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Office of Solid Waste
What is Recycle on the Go?

An EPA initiative to provide technical assistance and work with government agencies and large venues to introduce recycling programs in public places.
Why Recycle on the Go?

- Curbside programs focus on at home generation

- Public should come to expect that recycling is as convenient and available as “disposal” is

- Provide consistent message to the public about the value of recyclable materials

- A national effort is needed to ensure that recyclables are collected where they are generated
Recycle on the Go Objectives

- Encourage a recycling infrastructure for recycling in public places
- Increase the amount of material collected for recycling
- Promote a culture of recycling by making it convenient, available and cost effective
Recycle On the Go Activities

- Work with government agencies, trade associations and large venues: NPS, FHWA, ICSC, CIC, SMA, NFL

- Support state, municipality activities to conduct public place recycling

- Develop website [www.epa.gov/recycleontheego](http://www.epa.gov/recycleontheego)

- Develop success studies, fact sheets and recycling guides for our targeted sectors
Venues and Special Events

- Convention Centers
- Stadiums
- Transportation
- Parks
- Shopping Centers
- Special Events
Convention Centers

- San Francisco’s Moscone Center diverted 75% of its waste.
- Orange County Convention Center saved over $80,000 through its recycling program.
- The Roanoke Civic Center saved over 25% in trash removal due to its recycling program.
Stadiums

In 2004, AT&T Park (formerly SBC Park) recycled 1,760 tons (56% diversion rate) and saved $100,000 on garbage disposal costs.

Qualcomm stadium recycled 66 tons of material in 2006, and generated $10,000 in recyclable materials.
Special Events

Lowell Folk Festival had a diversion rate of 95% in 2003.

The Delaware State Fair collected 7,470 pounds of materials for recycling.
Local Government Opportunities

- Ordinances
- Technical Assistance
- Provide bins and other equipment
- Assist in obtaining volunteers
- Develop best practices guide
- Permits – recycling plan/report
- Media/Publicity Assistance
Pittsburgh, PA

Ordinance with guidelines for special events of over 200 individuals per day. Offer recycling assistance, such as providing recycling containers and small trailers.

Helps collect materials, but event organizers are responsible for providing volunteers or staff for proper maintenance and supervision of the containers during the event. The city may use 9-cubic-yard trailers or rear-loading dumpsters.
Boise, Idaho

In 2001:
- Provided technical assistance
- Bins and liner bags
- Hauler services
- Volunteers

In 2007:
- Reduced assistance
- Partnered with Boise State University Environmental Health Club to assist six largest events
Event Planning Basics

- Assign a waste and recycling coordinator
- Evaluate waste stream
- Determine materials recyclable in local market
- Develop integrated waste management plan
- Work with haulers and materials processors to set up collection and transportation
- Determine collection stations, bins and signs
- Provide for a staging area to collect recyclables
- Recruit volunteers to help with recycling
- Invite vendors, haulers, volunteers and community members to planning meetings
- Publicize recycling before, during and after the event
Work with Vendors

- Send letter to vendors asking them to reduce packaging and participate in recycling.

- Invite vendors to planning meetings, make sure they understand recycling program and are on board.

- Provide recycling bins, signage and educational materials (e.g., posters) to vendors.
Actions Vendors Can Take

- Limit use of disposables (plasticware, napkins, etc.).
- Use "pump" condiment dispensers (refillable) instead of small packets.
- Keep napkins behind counter, provide only one per person and consider purchasing smaller napkins.
- Offer a reusable drink container and discounted refills.
- Do not dispense straws or lids.
- Use reusable containers to transport food to the festival site.
- Save food waste for animal consumption or composting.
- Donate leftovers to area shelters.
- Use non-toxic cleaners and buy cleaners in bulk, or use concentrates.
- Ask your suppliers to transport products without corrugated boxes, or in reusable boxes.
- Share little used items with neighboring vendors.
Work with Hauler

- Will hauler provide recycling bins?
- How many dumpsters will be needed and how often will they be emptied?
- What is an acceptable contamination level for each recyclable material?
- How is the cost determined?
- Require reporting on amounts of each material and contamination rates
Recycling Bins

- Place a trash can next to each recycling bin.
- Recycling bin lids should only allow the recyclables to enter.
- Clearly indicate what can be recycled on each side of the bin.
- Clearly label trash cans.
- Use signage above the bins so their location can be seen from a distance.
- Distribute the bins throughout the event, placing more in high-traffic and food service areas.
- Empty trash and recycling bins frequently.
TRASH ONLY

No Plastic, Glass, or Aluminum Beverage Containers. Please look for recycling nearby.

Smithsonian Folklife Festival
We’d Love to Hear from You!

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