

How to keep your event eco-friendly

KEEP PARADISE PLASTIC FREE

Plastic Free Douglas

Advice for event organisers and stall holders

Great events make money, promote brands and benefit the community but they can also lead to energy and water overuse and oceans of disposable plastic and waste. Improving the sustainability of your event not only benefits the environment but provides a cleaner experience for visitors, reduces costs, and meets growing community expectations.

A commitment to go green at your event or stall begins at the planning stage to reduce waste and environmental impact without breaking your budget.

Things to Consider

Paper

- Keep things digital: replace flyers, brochures and tickets with webpages, social media and electronic ticketing. QR codes can be scanned on a phone and take people straight to your website
- Include signage with your social media details and official hashtags



Decorations

- Think Reusable. Avoid printing dates on signs or banners for recurring events

Eating & Drinking

Serving Food

- Choose finger foods or compostable cutlery: wooden stirrers and chopsticks, and bamboo forks
- Crockery options with no plastic or polystyrene include reusable crockery (charge a deposit), or paper, cardboard, wood and corn starch
- Condiments and sauces. Use bulk dispensers instead of individual packets

On the Day

Plastic bags

- Do not provide single-use plastic bags
- Alternatives include: no bag, paper bags, branded reusable bags and cardboard boxes

Merchandise

- Rethink the giveaways. Do patrons really need another disposable plastic giveaway to remember you?

Balloons

- Balloons are popular but dangerous to marine and wildlife. Don't give away balloons



Drinks

- Avoid plastic coffee cup lids and consider providing reusable cups for a fee

Waste & Recycling

- Eliminate straws or replace plastic with paper straws
- Replace bottled water with portable water-stations where people can fill reusable bottles



Food Waste

Food waste, with the resources to produce and dispose of it, contributes greatly to CO2 emissions

- Calculate how much food you need and don't over cater
- Keep serving sizes reasonable
- Give leftovers to participants or donate to a local organization

Resources

Energy and Water Efficiency

- Reduce consumption as you do at home – turn off idle equipment, lights and taps
- Be aware of the storm water system: avoid unnecessary wash-downs and keep your site litter and contaminant free

(Don't) Go the extra mile

- Choose your vendors carefully. Buying locally decreases 'food miles' and supports the local economy
- If your suppliers follow eco-friendly practices, you further increase environmental benefits

Beware of 'Green-washing'

- Biodegradable and degradable bags and balloons that just break up into smaller particles
- Recyclable/compostable products which can only be processed with special equipment not readily available

Take the Credit

Most Queenslanders support improving sustainability and are increasingly demanding environmental action. Let patrons know of your commitment to be eco-friendly in communications with sponsors, participants and the media. Consumers are willing to pay for environmentally friendly products so communicate your initiatives effectively and your bottom line won't be affected. Promoted well, the switch can actually be good for business.

For more information:

Plastic Free Douglas



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Bin Stations

- Maximise recycling by pairing each waste bin with a recycling bin. Bins must be clearly labeled with what can go in them, conveniently placed and emptied when necessary

Cigarette Butts

- Many people don't know butts are plastic and dangerous to wildlife
- Provide clearly signed smoking areas with plenty of bins

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