



Greening Your Special Event



#partnersinwastereduction

Event Greening

Every spring and summer, the Valley bustles with festivals, exhibitions and many other activities in which we can all take great pride; but we should also take great pride in our waste management achievements.

Every event should make an effort to provide the public with containers for recycling and composting.

Why should you make the effort?

- It's cheaper to dispose of recycling and compost than garbage
- It's Provincial and Municipal Law
- It's environmentally responsible
- Best of all you will be providing a good example for your community

Environmentally Friendly Tips

- Use reusable dishes and cutlery
- If this is not possible, use paper plates or napkins so they can be composted
- Provide milk, sugar, and condiments in bulk containers
- Use wooden stir sticks for coffee as opposed to plastic

Garbage:

- Garbage must be in transparent clear bags
- Leave the lids of garbage containers open to reduce contamination in the recycling and compost
- For those who won't sort – this is the “path of least resistance” and will discourage them from putting garbage the recycling cans



Recycling:

- Recycling must be placed into blue bags
- If you want to separate refundable containers from your other recycling (e.g. milk), or if you have paper recycling, a cardboard box lined with a clear bag is an inexpensive and space efficient idea



Composting:

- Paper and certified compostable bags are permitted
- You may also carry the food waste in clear plastic bags to our Management Centres; simply empty the organics into the drop-off and place the plastic bag in the garbage.



Special Event Containers

VWRM has recycling, composting and garbage containers which can be loaned out for short term periods, free of charge.

Choose an appropriate location for the containers. Maximize recycling by grouping the containers together in three's: recycling, compost & garbage



We have two available styles of containers. Above are wheeled carts and below are folding, see-through wire containers



Below is a checklist of a few key tasks and considerations that should be determined before the event takes place.

Sorting Container Placement

- ☐ Food vendors
- ☐ Entrance/Exit
- ☐ Washroom (paper towel option)

Food Service

- ☐ Ensure sorting behind counter
- ☐ Encourage reusable dishes or compostable plates
- ☐ Washroom (paper towel option)

Maintenance of Waste

- ☐ Estimate how often bags need changing
- ☐ Purchase clear and blue bags
- ☐ Assign volunteers to change bags

Valley Waste Containers (if borrowed)

- ☐ Secure sorting behind the counter
- ☐ Take inventory and empty
- ☐ Return to Valley Waste

Getting Rid of Your Waste

If you have borrowed containers from Valley Waste, please empty them of their contents before returning.

Curbside

If your event takes place at a permanent, tax-paying dwelling (e.g. community hall), then you are entitled to curbside pickup – but there are limits! The collection trucks will take:

- 8 bags of waste in total (garbage + recycling)
- Of these 8 bags, a maximum of 4 clear garbage bags (oversized bags can be set out if tied half-way)
- 1 green cart

Enviro-Depot™

Refundable beverage containers go to any ENVIRO-DEPOT™ to receive a refund

Remember to remove all caps and straws from the containers before you return them

Management Centres

You can take the load yourself to either of our two Management Centres in Kentville and Lawrencetown. Our Management Centre staff will be happy to direct you to the drop-off area.

Visit

<https://www.vwrm.com/services/locations-tipping-fees/> for an up to date schedule of tipping fees.

Locations

Eastern Management Centre
100 Donald Hiltz Connector,
Kentville Mon-Fri 8am-4pm,
Sat 8am-noon

Western Management Centre
343 Elliott Rd., Lawrencetown
Tues-Fri 8am – 4pm,
Sat 8am-noon

Hauler

You can also hire a private hauler to take your waste to the Management Centres. Visit <https://www.vwrm.com/services/haulers-list-and-cd-sites/> for an up to date list of haulers.

- If your hauler provides bins (i.e. dumpsters), please ensure that they provide you with enough bins to keep bags of recycling, compost and garbage separate from each other. All bags cannot go together in one bin. Cardboard must also be separated.



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Managing Waste at Your Event

Assign a Waste Reduction Coordinator or Set up A Waste Management Committee

- All committee members or the Waste Reduction Coordinator should have a good understanding of the waste management goals of the event and of the waste management practices of the host community.
- All major stakeholders should be invited to have a representative on the committee.
- One individual should be assigned the role of Waste Reduction Coordinator for the event. This individual should have strong organizational and communication skills, a solid understanding of local area waste management programs and practices.
- Contact Valley Waste Educators for advice on setting up the best waste management systems for your event.

For Smaller Events/Festivals

Community suppers, garden parties, weddings and other small gatherings can also benefit from event greening. Although you may not need to establish a committee, you still need the support of those involved to successfully reduce waste at your event. There may be less waste to manage at smaller events, but it still takes planning.

Signage For Waste Stations



Use simple and clear signs that show people what goes in each container. Use graphics with minimal text.

- Signs should be located at eye-level, preferably on the top (back) of the container.
- For larger events, you should consider training volunteers to educate visitors about proper waste separation, and the system your event is using. This will help reduce contamination in the different containers.

If you require signage for your event, contact the Education team at Valley Waste at education@vwrm.com or call 902 679 1325.

