

Waste Wise Events Project – Case Study NSW Women's Hockey Veteran State Competition 2007

Background

The North East Waste Forum (NEWF) is a collective of local councils that have come together to share resources to help avoid and reduce waste going to landfill in the Northern NSW region. The NEWF collective not only provides support for participating local Councils in managing waste, but also provides support and advice to various commercial sectors on how best to implement sustainable practices that reduce waste generation, wastes landfilled, and promote the recovery of recyclable resources.

An initiative of NEWF, The Waste Wise Events (WWE) Project, began in October 2006 and focused on reducing waste to landfill by implementing Waste Wise Management Plans (WWMP's) for seven events across the NEWF region. A variety of events were chosen with participant numbers ranging from 2,000 to 25,000 people. Events covered agricultural, sporting, family, food & music festivals.

Grafton Hockey Club



The Grafton Hockey Club hosted the NSW Women's Hockey Veteran State Competition in July 2007 attracting 4,000 people over three days. The NEWF conducted a waste audit at a previous event hosted by the club in May to gain an understanding of the waste stream. Based on the audit results 82% of the club's waste was recyclable. The Club had made attempts at recycling cardboard and glass in previous years but found it too expensive and difficult to implement with their lack of resources. A local volunteer had been removing the aluminium for the past 3 years whilst also managing their bins in exchange.

The Challenge

The amount of waste generated at community/public events can be significant (about 1 litre/person/day), creating an unpleasant mess and large clean up costs for event organisers & councils. The north coast is host to approximately 300 events and 23 regular monthly markets each year. 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. Communicating about waste & recycling systems must be simple and easy.

Waste Wise Management Plan

A WWMP incorporates recycling and waste avoidance objectives into each stage of event planning, sets achievable targets and assigns roles and responsibilities. Targets set for this event included:

Packaging:

- Canteen to avoid the use of polystyrene and non recyclable plastic.

Promotion of the recycling systems:

- Pre and post event media releases in local papers.
- PA announcements every hour.
- Advertisement in event program.
- Signage on bins designed specifically for event bins. Recycle bins target drink containers: aluminium cans; plastic bottles; glass and liquid paper cups.
- Council's Waste Wise Event banner was positioned on the hockey fencing near the canteen.
- 20 x A4 posters describing what to recycle were positioned on toilet doors, at the canteen and bar.

Recovery Targets:

- Recycle bins: aluminium cans; plastic bottles; glass and liquid paper cups.
- Canteen to separate cardboard and transport to transfer station after event.

Equipment:

- 15 x 240L yellow lidded recycling bins with fitted rosette lids and locks supplied by Clarence Valley Council.
- 15 x 240L red lidded waste bins supplied by Clarence Valley Council.
- One 10m³ skip to empty recycling.
- 2 x 2m³ skips to empty general waste.

Bin Plan:

- Bin stations comprising one recycling bin and one waste bin located around the site. More densely near canteen and seating.
- Volunteer waste assistant to empty bins at the end of each day into the appropriate skips and remove aluminium in exchange.

NORTH EAST WASTE FORUM

NEW WAYS WITH LESS WASTE

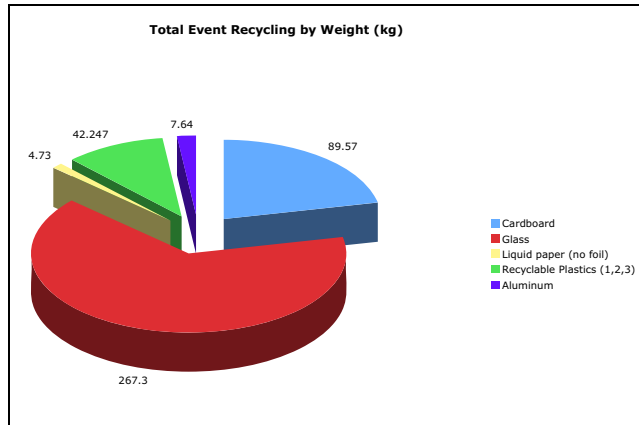


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Results

A waste audit was conducted at the end of the event on one day's waste. Nine out of fifteen recycling bins were audited and 6 out of 15 waste bins were audited. The results of the waste audit follow.



Recycling Bins

Based on volume, 41% of the total waste generated at the event was recovered through the event's recycling bins and cardboard separation. The graph above presents a breakdown of the 411.5kg of materials recovered for recycling.

The average contamination was 5% which makes it acceptable for processing and recycling.

The major contaminants were food scraps (2%), some paper packaging (1%) and a small amount of non recyclable plastics (1%).

Waste Bins

The waste bins included food waste (36%), cardboard (17%), non-recyclable plastics (15%) and soiled food packaging (8%).

The waste bins contained 23% recycling contamination, including glass, aluminium, recyclable plastics & paper cups.

The Future

The Grafton Hockey Club organisers are keen to implement recycling at all future events. Two months after the Women's event the club held Junior and Seniors finals over 2 weekends. At their own initiative the club arranged for the council's event recycling bins and recovered 2m3 of recycling.

The club will also look to implement recycling bins next winter season. The plan includes not using the waste skips and utilising council's business waste and recycling service offered in 240L bins.

The North East Waste forum acknowledges the assistance of the Packaging Stewardship Forum with the purchase of bins and stickers and advice on implementation of this project.

Outcomes

The NSW Women's Hockey Veteran State Competition proved to be a very successful Waste Wise Event by reducing waste to landfill by 41%. Other outcomes included:

- Good post event media coverage in the local newspapers.
- Bin stickers and rosette lid recycling bins proved to assist with recycling recovery and reducing contamination (<5%).
- The announcements over the PA were consistent and a great reminder for people to use the right bin.
- The event organisers received positive feedback from the public about how well the waste and recycling was managed.
- Certain bin locations were identified where bins overflowed (bottom ovals) and other areas where bins were empty.
- The Club avoided waste disposal charges by separating and transporting their cardboard to the Grafton Transfer Station for recycling.
- The 10m3 skip for emptying recycling exceeded the need for the event (4m3 to 5m3 would have been sufficient), and was cost prohibitive for future events.
- The importance of clear role definition for the volunteer waste role at the event was highlighted by a loss of recycling on one day of the event.

The Grafton Hockey Club was pleased with their achievement and pleasantly surprised by the ease of implementing recycling when the appropriate equipment is available.

Costs

The club incurred an increase in waste disposal costs of \$70 to implement recycling. This cost was mostly incurred by the 10m3 skip hire which cost \$215.

A smaller skip option has since been identified for the club at \$55 for 2m3. The contractor is also willing to place the cardboard on top of the skip and remove it at the transfer station for the club.

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