

LOW WASTE EVENTS

It is easy for households to create or avoid unnecessary waste, and it is just as easy to control waste production when attending public events. Events create a wide range of wastes including food waste, packaging, containers and cigarette butts. Much of this waste can be avoided with some careful planning - anything from a family BBQ to a regional music festival can be a low waste event

A low waste event is one that takes responsibility for waste management by adopting the three R's – reduce, reuse and recycle. This means having well-

prepared waste and recycling collections; purchasing and packaging policies and litter prevention and clean-up practices.

By reducing the amount of waste your event creates you'll be helping the event costs (less post-event clean-up and disposal costs), the environment (less waste to landfill, less litter, less need for use of natural resources), and the community (education and demonstration of how a low waste event can be achieved and positive public opinion about your event).

WHAT CAN I DO?

If you are planning an event, no matter how large or small, take the following tips into consideration to reduce the amount of waste you create:

- Before planning your event, ensure all parties involved support your low waste plans
- Develop a Waste Management plan
- Control and limit the materials and packaging used by suppliers, caterers and stall-holders to those that can be recycled or composted
- Provide special equipment for recycling, composting (if needed) and garbage. Ask your waste contractor for help.

- Position recycling and garbage bins so that patrons can use them easily
- Empty and clean all bins regularly to avoid overflowing litter
- Display clear signs on your recycling and garbage bins to help patrons use the bins correctly
- Let everyone know that yours is a 'low waste event' before, during and after the event
- Prepare an evaluation - you can report successes and make any necessary improvements before your next event

No matter what the size or style of event, the same principles of waste minimisation can be applied.

MORE INFORMATION

- www.environment.nsw.gov.au/education/recyclingandwaste.htm - 'Special Event Waste Management'
- www.sustainability.vic.gov.au/www/html/1858-waste-wise-events-toolkit.asp -Waste wise event toolkit.
- www.northeastwasteforum.org.au/NEWF/CMS/index.php?page=Planning_a_Event - Big Scrub Environment Centre information about the Public Events W.A.S.T.E. Plan