

Event Recycling It's easy, and it's the law!

Recycling is now required at official gatherings and sports facilities

A new law requires a recycling program at every official gathering and sports facility in communities where recycling services are available to businesses.

Vendors are responsible for providing recycling programs at these events.

The Law and Requirements

The law (RCW 70.93.093) concerning event recycling became effective in Washington on July 22, 2007. The law states that *"in communities where there is an established curbside service and where recycling service is available to businesses, a recycling program must be provided at every official gathering and at every sport facility by the vendors who sell beverages in single-use aluminum, glass, or plastic bottles or cans."*

Beverage vendors are responsible for providing and funding the recycling program. A recycling program must include and provide:

- Clearly marked recycling receptacles or reverse vending machines.
- Collection of aluminum, glass, or plastic bottles or cans that contained the beverages sold by the vendor.
- Transportation and recycling services for the collected materials.

Look inside for information on how to set up a successful recycling program at your event!

MORE INFORMATION

What is curbside service?

While typically used to refer to residential recycling collection programs, *curbside service* means that collected recyclables are picked up at your place of business, rather than having to haul them to a collection facility.

What events are included in the law?

Official Gathering:

"An event where authorization to hold the event is approved, recognized, or issued by a government, public body, or authority, including but not limited to fairs, musical concerts, athletic games, festivals, tournaments, or any other formal or ceremonial event, during which beverages are sold by a vendor or vendors in single-use aluminum, glass or plastic bottle or cans."

Sports Facility:

"An outdoor recreational sports facility, including but not limited to athletic fields and ballparks, at which beverages are sold by a vendor or vendors in single-use aluminum, glass or plastic bottles or cans."

(An indoor sports event is considered an official gathering.)

Why is event recycling important to event coordinators?

As more people recycle in their homes, they want to see recycling opportunities when they are away from their homes. Setting up a recycling program promotes good public relations between you and event visitors, and also contributes to Washington State waste reduction goals.

What should an event coordinator do?

1. Put recycling collection in the contract with the vendors.
2. Set performance goals for recycling.
3. Report the results:
 - Number of event visitors
 - Total amount of recyclables and garbage collected
 - Number of beverage vendors
 - Number of recycling and trash bins

What does a well-designed program include?

1. Designate a program coordinator

Put someone in charge – staff or a volunteer.
Find someone with good communication and organizational skills.

2. Find a hauler that accepts recycling

Make sure your contract with the hauler includes:

- Your recycling plan
- Number of recycling bins needed
- Who is responsible for emptying the recycling bins
- How often and where the recycling bins will be emptied

3. Decide on recycling bins

Event coordinators have found that:

- *Clear bins* allow the public to clearly see which bin is for recycling so that less trash gets in the recycling bins.
- *Easy set-up and storage* are important if the bins are not permanent.

4. Work with janitors/cleaning staff

Make sure supervisors are aware of the plan and changes.

5. Enlist local groups or clubs to help promote and manage the program

Ideally, recycling stations should be staffed by volunteers to assist the public.



Setting up for success!

To encourage event participants and the public to recycle, recycling bins should be readily available, clearly labeled, and easily accessible. If the area is secure, setting up recycling bins and stations the day before an event makes the recycling plan run smoothly.

What does a good recycling system look like?

1. *Always* place recycling bins beside a trash container. This prevents trash from contaminating your recyclables and keeps recyclables out of the trash.
2. Recycling stations should be highly visible and in convenient locations:
 - Place larger stations in areas where high volumes of waste will be generated. Locate recycling stations near concession areas, restrooms, entrances and exits, and make sure they are clearly marked.
 - If you restrict people from bringing beverage containers into your gates, have recycling bins available to dispose of containers right outside the gate. If you do not allow any containers to leave your facility, have bins available at the exit gate for disposal.
3. Use recycling bins that are visually different from other waste bins. This way the public can clearly see which is for recycling.
 - Use clear plastic bags as liners for recycling bins for easy identification and removal of contaminants. Use black bags in garbage bins.
4. Choose bins with lids or openings that emphasize beverage container recycling. The recycling bins for beverage containers should have small round holes.
5. Staff all recycling stations at all times. If this is not possible, then assign a worker to check each area periodically. Volunteers can help with this.
6. Track the results and promote your success! Measure the amount of material recycled, the amount of trash collected, and the number of event attendees. Promote your success at the next event!

Washington State Event Recycling Success Story

In 2007, King County Solid Waste Division partnered with the King County Parks Department to start recycling bottles and cans, and composting food at the Marymoor Park Concert Series. With the help of Sam Wilder through Sound Resource Management Group, Inc., five recycling stations were set up and monitored by Master Recycler Composter volunteers at each of the 13 concerts that summer. Marymoor Park had 7-8 vendors, and almost 40,000 people in total attended the 2007 concert series. In 2006 the recycling rate was 0% at this concert series, but by developing a comprehensive recycling plan and monitoring recycling stations, a 50% recycling rate was achieved in the summer of 2007!

For More Information and Assistance

Find a hauler in your area

Contact your city or county solid waste department to find a commercial recycling hauler in your area.

Washington State Department of Ecology's 1-800-RECYCLE website contains contact information for solid waste departments statewide:

<http://www.ecy.wa.gov/programs/swfa/contact/recyclelinks.html>

You can also dial 1-800-RECYCLE and talk to a real person, Monday – Friday, from 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.

More information on public event recycling

Recycle on the Go is an Environmental Protection Agency initiative to encourage recycling in public places. This website has links to tools and resources that can help create a successful recycling program:

<http://www.epa.gov/recycleonthego/>

EVENT RECYCLING BINS?

Check with your local government—some provide or rent event recycling bins.

Remember: Event coordinators have found that clear bins have greater success!

To purchase your own, visit:

- **ClearStream** (pictured on page 2)
www.clearstreamrecycler.com
- **LINK-A-BAG** (pictured on page 2)
www.linkabag.com
- **Clear Canables**
www.windsorbarrel.com/canables_clear.htm
- **Acro**
www.acrofoam.com/sub1.htm
- **Multiple types**
www.napcor.com/plastic/bottles/bins.html

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