

AVOIDING WASTE AT EVENTS

Information for Event Organisers In Northern NSW



What is a WASTE WISE EVENT?

A waste wise event is one that takes responsibility for Waste Management by adopting sound purchasing and packaging policies, waste and recycling collection services and clean up practices.

Why AVOID Waste?

If you can AVOID creating waste in the first place then you can AVOID having to dispose of it to landfill, which not only costs a lot of money but creates air and water pollution and wastes valuable resources.

Benefits of Avoiding Waste:

- Provides savings in disposal and production costs
- Creates a positive image for your event
- Reduces litter at your event
- Conserves resources
- Reduces environmental impacts
- Changes behaviour by changing purchasing and consumption patterns
- Conserves the environment for present and future generations



How EVENT ORGANISERS can AVOID Waste

- Develop guidelines for stall holders that outline what materials are acceptable and unacceptable at your event
- Gain commitment to your guidelines from stall holders and take steps to reinforce them
- Make your event a plastic bag free zone
- Only print materials that are necessary
- Help stall holders to provide services for washing plates, cups & cutlery
- Offer discounts to stall holders that use reusable containers/cups/utensils
- Promote your waste avoidance message through media releases and in event advertisements that focus on your waste reduction targets
- Use public announcements at regular intervals during the event to promote your re-use, recycling and disposal facilities
- Use clear bin signage, consistent with NSW Department of Environment, Climate Change & Water signage & colours
- Standard signage can be download from the DECCW website: <http://www.environment.nsw.gov.au/warr/RecyclingSigns.htm>



Promotional Ideas for WASTE AVOIDANCE

- sell or distribute re-usable water bottles, stainless steel travel mugs or tin cups
- sell or distribute calico bags
- Consider printing the items with your event logo to promote your event &/or include a message about waste avoidance.



How STALL HOLDERS can AVOID Waste

Avoiding waste requires us to change practices which create waste unnecessarily. The table below outlines some of the ways in which stall holders can avoid or minimise waste at events.

AVOID	ALTERNATIVES
Non-recyclable plastics	Re-useable items. Use recyclable Plastics*
Coffee cup lids	Provide only on request
Individual sugar, salt & pepper, sauce sachets	Provide bulk shakers or bulk dispensers
All Polystyrene including clam shells, plates, bowls & cups	Use cardboard clams, plates, bowls, cups**, paper bags. Offer on a serviette.
Aluminium foil trays / plates	As above
Pre wrapped straws	Keep in covered dispenser. Provide only on request
Plastic stirrers or spoons for hot drinks	Provide only on request. Provide re-washable spoons for use at stall.
Polystyrene boxes	Ask suppliers for cardboard boxes
Plastic bags	Ask customers to bring own bag or sell calico bags

* **Recyclable Plastics**- Check with your local council to find out which plastics can be recycled.

** **Paper Coffee Cups**- generally have an inner lining of around 5% plastic but are still acceptable for recycling as paper/cardboard.

BIODEGRADABLE Packaging Alternatives

If an event is providing bins for the collection of food organics for composting (including compostable packaging) then stall holders can help by using biodegradable packaging alternatives such as those in the table below:

NON BIODEGRADABLE PACKAGING	BIODEGRADABLE ALTERNATIVE
Plastic plate or takeaway container	Paper or sugarcane plate; Palm leaf plate; Paper noodle box; Cardboard food tray; Cornstarch container
Polystyrene / plastic cup	Paper cup (cold drinks); Sugarcane cup (for cold and hot drinks)
Plastic cutlery	Wooden or cornstarch cutlery
Aluminium food bags	Cardboard tray or paper bag
Cling Wrap	Cellophane Wrap (made from cellulose)
Plastic Bags	Cornstarch bags

For local suppliers of biodegradable packaging check out the 'Biodegradable Packaging Options' list www.northeastwasteforum.org.au go to 'Waste Wise Events' & then 'Information for Stallholders'.

How Your Local Council can Help

Council has recycling, waste bins and a waste wise banner available for use at public events that adopt 'Waste Wise' practices. The NEWF Website also has a range of tools and guidelines to help you plan your Waste Wise event.

Useful Waste Wise Links

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

Dept of Environment, Climate Change & Water (DECCW) - Waste Wise Event Resources



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