

## Why RECYCLE?

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

### Did you know?

Public events can generate a significant amount of waste. It is estimated that each attendee at an event creates about 0.5 kilograms of waste. If your event attracts 5000 people that's 2500 kgs of waste that you are generating.

Recycling systems yield instant results. On the first day of the three bin recycling system at the Bangalow Markets, 70% of the waste produced on site was diverted from landfill.

## How does RECYCLING save resources?

- Twenty aluminium cans can be recycled from the energy it takes to produce one new can from raw materials.
- Plastics are made from fossil fuels. Making plastic from recycled materials uses only 30% of the energy required to make plastic products from fossil fuels.
- Paper can be recycled up to 80 times.
- Using recycled glass takes only 40% of the energy necessary to make glass from sand and it can be recycled indefinitely.

## How your local Council can help

Call your Local Council and speak to the Waste Management Officer. Some of the ways they can support you are:

- Provide dedicated event recycling bins that are fitted with reduced openings to reduce contamination. These bins are well signed for recovering drink containers.
- Deliver and service recycling and waste bins for a competitive rate.
- Provide Waste Wise Event signage and banners to promote recycling facilities.
- Give you advice on waste minimisation and avoidance strategies.
- Help you locate waste contractors and or sources for recyclables.
- Provide information on composting organics from events.
- Hire council's waste education trailer to help promote recycling facilities.

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## Reference

Dempsey, M. (2007) *Setting up Recycling Systems at Public Events on the Mid North Coast: A User Friendly Guide for Public Event Organisers*

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# RECYCLING AT EVENTS



## Information for Event Organisers in Northern NSW



## What to RECYCLE

What you can recycle will depend largely on what facilities are available in your area. Ring your local council to find out what facilities are available. The table below is a guide to what can be recycled in some council areas.

MATERIAL	RECYCLABLE	NON RECYCLABLE
Paper and cardboard	Milk/Juice cartons Cardboard boxes Paper coffee and juice cups Newspapers Magazines	Waxed fruit boxes Soiled cardboard/ <u>paper</u>
Plastics	Soft drink bottles Water and juice bottles Plastic milk bottles	Coffee Cup Lids Straws  Plastic bags Polystyrene Chairs Cling wrap
Steel	Food cans Aerosol cans Jar lids Coffee tins	
Aluminium	Soft drink/beer cans Clean foil	Soiled foil Foil/paper bags
Glass	Bottles Jars	White glass Ceramics Light bulbs Pyrex

## Collection systems for RECYCLING

Different events have different needs. Use your knowledge of your event and the type of crowd it attracts to design a suitable system. Decide on what materials you are going to try to recover from the waste. Event recycling bins available from council target drink containers; including glass, aluminium cans, plastic bottles and paper cups. You could also consider providing a cardboard skip for stallholders to use.

## Signage

It makes sense to use national standard signage for recycling messages at your event. Keep the signage consistent across your site, and use recycling icons and bin colours that people will recognise.

- ✓ YELLOW for RECYCLING
- ✓ RED for WASTE
- ✓ GREEN for ORGANICS

Bins and signage must be visible and identifiable make them impossible to miss and equally impossible to misuse. Download the signs from the DECC website [www.environment.nsw.gov.au/wastewiseevents/](http://www.environment.nsw.gov.au/wastewiseevents/)

## Contamination

Contamination causes problems in the recycling process as it can ruin the recyclable product or make it too difficult to recover the recyclable materials. Contamination levels need to be below 10% to be accepted by most recycling processors. Signage and education are the key to reducing contamination.

Reduced lids ie rosettes or bin caps will help reduce contamination of recyclables at events. Your local council's event's recycling bins are fitted with locks and rosettes.

Common contaminants of recycling bins include coffee cup lids, straws, plastic bags and non-recyclable plastic. Stallholder guidelines that rule out the use of these products will greatly help reduce contamination.

## Bin Placement

- Ensure the site is clean and tidy. A clean site encourages correct binning behaviour.
- Position bins no more than 15m apart with one bin station visible from the next.
- As a general rule place bins near entry/exit points, close to toilets and other facilities and at intersections of pathways.
- Place more bins in areas where food is likely to be consumed not just where food is purchased.
- Bins should be positioned in a station with a recycling bin always next to a waste bin.
- Bins are placed in the same arrangement wherever they are positioned so that the public faces identical choices at each bin station. This will help maximise resource recovery.
- Keep in mind the direction the bins are likely to be approached from.
- Consider access needs of children, people with disabilities, service providers and collection services.
- Empty bins when full to discourage people using the wrong bin.
- Have a waste manager on site to co-ordinate emptying bins and checking bins are not moved from stations.

## Compostable Materials

Organic waste at most events makes up between 30-60% of the waste. For some events, it may be possible to compost or maintain an on site worm farm. Research it carefully before you consider it. Talk to your council about what options are available in your area.