


# The Gun Show Foop



Sam Metzger  
Environmental Services Manager  
City of Pasadena

# Goal

---

Zero waste events at our Convention Center  
City events  
Second party events

## Approach A — Get the Convention Center to DO IT

---

- Meet with CC Director
  - Inform goal
  - create a believer
  - give director flyers/brochures/training
  - hope director will purchase appropriate recycle containers
    - Paper
    - Plastic
    - Cans
  - hope CC staff follows new direction at cleanup
  - hope director will coordinate with show hosts/vendors

# Approach A - didn't work...

---

- ❑ Oops – CC Director has full plate without new tasking
- ❑ Oops – only recycle bins are roll-offs outside the back bay of CC
- ❑ Oops – no inside recycle bins available inside the CC
- ❑ Oops – CC Staff is already working OT
  - No time for training
  - No new/additional effort welcome

# Approach B – Get the Show Host to DO IT

---

- ❑ Contact the second party and work directly for recycle
- ❑ Get next show host contact info from CC staff
- ❑ Call host – he’s a good ol boy (hey, it’s a gun show!)
- ❑ “Sure little lady, come on out and we’ll talk”
- ❑ On site for the weekend show by Friday 5pm...
  - 20 min on site, no sign of host and vendors are already setting up – no paper waste visible
  - waiting for host’s permission to give his vendors the brochure that will make them believers

# Approach B continued

---

- Idea for informing the vendors...
  - All the vendors at the show stop and come into classroom at the CC and I talk to them as a group one time (10 min max)
  
- Oops – host will not ask his vendors to stop and listen about recycling while they are setting up

# Approach C – Ask the Vendors to DO IT

---

- Connect with host's staff (2 ladies who are collecting the booth fees from the vendors) – could I talk to the vendors about paper recycling???
- “Sure, hon, go ahead and pass out your flyers – no problem”
- Pass out flyers and spend a few minutes talking to each individual vendor (about 20 total vendors)
  - “why” we'd like them to recycle their paper/cardboard waste
  - It is now 8pm and I've talked to about ½ the vendors

# Approach C continued

---

- Continue briefings on Sat 8 am
  
- Talk to remaining vendors (1 hr)
  - Not good timing – they are setting up
  - Still there when show opens, but soon gave up
  - Could not interfere with their customers
  
- Their overall attitude “I probably don’t have enough paper/cardboard to bother with”



# Approach C continued

---

- ❑ Stayed away from show till Sunday at 3pm – show closes at 5pm
- ❑ I remind each vendor how important it is to recycle their paper
- ❑ At 5:30 pm, vendors packing up and putting their paper trash in a heap under their display table (very small heaps)
- ❑ Oops – they are not walking their trash back to the recycle bins at the back door like I thought they would...
- ❑ Oops – the CC staff, who will be cleaning up, may not be aware about the paper and cardboard recycle idea...

# Approach C - didn't work...

---

- ❑ Oops, there is no time that the vendors all stop what they are doing and listen to anyone talk about anything...
- ❑ Oops – not feasible to interfere during vendor setup time
- ❑ Oops, vendors come and go from about 4pm till 8pm during set up– hard to catch each one
- ❑ Oops – cannot tell beforehand how much paper/cardboard waste each will have – unable to prioritize vendors to talk to
- ❑ Oops – surprisingly small amount of paper/cardboard trash even during set up
  - (about 3/4 the vendors have none)

# Approach D — Get the CC staff to DO IT

---

- ❑ Obvious no vendor will put his paper/cardboard into the recycle bin
- ❑ Wait in the CC staff office for a couple hr waiting for the clean up staff
- ❑ Staff arrives and we talk about why we want to recycle paper/cardboard
- ❑ Hope CC staff do put paper/cardboard into the recycle bins
  - very little paper/cardboard waste anyway

# Approach D - did work a little

---

- ❑ A not too intensive/difficult burden for the CC staff even at the end of a large event
- ❑ Most of the trash left behind was paper/cardboard, but there was less than 6 tall garbage bags of it
- ❑ Was it worth 10 hours of my time?

# What would work?

---

- ❑ Set policy at CC that all paper/cardboard waste will be recycled and is written into contract with second party event host
  - If implemented – must have convenient recycle bins
- ❑ What about incentives for zero waste left on floor?
- ❑ Work with CC staff to train how to recycle?
  - Sun night after long weekend....
- ❑ How about a recycle team who comes at end of event?