

# RECYCLING AT EVENTS

## Information for Event Organisers in Northern NSW



### What to RECYCLE

What you can recycle will depend largely on what facilities are available in your area. Ring your local council to find out. The table below is a guide to what can be recycled in most council areas.

| MATERIAL            | RECYCLABLE  | NON RECYCLABLE  |
|---------------------|---|---|
| Paper and cardboard | Milk/Juice cartons; Cardboard boxes<br>Paper coffee & juice cups; Magazines<br>Newspapers   | Waxed fruit boxes; Soiled cardboard<br>Soiled paper; Foil lined cartons |
| Plastics *          | Soft drink bottles; Water bottles<br>Juice bottles; Plastic milk bottles<br>Coffee Cup Lids | Straws; Plastic bags; Polystyrene<br>Cling wrap                         |
| Steel               | Food cans; Aerosol cans; Jar lids<br>Coffee tins  |   |
| Aluminium           | Drink cans; Clean foil wrap<br>Clean foil trays   | Soiled foil / foil trays<br>Foil/paper food bags                        |
| Glass               | Bottles; Jars   | Ceramics; Light bulbs; Pyrex;<br>Mirrors                                |

\*Most councils now collect all types of plastic (except for polystyrene & plastics bags/wrap).

### RECYCLING Systems at Events

This will depend on a variety of factors including: the type of event; crowd size; type of products being sold and what you are targeting for recovery. Use your knowledge of these factors to design a suitable system. As a minimum, most events generally target the following:

- Public Areas – glass & plastic drink containers, aluminium cans and paper cups;
- Back of House (stall holder areas) – all of the above plus cardboard in a separate cardboard skip.

### Bin Signage

Keep bins and signage simple, clearly visible and consistent so that they are easy to recognise and interpret. Standard bin lid colours are:

- ✓ YELLOW for RECYCLING
- ✓ RED for WASTE
- ✓ LIME GREEN for ORGANICS
- ✓ BLUE for CARDBOARD/PAPER



Standard signage can be downloaded from: [www.environment.nsw.gov.au/wastewiseevents/](http://www.environment.nsw.gov.au/wastewiseevents/)

### Minimising Contamination

Contamination must be kept to a minimum (generally less than 10% by volume) in the recycling bins or it can not be recovered and will have to go to landfill instead.

Common contaminants of recycling bins are:

- ✗ Non-recyclable plastics e.g. plastic bags & wrap, straws, polystyrene food packaging;
- ✗ Food organics & food contaminated paper.



Guidelines circulated to all stall holders, that rule out or minimise the use of non recyclable products will greatly reduce contamination, as will the introduction of an organics collection system if feasible.

### Bin Strategy

A good bin strategy is the key to successful recycling and minimum contamination. An effective bin plan ensures that:

- Bins are arranged identically through out the event site to encourage consistent & correct use;
- Bins are positioned in a station with a recycling bin **always** next to a waste bin;
- Bins are positioned no more than 15m apart and are visible from the next one;
- As a general rule place bins near entry / exit points, close to toilets/facilities, at the intersection of pathways;
- Place more bins in areas where food is likely to be consumed & purchased;
- Consider access needs of children, people with disabilities, service providers and collection services;
- Empty bins before they are full to discourage people from using the wrong bin;
- The site is clean and tidy as a clean site encourages correct bin use;
- Have a waste manager or volunteer to co-ordinate emptying & checking bins.

### Compostable Materials

Food and food contaminated paper packaging constitutes between 30-60% of the waste at most events. At some events it may be possible to collect organics for composting or worm farming. Research it carefully before proceeding and talk to council about what options are available in your area.

### Why RECYCLE?

- Creates a positive image for your event
- Provides savings in disposal and production costs
- Conserves resources and the environment for present and future generations
- Reduces environmental impacts
- Changes purchasing and consumption patterns
- Creates employment and supports the growth of the recycling industry and the market for recycled content products.

### How Council Can Help

Contact Waste Services at your Local Council to:

- Provide dedicated event recycling and waste bins fitted with rosette lids and locks to reduce the contamination of recyclables;
- Deliver and service recycling and waste bins for a competitive rate;
- Borrow Waste Wise Event signage and a banner to promote recycling facilities;
- Give you advice on waste minimisation and avoidance strategies;
- Help you locate waste contractors and or sources for recyclables;
- Provide information on composting organics from events;
- Hire council's waste education trailer to help promote waste avoidance & recycling facilities.

### Useful Waste Wise Links

[www.northeastwasteforum.org.au](http://www.northeastwasteforum.org.au) – go to the Waste Wise Events section on the home page

[www.environment.nsw.gov.au/warr/ww\\_e\\_home.htm](http://www.environment.nsw.gov.au/warr/ww_e_home.htm) - Dept of Environment, Climate Change & Water (DECCW) Waste Wise Event Resources

[www.recyclingnearyou.com](http://www.recyclingnearyou.com) – to search for local recycling information by council area or product.

### Waste Wise Events Project Contact

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