

# **Special Event Environmental Sustainability Recommendations**

Public events result in the consumption of large quantities of energy and water, as well as generating waste, which impacts the environment. When planning an event, consider the following to reduce the environmental impact.

## **Water**

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Reducing reliance on bottled water:

- Provide vendors with on-site access to potable water when possible.
- Provide water stations where vendors and attendees can access potable water for filling water bottles and for other uses.
- Using social media, the website, and other event promotions, encourage vendors, staff, and attendees to bring their own reusable water bottles.

Questions to Consider:

- If plastic bottles and cans are unavoidable, how can the event organizing committee ensure all plastic beverage containers are properly recycled at the event?
- Is there a non-profit/charity/ sporting organizations that can collect the bottle/cans and return them to the depots to profit for their respective organizations?

## **Waste**

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Increase Waste Diversion:

- Provide waste stations where garbage, organics, and single-stream recycling bins are all available together.
- Provide recycling bins to vendors during setup and at the end of the event.
- Ensure garbage, recycling, and compost bins are clearly labeled with images of accepted materials for each bin.
- Assign volunteers to staff waste stations and provide information to event attendees.
- Provide at least one waste station for every 500 attendees.
- If organics waste diversion is available, encourage vendors to use compostable dishware, cups, and cutlery.
- Avoid using Styrofoam.

Questions to Consider:

- Is the event supporting the City's vision to increase waste diversion to 70%?
- How will the event organizing committee ensure the appropriate number of recycling and compost bins are at the event?
- How can the event organizing committee reduce recycling contamination?
- How can the event organizing committee encourage attendees and vendors to minimize waste?

## **Energy**

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Conserve energy:

- Promote power conservation by unplugging equipment when not in use.
- Purchase clean energy credits or participate in a carbon offset program.

## **Transportation**

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Encourage alternative/active transportation:

- Provide easily accessible and secure bike parking, including bike valet.
- Promote the use of public transit, biking, walking, or carpooling to and from the event.
- Host the event in a centralized location.

Questions to Consider:

- How can the event organizing committee communicate to vendors and attendees about transportation opportunities to the event such as walking, biking, transit, and carpooling?

## **Communication**

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Provide information:

- Ensure that all vendors and event staff are educated on proper recycling practices.
- Communicate a commitment to being a sustainable or "green" event.

**For additional resources, the City of Saskatoon Environmental Advisory Council's Green Events Guide is available on the Recreational and Community Development Division's webpage.**