



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
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### **Sustainable Buzz: First Tampa Event to Receive Zero-Waste Certification**

TAMPA, FL – The Sustany Foundation’s 11<sup>th</sup> Annual Sustainable Buzz event, held on November 15<sup>th</sup> at the Straz Center for the Performing Arts Riverwalk, is the first public event in Tampa to achieve the official Zero-waste event certification.

According to Suncoast Composting, the organization that awards the certification, the Sustainable Buzz achieved 92% waste diversion. A minimum of 90% is needed to be a certified event.

“Zero-waste was part of our goal from the beginning,” said The Sustany Foundation’s Executive Director, Lorrie Belovich. “Part of our mission is to support environmental stewardship so we needed to lead by example with our own event.”

“For an event with 40 food and beverage vendors and close to 600 attendees, this was quite an accomplishment,” said Hillsborough County Commissioner Pat Kemp. “It shows what we can accomplish with the right mind-set, determination and partnerships.”

During the event, all waste including liquids, was collected and sorted into recyclables, compost or trash at staffed collection points. At the end of the evening, everything was measured, weighed, analyzed and processed accordingly.

According to Belovich, they formed what can only be described as a zero-waste dream team. They contacted Auburn Supply Group, a local supplier of 100% compostable plates, cups, etc. and Suncoast Composting for on-site collection and education. Together they consulted with all vendors in advance to provide helpful hints on how to reduce waste during the event.

“Our initial focus was to have a zero-waste event, said Andrea Cheney, President of the Board, “but there were so many great conversations and relationships forged that we see the efforts and impact extending far beyond the event.”

To learn more about the Sustany Foundation, the Sustainable Buzz event or the zero-waste initiative, please visit [www.sustany.org](http://www.sustany.org) or email [info@sustany.org](mailto:info@sustany.org).

**About The Sustany Foundation:** Founded in 2007 as a 501(c)(3), The Sustany Foundation is dedicated to improving the quality of life in Tampa Bay by advancing sustainability efforts in the region. The Sustany Foundation is committed to building partnerships, sharing information and supporting initiatives that protect, preserve and encourage responsible use of our natural resources.