

Waste Wise Events Project – Case Study Casino Beef Week Festival 2010

The Event

Casino Beef Week Festival is an annual regional country show, which took place this year from Sat 22nd May until Tues 1st June.



The main events took place on Sat 29th including the cattle competition, show 'n' shine car show, art and craft exhibition, wood chopping, whip cracking and the grand parade. The Family Fun day was held on Sun 30th at the Casino Village with markets, camp oven meals, kid's rides, a visit from Dr Harry and live music.

Casino Beef Week Saturday and Family Fun Day participated in the NEWF 'Waste Wise Event' program.

Outcomes & Opportunities

A Waste Wise Management Plan was developed which focused primarily on the reduction of non-recyclable packaging waste and the separation of recyclable items.

Outcomes for the event included:

- An estimated 27% of the total waste was recycled;
- Contamination in the recycling stream at Saturday's events was significantly lower than last year. This may be due to the new high visibility bin signage, the use of more bins, greater public awareness (RVC's kerbside recycling service is now operating) or a combination of factors;
- The massive diversion from landfill of 120 cubic meters of organics (animal waste & sawdust) from the cattle competition, composted at a local farm resulting in savings in landfill disposal costs, reduced environmental impacts from not landfilling & free compost for the farmer;
- A reduction in the use of aluminium foil food packaging but no noticeable reduction in the use of styrofoam;
- The opportunity to reduce future landfill waste disposal costs and save valuable resources by further minimising waste and improving the separation of recyclables (*refer to 'What Next with Waste' section below*);
- Event organisers now have the awareness and capacity to conduct a 'waste wise' event (following two years participating in the NEWF 'Waste Wise Event' program). The opportunity exists at future Beef Week Festivals to demonstrate their commitment, by continuing to improve waste minimisation, recycling and so event sustainability.

The Challenge

The amount of waste generated at community / public events can be significant (1 L / per/day), creating an unpleasant mess and substantial clean up costs for event organisers and councils.

The north coast is host to over 300 annual events and more than 40 regular weekly & monthly markets. With many events attracting visitor numbers from the thousands to the tens of thousands the disposal of waste constitutes a major problem for councils. Many events in the region present unique challenges by attracting many visitors from outside the region.



What Next with Waste?

Recommendations to improve future event waste outcomes:

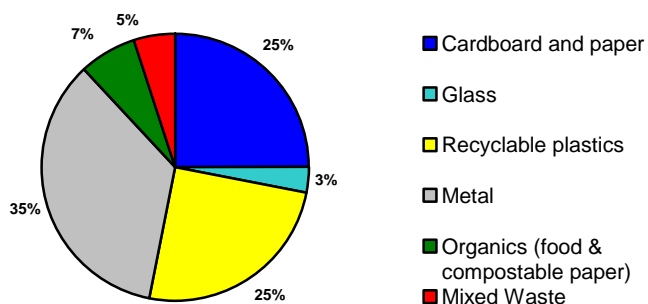
- Raise 'Waste Wise' profile by improving promotion via online registration, website advertising, public announcements during the event & increased public endorsement by Beef Week representatives;
- Nominate a Waste Co-ordinator to take responsibility for implementing the waste management plan;
- Avoid the use of single garbage bins in favour of waste / recycle bin stations only;
- Provide guidelines to food & drink vendors requiring them to use recyclable or biodegradable packaging only;
- Provide smaller more convenient cardboard bins for stall holders, to avoid disposal in the waste bins;
- Continue the environmentally sound practice of recycling organic waste from the cattle competition & promote as a major part of the event's waste minimisation strategy;
- Request that 'show bags' are low waste content & given out conservatively to reduce wastage;
- Discourage the selling of low quality disposable type toys.

Results

An estimated total of 7880 litres of waste & recyclables were generated at the Casino Beef Week Festival on Sat 29 & Sun 30 May. Overall an estimated **27%** or 2110 litres (excluding animal organics) were diverted from landfill and sent for recycling. Saturday's results were a significant improvement on Beef Week 2009, when higher contamination resulted in most of the recycling being landfilled. Family Fun Day at Casino Village Resort on Sunday was not so successful. Due to contamination in the recycling bins only 350 litres or 15% of the waste generated on the day was diverted.

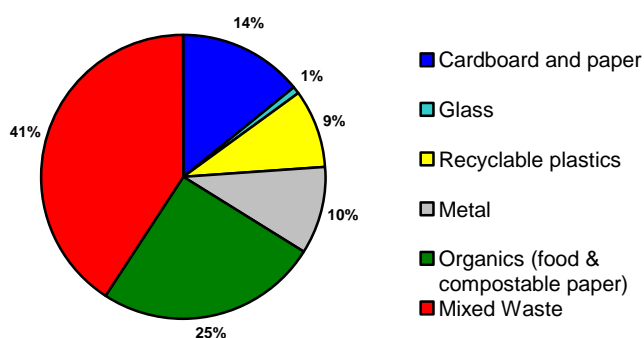
Recycling Bins (Saturday)

Drink cans were the main component of the recycling bins, followed by a similar proportion of cardboard and recyclable plastic drink containers. The contamination level (organics & mixed waste) at less than 12% was just acceptable ensuring the contents were diverted from landfill and recycled.



Waste Bins (Saturday)

34% of the waste stream was potentially recyclable & if placed in the correct bin could have resulted in a total diversion of waste from landfill of up to 52%.



Background

The North East Waste Forum (NEWF) is a collective of local councils working together to help avoid and reduce waste going to landfill in the Northern NSW region. The forum provides support for participating local Councils, as well as advice and information to businesses and the general community in managing waste and how best to implement the sustainable practices that reduce waste generation and promote the recovery of recyclable resources.

The Waste Wise Events (WWE) Project was initiated by NEWF in Oct 06 and focuses on reducing waste to landfill by implementing Waste Wise Management Plans (WWMP's). So far over 20 Waste Wise events have been organised across the region, including agricultural, sporting, family, food & music festivals with crowds ranging from 2,000 to 38,000.

Waste Wise Management Plan

A Waste Wise Management Plan incorporates waste avoidance & recycling objectives into each stage of the event planning, sets achievable targets and assigns roles & responsibilities.

Targets set for this event included:

Packaging:

- Requesting all stall holders to minimise packaging and for those serving food/drinks to use only recyclable or biodegradable packaging (not aluminium or styrofoam);

Promotion of waste minimisation & recycling:

- Guidelines outlining packaging requirements & recycling facilities provided to the Event Coordinator for circulation to registered vendors;
- Promotion via official website, pre-event media release, council's 'Waste Wise Event' banners, new high visibility signage on bins & a regular PA announcement during the event.

Recovery Targets:

- Recycle bins: plastic & glass bottles, aluminum cans, milk and juice cartons;
- Recycle skips: cardboard boxes & clean paper;
- Organics: cattle waste & sawdust;

Equipment & Bin Management

- 30 bin stations - 1 yellow skirt/lidded recycling bin & 1 red skirt/lidded waste bin (Sat only);
- 10 extra waste bins & 21 street bins (Sat only);
- 2 x 15m³ cardboard skips (Sat only);
- 16 bin stations as above (Sun only);
- Monitor stall holders at start of event to ensure they are aware of the recycling facilities and how to use correctly.



Contacts

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