

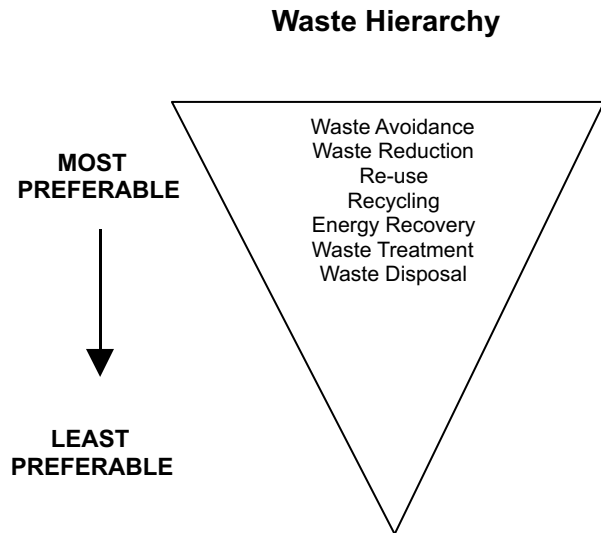
Why AVOID Waste?

Disposing of waste to landfill not only costs a lot of money, it is a waste of resources and pollutes the environment. Did you know that it takes up to 100 years for an aluminium can to breakdown in landfill, a glass bottle one million years and plastic bottles indefinitely?

(Issues in Society: Recycling (1999), "Major Types of Rubbish", Spinney Press, Vol 114)

Avoiding waste:

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



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.

Where to go for more information

There is plenty of information available for event organisers that want to go 'Waste Wise' and reduce the amount of waste produced at their event. Try the following websites:

www.northeastwasteforum.org.au – go to the Waste Wise Events section on the home page

www.environment.nsw.gov.au/wastewiseevents/ NSW Government Waste Wise Event Resources

www.sustainability.vic.gov.au – go to the waste wise section under 'Our Programs' on the home page

Waste Wise Events Project

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AVOID WASTE at EVENTS



Information for Event Organisers in Northern NSW



How **STALL HOLDERS** can **AVOID** Waste

Avoiding waste requires us to change some of our habits which create waste unnecessarily. The table below outlines some of the practices stall holders can change to help avoid waste at events.

AVOID	ALTERNATIVES
Straws	Provide on request Use paper straws
Pre wrapped straws	Keep straws in covered dispenser
Individual sugar/salt/pepper sachets	Provide bulk shakers
Individual tomato, chilli or soya sauce sachets	Provide bulk dispensers
Non-recyclable plastic folks, plates and cups	Check out table opposite for a range of biodegradable alternatives
Polystyrene boxes	Ask suppliers for cardboard boxes
Plastic bags	Ask customers to bring own bags OR use calico or cornstarch based bags
Cling wrap	Cellophane wrap *
Non-recyclable plastics	Re-useable items Recyclable Plastics (check with your local council)
Coffee cup lids	Provide only on request
Plastic stirrers or spoons for hot drinks	Re-washable cutlery Wooden stirrer

*Cellophane wrap is made from cellulose, which breaks down in a hot compost.

BIODEGRADABLE Packaging Alternatives

COMMON PACKAGING ITEM	RECYCLABLE OR BIODEGRADABLE ALTERNATIVE
Plastic plate	Paper plate Palm leaf plate Paper noodle box Cardboard food tray
Polystyrene cup	Paper cup (cold drinks) Sugarcane cup (for cold and hot drinks)
Plastic takeaway containers	Paper or sugarcane plate Palm leaf plate Paper noodle box Cardboard food tray
Plastic cutlery	Wooden or cornstarch cutlery
Aluminium food bags	Use Cardboard tray or paper bag

For local suppliers of Biodegradable Packaging check out products and suppliers list on the North East Waste Forum Website www.northeastwasteforum.org.au – go to the Waste Wise Events section on the home page.

How **EVENT ORGANISERS** can **AVOID** Waste

- Only print materials that are necessary
- Develop guidelines for stall holders that outline what materials are acceptable and unacceptable at your event
- Gain commitment from stall holders to your guidelines and reinforce them.
- Make your event a plastic bag free zone
- Help stall holders to provide services for washing plates, cups & cutlery
- Offer discounts to stall holders that use reusable container/cup/utensils
- Promote your waste avoidance message using PA systems, in advertising & promotion

Promotional Ideas for Waste Avoidance

- sell or distribute re-usable cups & plates
- give away calico bags
- stainless steel travel mugs
- reusable tin cups

Consider printing the item with your event logo to promote your event, or include a message about waste avoidance.

Waste Education

To achieve waste reduction outcomes for your event you must promote your message.

- Media releases that focus on your waste reduction targets
- Letter to stall holders outlining your packaging requirements to avoid waste.
- If possible use public announcements at regular intervals, promoting your re-use, recycling and disposal facilities at the event.
- Use clear recycling, organics and waste signage, consistent with NSW Department of Environment & Climate Change signage & colours. These are downloadable from their website.

How your local council can help

Council has dedicated recycling and waste bins available for public events. A Waste Wise Banner is also available for events that use the Waste Wise guidelines. The NEWF Website has a range of tools and guidelines to help you plan your event to be more Waste Wise.

