



Best Practice in Waste Management at a Public Event

Corinbank Arts and Music Festival

Profile

Corinbank Music and Arts Festival was established in 2008. It offers a mix of music and arts performances with a strong link to performances from the local region as well as some well-known bands from around Australia. The festival runs over three days, is family friendly and attendees are able to camp at the site throughout its duration.

A major theme of Corinbank is sustainability. To date, Corinbank has been making a commendable effort to limit the event's impact on the environment. In doing so, the festival sets a standard for sustainable event management in the ACT. Some environmental initiatives implemented by the festival include having 100% renewable power and promoting long lasting environmental change within the community. Within this environmental theme, it is natural that Corinbank has a strong waste management system looking at innovative methods of waste reduction.



One of the Wastebusters sorting stations at the festival

'At other festivals bins are usually overflowing, rubbish ends up all over the place. This hasn't happened at Corinbank'
Loretta Jessop

Venue

The Corinbank festival is held in the Corin Forest Recreation Park, Corin Dam Rd in the Brindabella Mountains, approximately 40 minutes drive from Canberra's CBD.

Planning

Corinbank made a strong effort to ensure waste management was as sustainable as possible. Throughout the festival all bins were arranged in sets of three – general waste, recycling and organic waste. Each bin had signage to help the public correctly separate their waste.



The three bin system, bins from left to right, Compost, Recycling and Waste to Landfill

I think they are awesome in trying to minimise their impact. It encourages people to form habits that they take away to their other lives. As a smoker the butt bins are useful to minimise rubbish'

Max Gambale



ACT
Government



Simple cigarette disposal system

There were also two Wastebuster stations set out throughout the major hubs of the festival. Wastebusters are a not for profit group of volunteers who assist events to minimise their waste and assist patrons to correctly separate their waste. To learn more about Wastebusters or ask them to attend your event, go to their website at www.oranaschool.com/wastebusters



Wastebuster sorting station

In order to minimise the amount of waste produced, Corinbank had a policy that all food and beverage vendors must only supply compostable catering equipment to customers. This meant all the plates, bowls, cups and cutlery were compostable and were able to be disposed of into a centralised compost heap.



Signage featuring catering items for composting

'Seems to work well. Like the enviro emphasis but also how smoothly it works, it is still easy and convenient to use'

Jodi Neale

During the festival

The general waste bins, the recycling bins and the organic bins were collected by Corinbank volunteers and sorted. The sorting was done to counteract any contamination in the bins. The waste was then put into separate skips. There was one skip for general waste, two skips for recyclables and one sizable compost heap for organics.



The ACTSmart Business Program team can provide a step-by-step best practice guide to waste management, tailored for your event.





Sorted recycling in one of the skips

Vendors and patrons could also go to Wastebuster stations that were staffed by trained volunteers to seek guidance on how to correctly separate their waste throughout the event.

'Other Canberra festivals could take a leaf out of the Corinbank book (as long as it is a leaf that has already fallen).'

Loretta Jessop



Compostable catering items supplied at Corinbank

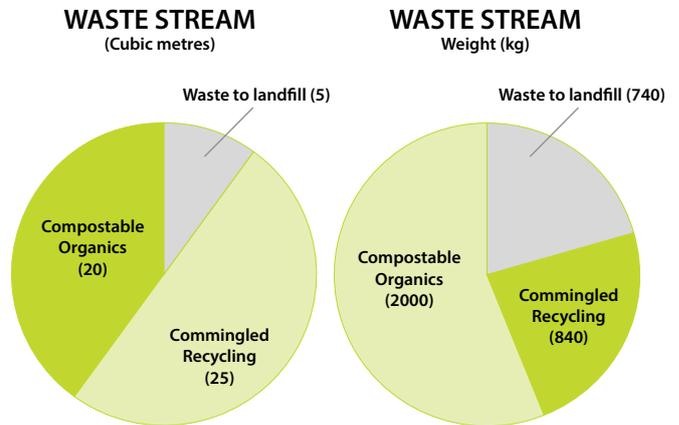
'It's great to be enjoying the beautiful location and having so many biodegradable products and recycling centres available.'

Annika Romeyn

Results

Waste generation

Overall the festival managed to recycle 90% of all the waste produced. This is an impressive result as on average most events of a similar length and size are only able to achieve a 40% recycling rate.



The key to this festival success includes:

1. Ensuring minimal waste to landfill was generated throughout the festival by insisting that all food vendors only provide patrons with compostable catering equipment.
2. Excellent signage and assistance through the Wastebusters and the ACTSmart Public Event Program ensured all waste was correctly separated both in front and back of house areas.
3. A clear sustainability theme was promoted throughout the festival to patrons, vendors and performers.

'It's the best event like this I've been to waste management wise...I'm glad the commitment isn't just lip-service - it's good to see that the event is doing what it said it would.'

No name



For further information, contact ACTSmart *Business Program*:

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Public

The Corinbank festival's emphasis on sustainability is having increasing benefits for promotion of the event. In a study interviewing attendees at the festival, 94% claimed they were aware of the festival's strong sustainability theme, with 43% claiming it was a significant reason for them in choosing to attend the event. This is an increase from 29% in 2009.

The public was generally pleased with the waste management at the event. The abundance of bins was considered to have been sufficient for the majority of attendees: 83% thought there were enough general waste bins, 85% thought there were enough recycling bins and 79% thought there were enough organic bins.

Furthermore, respondents thought the bins were located in good positions: 87% thought the bins were easy to find. They related that the consistency of the bins, in being grouped together in sets of three was a major factor for this.

The public provided a lot of positive feedback in regards to the waste management of the event.

'Seems to work well. Like the enviro emphasis but also how smoothly it works, it is still easy and convenient to use.'

*Jodi Neale
Corinbank customer*

'They are fantastic! Leading the way, Wish more people would follow this example.'

*Derek Cleland
Corinbank customer*

'It could totally be done at other festivals'.

*Louis Salidn,
Corinbank Volunteer*

'I find it very satisfying that this festival is based on sustainable principles...it's important for the future of the event.'

Kate Moonly

Areas for improvement

The 2012 Corinbank festival had a strong sustainable waste management program but there were a few areas that members of the public thought could be further improved.

The following were some recurring suggestions from the participating public:

- As in previous years use compostable toilets rather than portaloos.
- The bins should look more consistent with those already in use throughout the ACT. (i.e the compostable bins look similar to the general waste bins throughout the ACT).
- Provide information on how the generated waste is eventually disposed of. This could be done by appropriate signage.

