



Checklist: Sustainable Waste Management

Often, huge amounts of waste are produced by large audiences within very short time periods. Festivals not only have to cope with collecting and disposing trash at the end of the event, but an active waste management during the festival is central to guarantee a high degree of audience satisfaction. Also, by producing less trash festivals may save money by lowering disposal costs.

The goal is to:

- generate as little waste as possible.
- avoid purchasing commodities that will result in a lot of left-over waste.
- recycle as much as possible.

In order to handle the waste correctly the right kind of equipment is needed. Entering into a partnership with a supplier of waste handling solutions could be a good idea. A total supplier will be able to assist you in drawing up a waste handling plan for the entire event. This includes: making adaptations for waste separation, delivering the right equipment, training personnel, emptying bins and containers, and transporting the waste. They will also be able to provide statistics, e.g. on quantities and costs.

In order to keep your premises clean during the event, you will need a separate tidying patrol. One possibility is to enter into partnership with a local organisation or association. If you do not have the necessary waste-gathering equipment yourself (such as trolleys, brooms and shovels), contact the municipality and ask to borrow their equipment.

Efficient waste management has a direct influence on audience satisfaction and your relations with local authorities and stakeholders. The following measures are steps towards an efficient and cost-saving waste management:

- Reduce trash on site by introducing reusable dishes and bottling systems.
- Whenever possible, re-use goods in the following years.
- Choose expendable goods made of recycled materials wherever possible (e.g. toilet paper, decoration)
- Provide clearly marked waste stations, with simple instruction for their use.
- Introduce an easy to manage waste separation system (e.g. separating glass, PET and metal) for festival staff, suppliers and as an option for campers.
- Make sure to have enough waste bins and that they are emptied often.
- Hand out waste bags to all guests, and provide good information on how to sort the waste. The better you organise for recycling, the easier it will be for everybody to carry out proper waste sorting. One possibility is to hand out a flyer to all campers on arrival.
- Allow only ordinary camping equipment. For example, prohibit the use of sofas and large armchairs.

- Prohibit disposable barbecues and grills. Not only do they result in large amounts of waste, but they also represent a fire hazard in areas with a large concentration of tents. Instead, provide safe communal barbecues that everybody can use.
- Carefully select environment-friendly and waste –reducing material for all constructions.
- Reduce the dissemination of paper (by using electronic information instead) and reduce unnecessary and unnecessarily glossy publications.
- Minimise the use of packaging materials in the preparation and delivery of food.

Waste Separation

Implementing a system of waste sorting will reduce the amount of waste you will need to dispose of, and therefore also cut waste disposal costs. How many categories into which you should choose to separate the waste will greatly depend on the size of the event and where you can deliver it. The following categories are advisable:

- Paper
- Cardboard
- Metals
- PET
- Plastics
- Glass
- Organic Waste

You must consider carefully where the waste separation should take place. Waste separation can easily be carried out backstage, in areas to which the audience doesn't have access. Everyone involved in waste handling, whether concerned with gathering or separation, must receive thorough training in waste separation and how to handle the equipment.