

Sustainable

Regional Events Guide



sustainableregionalevents.com.au

Acknowledgment of Country

We acknowledge and respect Victorian Traditional Owners as the original custodians of Victoria's land

and waters. We acknowledge their unique ability to care for Country and deep spiritual connection to it.

We honour Elders past and present whose knowledge and wisdom has ensured the continuation of culture and traditional practices.

We are committed to genuinely partner, and meaningfully engage, with Victoria's Traditional Owners and Aboriginal communities to support the protection of Country, the maintenance of spiritual and cultural practices and their broader aspirations now and into the future.

As always, please do not do anything unwise or unsafe while implementing ideas from this guide. Make sure you always comply with hygiene codes and standards and are employing COVID Safe practices and Council requirements at all your events.

Most importantly be kind, be respectful and use education as the way to communicate. Bring people along on the journey with a view to work together to make sustainability achievable and fun.

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Front cover image of Silo at Albacutya Bridge by Round3Film and canola field image by Lynton Brown (courtesy of Visit Victoria and Hindmarsh Shire Council).

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This publication may be of assistance to you but the State of Victoria and its employees do not guarantee that the publication is without flaw of any kind or is wholly appropriate for your particular purposes and therefore disclaims all liability for any error, loss or other consequence which may arise from you relying on any information in this publication.

This booklet is intended as a guide only. Nothing in this guide should be used to replace any legislative requirements, council bylaws or other standards. Event organisers are reminded that there are more than waste requirements to comply with, and they should take care to ensure that all relevant requirements (legislative, standards or otherwise) should be adhered to.

This booklet is available in PDF format at sustainableregionalevents.com.au



Introduction

This guide is designed to help you find ways to make small changes to your event planning, which prioritise sustainability, and which help you to embed sustainable practices across all aspects of your event, over time.

There is no expectation that you should implement everything at once, because each and every event is different. Rather, by using this guide, we hope to help you assess where you can make changes now, how to plan for and implement future changes, and how you can communicate and promote those changes to your suppliers, stallholders, attendees and beyond.

How to use:

The goal for any sustainable event is not merely to improve the outcomes today, but also to use the lessons learned from the current event to plan for the next event. This guide, coupled with our website sustainableregionalevents.com.au provides you with the areas to consider at each stage of planning, running and review. Every section within this booklet is expanded on the website, with more details, tips and ideas to test.

We have included templates for you to use, and a number of Event Case Studies. These case studies are real events, taking you through the sustainability changes which were made, and the impact they had.

Our Sustainable Event Template (S.E.T.) is a must-have for every event planner. It is designed to take you through every step of the process, breaking it down into achievable tasks, with appropriate timelines – all of which you set for your event.

To help you navigate this document, these icons will help guide the way:



Answering this question will help you build your S.E.T.

An example of a S.E.T. is found on page 8. then head to our website, sustainableregionalevents.com.au to download the whole document.



Check here for ideas, tips and extra information.



Follow these weblinks to further reading (templates and examples) and for more information.



Glossary

Degradable

is a broad term given to natural and man-made substances that can be broken down by natural processes into smaller parts.

But the end of the process – which can take years to complete - still leaves microplastics in the environment.

Biodegradable

is the term given to material that, as a result the of biological activity of microorganisms (bacteria, fungi and algi), breaks down completely into the raw materials of from which it was made.

Like degradable items, this process can take years to complete. Choose natural materials (bamboo, wood, sugar cane) to reduce toxins and microplastics in the environment as the item biodegrades.

Compostable

is a specific term given to biodegradable materials that biodegrade within in a certain time frame

Commercially certified (industrial) compostable (AS4736)

Item is certified to compost at an industrial facility within 6 months. Becomes non-toxic organic matter.



Home compostable (AS5810-2010)

Item is certified to compost in a home system within 6 months. Becomes non-toxic organic matter.



Comingled

Another term for 'mixed' recycling. The yellow-lidded bin in Victoria is currently used for collection of comingled or mixed recyclables – hard plastic, steel, aluminium, paper and glass. There are of course differences across council areas, so make sure you check with your council / service provider for their requirements.

Contamination

When an item is put into the incorrect bin, for example food waste going into a yellow-lidded bin or a nappy into a green-lidded bin. The item then 'contaminates' the rest of the collection and risks the integrity of the resources being collected.

FOGO

Food Organics and Garden Organics (FOGO) is a service that collects organic material (both food waste and garden/ green waste) so it can be consolidated and recycled into compost for use in agricultural and domestic settings.

Greenwashing

Greenwashing also called "green sheen", is a form of marketing spin in which green PR and green marketing are deceptively used to persuade the public that an organisation's products, aims and policies are environmentally friendly.

Microplastic

Microplastics are fragments of any type of plastic less than 5 mm in length. They cause pollution by entering natural ecosystems (including animals, the ocean and freshwater systems) from a variety of sources, including cosmetics, clothing, industrial processes and from waste items which have not been disposed of properly (eg a drink bottle left at a camp site).

Waste Audit

A method for analysing waste streams. The goal is to discover what types and quantities of waste (paper, plastic, food etc.) you produce within a given timeframe. Auditing also measures how much waste is recycled vs. thrown out.

Circular Economy, waste and resources

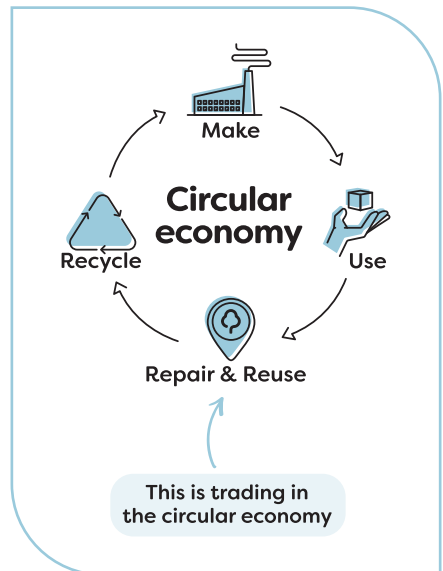
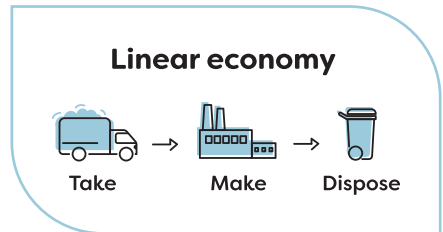
A **Circular Economy (CE)** is a model of production and consumption, which involves sharing, leasing, reusing, repairing, refurbishing, and recycling existing materials and products as long as possible”.

A CE aims to tackle global challenges like climate change, biodiversity loss, waste, and pollution by emphasizing design-based implementation of the three base principles of the model. The three principles required for the transformation to a circular economy are: eliminating waste and pollution, circulating products and materials, and the regeneration of nature.

By contrast, in a **linear economy**, natural resources are turned into products which are ultimately destined to become waste because of the way they have been designed and manufactured. This process is often summarised by “take, make, waste”.

Waste is a valuable resource. Once, we viewed it simply as an expense, something to get rid of, or throw away. We now know – **there is no “away”**. It is in fact, a resource that can be collected, reused, recycled and repurposed to get more value from the original cost of manufacture.

To get the best possible and most cost-effective value out of ‘waste’, it is important to consider our systems of separation and collection from the source – where waste is generated.



Circularity and Sustainability work together

Recycling Victoria: a new economy

In early 2020, the Victorian Government released their circular economy policy – 'Recycling Victoria: a new economy'.

Our circular economy plan, Recycling Victoria: 'A new economy, steps out the systemic change that's needed to cut waste and boost recycling and reuse of our precious resources. This is our plan for a cleaner, greener Victoria with less waste and pollution, more jobs and a sustainable and thriving circular economy.'

This policy outlines the strategic directions for the state over the next 10 years and includes several key changes to service delivery that will impact event organisers.

It is important to ensure that you are aware of these changes, the timelines for their implementation, and where to go to find out the most up to date information.

The information provided in this booklet is correct at the time of printing, however key policy changes have not yet been finalized, so it is important that organisers seek out the current state of play and how it will impact their event.



www.vic.gov.au/building-victorias-circular-economy

Changes in the Waste space

2023 - Ban on Single-Use Plastics

Problematic single-use plastics will be banned across Victoria by February 2023. These items include single-use straws, cutlery, plates, drink-stirrers, expanded polystyrene food and drink containers, and cotton bud sticks.

Most single use plastics are avoidable or have more sustainable options available. The best and first step is banning these from your festival. See our list of alternative materials and where to buy in the 'Suppliers' tab at sustainableregionalevents.com.au

2023 - Container Deposit Scheme (CDS)

By 2023, Victoria will have a Container Deposit Scheme where for every can, plastic single use plastic and glass drink bottles, you can receive a 10c deposit when re-turned to a collection point.

More info can be found at <https://www.vic.gov.au/container-deposit-scheme>



By 2030 - Glass and FOGO services introduced for each household.

Councils are being supported to introduce 2 new services to households across Victoria. Glass and FOGO collection services will be implemented by 2030 under the Recycling Victoria policy. Event planners and organisers should ensure that they are aware of the requirements for the council area they are working in. By 2030, the entire state will have 4 waste services for households (Recycling, Glass, FOGO and Landfill).

See our section on 'Food and Drink' on page 18 of this booklet and refer to the 'Food and Drink' tab at sustainableregionalevents.com.au for more info on FOGO options and tips!



Why Sustainable?

There is no "away".

Humans and their activities generate waste. The way we treat that waste will depend on our attitude towards it. We either view it as a valuable resource which can be reused many times keeping future costs down, or we can view it as a single use throw-away item. But of course, there is no "away".

So how do you, as an event planner, encourage conversations with your stakeholders to embed sustainable thinking and practices?

Changing ingrained beliefs takes time. Being able to show the benefits to your stakeholders – saving time and/or money, improving reputation with customers, or even being prioritised with event planners and organisers are all valuable ways to show how embedding sustainable practices can benefit them, you, the public and of course, the environment.

Recycling Facts

Here are some fascinating insights into the impact recycling has on the materials we consume every day. Keeping materials moving in a circular economy is a much more energy, time and money efficient process. If you (or attendees, stakeholders, or workers at your event) need some final help being convinced that recycling is worth the extra step.

- Aluminium cans can be recycled indefinitely. Making new aluminium is a very high energy process. Manufacturing cans from recycled aluminium uses only 5% of the energy of mining, shipping, and refining the virgin bauxite (bozite) ore. That means an energy saving of 95% using recycled cans! ³

- Only around 9% of the plastic ever produced has been recycled.⁴ This means every day we are producing tonnes of new plastic to use in bottles, clothing, containers and an infinite number of manner and methods.
- It can take three to seven litres of water and one litre of oil to produce one litre of bottled water. Bottled water must be pumped out of the ground, packaged, transported and chilled before it gets to us – this creates over 60,000 tonnes of greenhouse gases a year in Australia alone. ⁵



³ Frequently asked Questions: Benefits of Recycling' <https://libre.stanford.edu/ssistanford-recycling/frequently-asked-questions/frequently-asked-questions-benefits-recycling#--text=Recycling%20of%20aluminum%20cans%20saves%20energy>.

⁴ Geyer, Roland and Jambeck, Jenna R. and Law, Kara Lavender. 19 JUL 2017. Production, use, and fate of all plastics ever made. SCIENCE ADVANCE Vol. 3, no. 7, e1700782

⁵ Source: Cool Australia

Get S.E.T. (Sustainable Events Template)

Each section in this booklet will take you through one aspect of event planning and identify where you might be able to make changes to reach your sustainability goals.

The questions at the end of each section will help you consider the basics before your event and compare your outcomes to your targets at the end of the event.



Planning out your waste management and sustainability goals will assist you to:

- Meet changes in laws which require you to reduce single-use plastics at each event (aiming at eliminating them entirely by 2023).
- Incorporate sustainable purchasing and waste avoidance practices into event planning at the outset
- Decrease landfill from an event
- Decrease levels of litter being left

Decrease the contamination levels of collected materials

Refer to the 'Get S.E.T.' tab at sustainableregionalevents.com.au to download your own blank S.E.T and other helpful templates



Sustainability Checks:

Question	y/n	Person responsible	Action to be taken
Does the venue have any sustainable practices? Are there negotiables?			
Have you written your Sustainable Event Engagement plan?			
Do you have clear messaging around waste?			
How are you going to promote your sustainable practices at the event?			
What transport alternatives can you offer?			
Is there any way you can cut water use?			
What ways could you make access to water less reliant on single use options?			
How can you make your decorations re-useable and not end up in landfill at the end of...			



Small steps help. Any little change is something worth celebrating.

Waste Hierarchy and Event Planning

Planning for how much, and what type of waste an event might produce is a critical part of the process. But using the principles of the Waste Hierarchy, you can avoid the high cost of waste management with robust planning.

Now it's time to turn to your S.E.T. and start brainstorming, using the principles of the Waste Hierarchy.

As you can see here, re-using something in its current form has a higher value on the waste hierarchy than simply recycling. This is because recycling requires the item to be altered into something new before it can be reused, thereby using more energy, effort and sometimes materials too.

Waste Hierarchy



Pick a waste item – for example plastic water bottles.

Prevent

Can you prevent this item from coming into your event? (eg ban it)

For example - can the local water authority provide bubbler taps instead?

If not then

Re-use

Is there a way empty water bottles can be used onsite?

For example – can vendors offer reusable cups for drinks, rather than plastic bottles? (Note - there are risks associated with glass & crockery to consider as well)

If not then

Recycle

Can you have recycling bins at your events to collect empty water bottles?

Note – make sure you have enough for the anticipated number of attendees, and also make sure that they are emptied frequently too!

If not then

Recover other value

Is there a way to recover the energy of the item? The waste to energy process is one way to avoid landfill and generate energy.

If not then

Landfill

This is the option of last resort. It means we are consigning the value of all of the materials, energy, effort (manufacture, transport, storage) which went into making the water bottle to zero.

Venue, SETting Goals and Waste Audits

Venue

Your venue is so important. It must be sufficient for all of the needs of the event – facilities, parking and public transport, and also be located well enough to attract visitors. But have you considered it's sustainability?

There are venues that we hire, buildings, parks, etc and ones we create, i.e. a pop up market, party or festival on land. These require different considerations.

What can you discuss with your venue? Are there any negotiables? What things can you work on together to improve the sustainability of the event site or building before you begin your event?

Is the venue carbon neutral? Ask how they offset their energy use and waste footprint.

Does the venue have any sustainable practices?
Are there negotiables?



SETting Goals

Setting goals for the types of materials to be collected and recycled requires information. For first time event planners, this can be difficult to gauge. Use your contacts, seek guidance from waste service providers, your local council events team and other event organisers.

Asking local council waste officers is a good place to start. Waste contractors also collect lots of information and maybe able to provide information about types and amounts of events waste.

Waste Audits

– what, why, how?

What is a waste audit?

A waste audit is a survey of the types and amount of waste collected in a location over a period of time.

Waste Service contractors have systems in place to assess how much waste is collected from a household (each "bin lift") or an event.

Discuss with your contractor what they might be able to provide to you in terms of collection information.

Have you looked at previous years waste audits? Have you planned who will do this year's waste audit and when?



Once you have your waste audit information, you can:

- Identify opportunities to improve collection of materials
- Assess the contamination rates in each bin type
- Think of ways to use the information to encourage and motivate people at future events.
- Track your progress over successive years.

Refer to our 'Waste Audit' template document in the 'get S.E.T' tab at sustainableregionalevents.com.au



Contamination and 'Tricky' Waste

Contamination

Contamination is a big reason why the waste we collect is not dealt with in the most sustainable way.

Bins are used to separate our types of waste so they can be processed in the most energy, and time effect way. Recycling facilities get more money for clean and sorted recycling and if its too dirty or mixed with different materials, it makes their job difficult and not financially viable.

Food waste in your recycling and nappies in your green waste bin mean that those bins are discarded, not sorted through and all sent to landfill.

If recycling is contaminated with landfill items, sometimes the whole bin contents must all go to landfill. This also means that if the contamination is high- sometimes the whole truck could end up in landfill.

Education at your event is a huge part of reducing contamination and identifying ways in which commination happen and the types of mistakes people make, can mean a significant reduction in contamination at your event.

What contamination might happen at your event?



'Tricky' Waste

We suggest using our Tricky Waste Table to identify your expected or common contamination items.

A table like this could be included in stallholder briefings and/or handed out to your awesome waste warriors. This way they too can tackle some of the trickier items and make sure they don't end up in the wrong bin. Making a plan like this before the event can answer some potential questions and issues people have in a training session, or even as a brainstorming tool for the staff before the gates open.

Making a plan like this before the event gives people an opportunity to ask questions and clarify their understanding. It can even be used as a brainstorming tool before the gates open.

What tricky waste can you expect and how will you deal with it?



Refer to our 'Tricky Waste' template in the 'get S.E.T' tab at sustainableregionalevents.com.au



Bins

Placement and number of bins at an event is a crucial part of successful waste management, which makes a great sustainable event. Good placement of bins and clear signage means contamination of all bins is reduced and event litter decreases.

Now that you have your waste audit data, you can plan out the physical requirements for your event.

But how many bins? And where?

There are a variety of different approaches to the question. Some recommend you base bin numbers on a "one-litre per person per meal" calculation.

Others that you have "one recycling station for every 250 people attending your event".

So, to make things a bit easier, here is what we suggest:

Bin requirement estimate⁶:

- **50-100 people + 1-2 Food stalls**
= 3 recycling + 3 rubbish bins
- **100-200 people + 5 Food stalls**
= 5 recycling + 5 rubbish bins
- **200-400 people + 10 Food stalls**
= 8 recycling + 8 rubbish bins

Case Study:

The Ballarat Begonia Festival attracts over 60,000 visitors over the 3 day event. This is the amount of bins they used:

- Landfill 50 x 240l bins
- Recycling 70x 240l bins
(1 x cardboard skip bin)
- Organics 70 x 240L bins
- Glass 6 x 240L bins and 10x 120L bins

Refer to the 'Bin' section on the website for more details sustainableregionalevents.com.au



Council events and waste officers are a great source of information. Refer to the 'Councils' tab on the website for contact details and event information and support.

Think about where food and drink is available for purchase, where people consume items and entrances and exits. Consider the direction that the bins will be approached from. Place bins side by side (not back to back).



Consider a wash and reuse system for crockery and cutlery. Local pubs or cafes nearby could get involved by hiring out crockery and their kitchen to wash up in!



Physical examples of waste items can be an effective way to educate the public on which items go into which bins.



Does your venue supply bins and collection info?

Are there recycling and FOGO options available?

Do you need to speak to council about bins and collection info?

Have you mapped your bin station locations?



⁶ Campaspe Shire Council Waste Wise Events Guide, p.9 <https://www.campaspe.vic.gov.au/Our-services/Waste-recycling/Waste-wise-event-planning>

Bin monitors

Studies have shown that having monitors at the site decreases bin contamination. The Ballarat Begonia Festival successfully used people dressed as 'Litter Superheroes' in fun, colourful costumes to help people put things in the right bin.



Think about your traffic flow. Place bins near places people must go, people are often not going to walk out of their way for a bin.



Signage and Languages

Signage and communication are critical. But do you have signage in more than just English? How many languages do you need to translate your messaging into? Have you made your messaging text heavy which means those with poor reading skills are excluded?

Extra signs around the festival can continue to motivate people to put their rubbish in the bin and not drop or leave it as they leave the event.

Contact your local council. They will have information on the regional demographics for your event.



Have you got signage?
Have you organised
bin monitors?



Your Team

Without great staff, volunteers and support, embedding sustainable event practices is an incredible challenge. Think carefully about what support you need, what work needs to be done and how sustainable practices will link in with these activities.

In event waste management we need:

- Frequent/regular placement of bins, with an emphasis on areas close to food vendors
- Strategic locations of bin stations across the site, including at exits and in parking areas
- Regular emptying of bins at each location, with the ability to request additional collections at any stage
- Monitoring of litter levels around bins and across the event site and neighbouring areas and staff to collect and return littered items to correct bins.

All of this takes people.

It is therefore important to:

- Identify staff and their roles
- Establish very clear lines of communication
- Clearly outline who is responsible for each area

Identify roles and responsibilities early on and look at hiring external contractors if required.



To do this you can:

- Hold regular briefings with staff and volunteers
- Identify where potential shortages may occur in either facilities, staffing levels or other infrastructure and plan for additional support to be available – for example, if additional staffing is required, look at external contractors for additional support
- Use checklists to ensure all OHS requirements are implemented, including the use of hi-vis clothing to identify staff and volunteers. This also assist vendors and attendees if help is needed.

And at the end of the event, debrief everyone

- What worked well?
- What were the lessons learned?
- What were the tension points that are likely to happen again?
- Were all contractors meeting the event needs?
- Have you thanked all of your staff and volunteers?
- What would your staff and volunteers like to see changed/added/removed for the next event?

An open honest debriefing session is extremely valuable. Criticism should be constructive. Sessions such as these should not be used only as a vehicle for complaints. Encourage everyone to come to these sessions with 'one idea to: change, add, remove or improve'. Your team is a valuable resource too, and can assist you at all stages to improve the smooth running of your event.

Have you identified the number of staff you need?



Marketing, Promotion and Engagement

Download our detailed step by step communications and engagement plan in our 'get S.E.T.' tab on the Sustainable Regional Events website.

sustainableregionalevents.com.au



Before

Information before the event is crucial.

Give people plenty of time to prepare to be sustainable at your event.

Get the message out early that there are sustainable practices at your event, be it water bottles, reusable bags, taking public transport or riding a bike to the event. Encourage them to "leave only footprints" - find your own tag line which encourages sustainable practices and reduces waste and litter from your event.

There is so much to do before an event. The earlier you start planning the better.

Here are some key tips:

- Use the debriefing information from the last event to inform planning and goals for this event
- Identify your stakeholders - Have you decided how to and given them key messages/instructions about the event's sustainability goals and practices?
- Know your team. This includes staff, volunteers, external contractors and vendors. Make sure communication is clear, concise, regular and consistent.

Identify your stakeholders. These are anyone who you need to communicate and engage with, for example:

- Patrons and the general public
- Event staff and volunteers
- Stallholders (particularly food and drink stalls)
- Contractors (including waste collection, cleaning, construction, sound and staging)
- Sponsors and supporters (including local Councils and organisations)
- Media organisations.

Have you written your waste engagement plan? Do you have clear messaging around your waste?



How are you going to promote sustainability at your event?



During

Running the event days means everyone is extremely busy. But there are still steps which need to be taken that will make things run smoothly.

- Brief your team before the event commences. This may mean giving them checklists, contact numbers, process reminders. Make sure they have all of the information needed to do their role, or the correct contacts to pass on when needed.
- Have a clearly appointed leader, be it for waste, vendors, security staff, or for multiple areas. Make sure that your team knows how to contact their relevant leader and is comfortable in doing so.
- Make sure team lists are finalised well in advance, and that any late changes are clearly communicated. Have a set location for the lists to be displayed to make life easy for peak activity periods.
- Have a back-up plan. We all know that planning is key, but equally plans can fail. Have you made sure that your waste service provider has additional capacity should you have higher numbers than expected? If there are lots of no-shows, can you reduce services so you are not creating additional waste (eg food waste)
- Nominate someone to take photos. Not only can they be used to promote multi-day events, but they can be used to document practices and in debriefing sessions later on.



After

The last attendee has left, the last vendor has packed up. The bins are gone and the site is back to normal. Now what? Take a few days off to recover, but don't lose the momentum from your event.

- Plan a debriefing session for about a week after your event.
- If you have a very large team of people, look at inviting only the leaders of each team. You should ensure that all staff have an opportunity to provide feedback to their team leaders in these instances.
- Ask your team to bring one idea to change, add, remove, or improve from the event. There are likely to be a lot of similar ideas. This will help you gauge the importance of the ideas.
- Use collaborative tools so that everyone has a chance to include their experiences and ask them to prioritise the areas they believe need attention prior to the next event. This helps to inform your master plan for the next event.
- Include an opportunity for vendors and external contractors to provide feedback to you. This includes security staff, waste service operators etc.
- Remember to get your waste audit data from your waste service provider. This is essential for planning your next event.



Make sure you get input from all your stakeholders including vendors when reviewing your waste strategy

Stallholders, Performers and Staff

Engaging your Stallholders, Performers and Staff from the beginning is an essential part of the success of your sustainable event.

This way, these key people have a chance to be aware of the requirements, time to investigate their options and to approach you to discuss before the event day.

Ensure stallholders/staff and cleaners are aware of back of house waste facilities and understand the different bins.



Getting to Your Event

The way you get people to your event can help set the expectations of a sustainably conscious event.

It doesn't cost any more to encourage people to use group or public transport and there are lots of creative incentives you can use to encourage people to think about their footprint, before they even start the event.

You can help people make their travel impact minimal by getting them to think about their travel plans before the day.

What alternative transport can you offer?



Paper

To reduce the amount of paper waste at your event, find alternatives and use printing as the last option.

Also think about your options for disposing of different paper and cardboard products after they have been used.

Make sure your bin signage is clear. For example, used napkins should go in FOGO or landfill- not in a paper bin. Cardboard is often free to dispose of at local landfill, if flat, not mixed in with other rubbish and clean.

Have you looked at ways to reduce your paper and cardboard use?



Food and Drink

Every year in Victoria, 2.4 million tonnes of food is discarded as waste.⁷ Looking at ways to avoid waste is essential, but so is what we do with the leftover food. Food waste in landfill causes methane production and methane is 28 times more powerful greenhouse gas as CO₂.⁸

Events can help reduce this by ensuring you have a dedicated food collection method with a bin separating food from other waste. This waste can be local council FOGO service, or an arrangement with local composting hub or business.

Events are approaching worm farms or piggeries directly. Make sure you leave enough time to build these relationships and be realistic about the amount of waste you might produce so you can choose the appropriate disposal method.

Food and drink packaging is a significant source of waste. Look at where you can eliminate this type of packaging at your event



Refer to our 'Suppliers' tab at sustainable.regional.events.com.au for suppliers of compostable packaging and plastic alternatives.



We have given you a snapshot of sustainable practices and goals that you can look to implementing at your event. Of course, there are many many more:

Fairtrade

Is there an opportunity for Fairtrade suppliers to be included and/or prioritised at your event – for example give them additional advertising in promotional materials

Carbon Neutral production

Can you include a carbon emissions offset in your event – for example can you offer the option of purchasing a tree planting to offset the carbon produced at your event, as part of the ticket price?

Local food and drink suppliers

Can you negotiate deals with producers who are local to your event location to take advantage of reduced emissions from transport? Can you negotiate a container return system for local businesses who will accept returned food & drink containers (eg crockery).

Can your event encourage a local circular economy? If not now, are there changes that can be planned for future events to assist this development?



What ways can you ensure that food and drink are being prepared and served with minimal waste?



⁷ Sustainability Victoria

⁸ Department of Industry, Science, Energy and Resources (2021) National Inventory Report 2019 (Volume 2)

Saving Water

Look at the different ways and places water is used at an event. Observing how people use and waste water will help you plan a strategy for your event.

Water authorities often have hydration stations to hire, so people can refill their drink bottles free of charge. You need to book in advance.

Refer to the 'Suppliers' tab at sustainableregionalevents.com.au for info on local water authorities and hire companies.



Sustainable Decorations

Being conscious of all the damage plastic can do means to be a sustainable event, we need to be creative and finding alternatives to the traditional options.

In 2021, the Victorian government banned the release of balloons in the outdoors to discourage this single plastic pollution. What are some sustainable alternatives?

You could try

- Bubbles (be careful this could make a slipping hazard in some situations)
- flowers
- reusable bunting
- paper decorations
- planting a tree.

Confetti and glitter are also problems when it comes to plastic in the environment. We have seen some great sustainable alternatives including hole-punched leaves for confetti and coloured eggshell glitter. If left in the environment, these will break down and not leave any plastic waste.

See if you can go further in your sustainability practices to eliminate other sources of single-use plastics in your event decorating.

How you can make your decorations re-useable and not end up in landfill at the end of your event?



Good luck with your *Sustainable* Regional event!

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