreed” with the statement that using local food for the party will lower carbon footprint, and 7% were neutral. This is a trend for young people to care for the carbon emission and the environmental conservation.

(Table 8)

The result shows most of the participants agreed that driving less; walking or riding a bike or sharing a ride to the wedding party will save some energy. Only few of them show indifference to the consumption of gas, 7% were neutral, 1% disagrees and 1% strongly disagrees.

(Table 9)

According to this result, most all of the participants (91%) consented to use less
electricity for decoration. Some of the participants (6%) were neutral but there were 3% of the participants were disagreeing and strongly disagree with the idea.

(Table 10)

The pie chart shows that more than half (53%) of the participants strongly agreed with the idea of “stop using disposable products,” 37% were agree, still 1% was strongly disagree, and 9% has no comment. Therefore, it should be polite to use one’s own chopsticks, spoons, and forks on banquets.

(Table 11)

This chart indicates that the major part (51%) of the participants was favorable to have a
local honeymoon, 16% of the participants still advocated the international honeymoon, and 33% thought neutral about it.

(Table 12)

About 67% of the participants believed that using E-invitation helps the management of the party and save much paper; still 11% of the participants disagreed with this way of sending the wedding invitation.

(Table 13)

More than 73% of participants supported the proposal that a suitable married team can manage provincial resources and save time. Only 24% thought neutral view; and 3%
disagree with this proposal.

(Table 14)

![Pie chart showing responses to Buy or rent used wedding dresses.]

Approximately 72% of the participants were strongly agree and agree, and the remaining participants were across neutral (18%), disagree (8%), and strongly disagree (2%). By “Reduce Parts”, the results by Table 7 and Table 8 indicate a trend that most young people do care about co/Co2 emissions and environmental conservation.

(Table 15)

![Pie chart showing responses to After this questionnaire, do you agree that green wedding is helpful for environment protection?]

Overall, the results have been very positive. Most of participants agree that green
wedding is helpful for environmental protection.

(Table 16)

Significantly, up to 80% of the participants reveal that they are willing to plan their wedding party by the idea of green. Still 20% participants can’t accept green wedding.
CONCLUSION

With evolving environmental concerns, more and more couples are choosing eco-friendly weddings for their special days. So “How to have an environmentally friendly green wedding?” is the main purpose in this study. In comparison with the complicated ceremony of traditional weddings, we found that traditional weddings waste many resources.

We designed an on-line survey for the students at DAE; the goal of this survey was to understand whether these participants’ would accept green weddings. We think that they will have a better understanding of green weddings after they respond to this survey. After collecting the data from the on-line questionnaire, we found three key points concerning about planning of a green wedding:

1.) The respondents’ attitude toward a green wedding is positive.
2.) Reducing the waste of energy, time, and resources is quite practical.
3.) A green wedding can be the core value of marriage not the feast.

By these three points, we find that it is possible to make a green wedding prevail based on the eco-friendly principle. Actually, planning an eco-friendly wedding is easier than you think!
Reference


Appendix

How to Manage a Green Wedding

Author: 張祐婷

We are going to do a case study of “How to manage a green wedding party.” We'd like to know your viewpoints about the traditional weddings and the green wedding parties. Please take some time to fill out this questionnaire, and we hope you to answer truly. Your opinions provided will be of great use, thanks.

各位學弟學妹大家好！我們正在作一份關於“如何規劃一場環保婚禮”研究報告：而我們想知道你/妳對於傳統行婚禮以及環保婚禮的觀點。麻煩各位花一些時間填寫以下問卷，你/妳的意見對我們來說是很有幫助的唷！謝謝！

Personal background:

1* Age: 年齡
   ○ Under18 ○ 19~25 ○ 26~35 ○ Up 35

2* Gender: 性別
   ○ Male 男性 ○ Female 女性

3* Marital status: 婚姻狀態
   ○ Single 未婚 ○ Married 已婚

The viewpoints about traditional wedding:
4* Have you ever attended a traditional wedding party?
是/否，你曾參加過傳統型態的婚禮嗎？
☐ Yes ☐ No

5* Do you like the complicated ceremony of traditional weddings?
是/否，你喜歡傳統型婚禮的複雜儀式嗎？
☐ Strongly Like 非常喜歡
☐ Like 喜歡
☐ Neutral 普通
☐ Dislike 不喜歡
☐ Strongly Dislike 非常不喜歡

Food parts:

Change our consuming method and lifestyle can help save the environment. Read the following suggestions. Do you think they are possible?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Suggestion</th>
<th>Strongly Agree 非常同意</th>
<th>Agree 同意</th>
<th>Neutral 普通</th>
<th>Disagree 反對</th>
<th>Strongly Disagree 非常反對</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>6* Use local food for the party will low carbon footprint. (That can reduce co2 emission). 使用當地食材可以達到低碳足跡的效果（可以減少 co2 的產生）</td>
<td>☐</td>
<td>☐</td>
<td>☐</td>
<td>☐</td>
<td>☐</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7* Have a cocktail (tea) party instead of a banquet. 舉行茶會式的婚禮派對好過流水席</td>
<td>☐</td>
<td>☐</td>
<td>☐</td>
<td>☐</td>
<td>☐</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8* Eat less meat can help land conservation. 少吃肉類食物可助於環境保護</td>
<td>☐</td>
<td>☐</td>
<td>☐</td>
<td>☐</td>
<td>☐</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
| 9* | Use the organic food.  
使用有機食材 |
|---|---|
| 10* | Serve fewer dishes (no more than 12) will be good for both the guests and the host.  
供應適量佳餚(不超過12道) |

### Reduce parts:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Strongly Agree</th>
<th>Agree</th>
<th>Neutral</th>
<th>Disagree</th>
<th>Strongly Disagree</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>
| 11* | Drive less, walk or ride your bike to the wedding party?  
Or sharing a car pool can use less energy.  
少開車；多走路，騎乘腳踏車或是和朋友共乘一輛車能助於減少能源用量 |
| 12* | Use less electricity, like neon lights for decoration.  
減少電力使用，例如可以省去霓虹燈的裝飾 |
| 13* | Stop using disposable products.  
不使用免洗類的餐具 |
| 14* | Have a local honeymoon instead of an international honeymoon.  
蜜月旅行的地點選擇本地景點而非外國觀光地 |
| 15* | Send an e-invitation can help the management of the party.  
發送電子邀請函能助於派對的管理 |
### The viewpoints about green wedding:

18* After this questionnaire, do you agree that green wedding is helpful for environmental protection?
做完這份問卷後，你/妳同意規劃環保婚禮對環境保護是有幫助的嗎？
- [ ] Strongly Agree 非常同意
- [ ] Agree 同意
- [ ] Neutral 普通
- [ ] Disagree 反對
- [ ] Strongly Disagree 非常反對

19 Are you willing to plan a green wedding party of your own wedding?
請問你有意願將自己未來的婚禮規劃成環保婚禮嗎？
- [ ] Yes
- [ ] No

Questions with '*' sign must be answered

Thank You

--End--
