

Tips to Make Your Event Wasteless



The very first step is to make sure that your event team is on board with making your event Green. You'll need to gain commitment from everyone involved, such as vendors, service contractors, site owners, and patrons.

Then as always in waste management:

1) Reduce

- Use reusable containers and serving ware. You may contact the Recycling Depot if you need dishes or silverware.
- Buy items in bulk, for example, ketchup, sugar and cream. No single serve packages.

2) Reuse

- Use decorations that may be reused.
- Sell food and beverages at the event only in serving ware and packaging that can be **reused**, recycled or composted. (Reusable items are definitely the preferred.)

3) Recycle/Compost

- If serving ware is not in a reusable container, than the products used should be recyclable/compostable. These items can be placed in a compost or recycle bin. It has been shown that if the materials go to the landfill, they take an extremely long time to break down.
- Often the issue with recycling is lack of bins/sorting available. Numerous bins for recycling and composting may be borrowed for free from the towns of Hinton, Edson, Wildwood and Jasper. A recycling trailer is available in Edson and Hinton.
- Where possible purchase items that are recyclable and made from recycled materials.

Promotion

Make sure to frame the event as a GREEN EVENT. Not only do your partners need to take part, but attendees must also support this goal. Making your event green will also encourage more attendees.

- **Press release.** Issue a press release and advertise that your event is to be Green.
- **Website.** Use online registration if possible to reduce paper. A website is also a great way to advertise your Wasteless Event.
- **Promotional items.** Free giveaways should be sustainable, for example, organic clothing, BPA free water bottles, reusable shopping bags.
- **Advertising.** Where paper must be used, minimize its use and use paper made with post consumer recycled content and double side whenever possible.

Be sure there is a proper site plan. Waste receptacles need to be placed close to vendors and where tables are set up for eating. Avenues for recycling/composting need to be very visible and available. People will recycle and compost if it is easier than using the garbage.

Proper signage is key. Bins need to be labelled properly so recycled items are put in the appropriate place. Use recycle bin/garbage bin combinations so people do not use recycle bins for garbage.

Be creative and flexible. You may need to adjust bins or implement other ideas as you see what works and what doesn't. For more ideas to make your event Green, contact Edson and District Recycling Society at 780-723-4002 or edsonrecycle@telus.net.

First priority in making your event GREEN is to **REDUCE** the amount of waste created.