

Waste free *event*

Aiming for a waste free festival or event does not only benefit the environment through less littering and landfill. The sustainable use of resources and an exemplary waste management provide a cleaner experience for the visitors, reduce clean-up costs and landfill charges, meet the community's environmental expectation and lead the way in good practices, influencing people's awareness, behaviour and commitment.

Success lies in the *planning*

The success of a waste free event lies in the planning. When advertising the event make the philosophy clear and state what you expect from attendees (e.g. bringing your own water bottle, taking your rubbish home or no smoking). Communicate with stallholders and contractors at an early stage about your waste free policy, what products and materials are permitted and what disposal behaviour is expected from them. Incorporate a specific waste management clause in the contract and inform them that a breach of the agreement might affect their invitation to future events.



Waste free *eating*

Say no to all single use plastic and foam items such as straws, disposable cups, plates and cutlery but also bottled water, condiment sachets and containers, and embrace creative alternatives to serve food:

Only "compostable" products will break down into organic matter in the right conditions. The term "(bio)degradable" is often **green washing** for products that might fall apart, but still release toxic substances into the environment.

"Rent-a-plate": Charge a deposit for real plates and cutlery. The dishes then get returned to a washing station for a refund of the deposit. Offer condiments in **bulk dispensers** and provide **water refill stations**.



If it has to be single use provide finger food just with a napkin or on a piece of cardboard. Explore the wide range of compostable cups and containers (e.g. paper or corn starch) or edible bowls made from wafers or grains and husks. Even a stack of cabbage leaves can hold a risotto or curry! No end to creativity.



*Bin*rastructure

Effective placement and management of bins and recycling options are crucial for a litter free event. Make sure signage provides clear information of bin locations and what to recycle. Place bins every 3-14 m near eating, drinking and smoking areas, toilets, entrances and exits. If necessary adapt their location during the event and keep them clean to encourage usage. Since litter attracts litter, pick up trash to maintain a well presented festival ground.

Food for *thought*

The amount of food required is often overestimated. To avoid over catering and food going to waste brief caterers and stall holders about the expected attendance of the event. Make sure the pricing is appropriate and various types of food are covered to make the range appealing to the visitors and left overs less likely. If possible donate left overs to charities.



Other *green solutions*

Avoid promotional give-aways and encourage the use of recycled products from event t-shirts to paper products. Promote the use of reusable weatherproof and adaptable banners, stands and signs that last years, and offer entry discounts for participants travelling with alternative transportation to the event.