Quick Tips

- Position all recyclable containers in visible areas next to trash cans.
- Clearly mark all containers for recyclables (cardboard, cans, paper, etc.). Make signs bilingual or use graphics as needed.
- Educate employees and attendees on the where, what, and whys of recycling.
- Require suppliers to reduce packaging or use reusable packaging, which is returned to the supplier.
- Share collection or processing equipment with nearby venues or events.
- Add mandatory recycling language into contracts, or add a disposal fee with a rebate for those who recycle.
- Use volunteers or staff to monitor recycling and trash cans. Help attendees select the appropriate can for their waste.
- Target educational materials to your audience.

According to the 2014 Statewide Waste Characterization data, the commercial sector generates nearly three-fourths of all solid waste in California, much of it readily recyclable. According to that study, the Arts, Entertainment and Recreation sector had an overall diversion rate of 17 percent. This can be partly attributed to the fact that it was not just employees generating material at these businesses—large numbers of visitors and guests were also generating material at these sites, which include live performance venues, parks, fairgrounds, bowling alleys, movie theaters, and stadiums. Food was the most prevalent divertible material type, accounting for 34 percent of disposal.

Resources for diverting food from large venues and events can be found at http://www.calrecycle.ca.gov/organics/Food/Compost/SpecialEvent/default.htm

Additional California laws that may affect large venues and events:
AB 341 (Chapter 476, Statutes of 2011, Chesbro) – Mandatory Commercial Recycling: This law sets forth the requirements of the statewide mandatory commercial recycling program for California businesses and public entities (those generating at least 4 cubic yards of solid waste per week). Please see http://www.calrecycle.ca.gov/Recycle/Commercial/ for more information.
AB 1826 (Chapter 727,Statutes of 2014, Chesbro) – Mandatory Commercial Organics Recycling: This law phases in the requirements on businesses, including multifamily residential dwellings that consist of five or more units, over time based on the amount and type of waste the business produces on a weekly basis, with full implementation realized in 2019. Additionally, the law contains a 2020 trigger that will increase the scope of affected businesses if waste reduction targets are not met. Please see http://www.calrecycle.ca.gov/Recycle/Commercial/Organics/ for more information.

The Department of Resources Recycling and Recovery (CalRecycle) does not discriminate on the basis of disability in access to its programs. CalRecycle publications are available in accessible formats upon request by calling the Public Affairs Office at (916) 341-6300. Persons with hearing impairments can reach CalRecycle through the California Relay Service at (800) 735-2929.
Revised 7/2016 publication #310-05-005

CalRecycle

Waste Reduction Tips

For Large Venues & Events

THE LAW

California law (Chapter 879, Statutes of 2004, Montanez, AB 2176) requires all large venues and events to implement programs to reduce the amount of waste going to our landfills. Large venues and events (as defined in the law) must plan for solid waste reduction and annually report the progress of their recycling and waste reduction programs upon request of the local government in which they are located.

For additional information on the law regarding large venues and events, access the CalRecycle website at www.calrecycle.ca.gov/venues/mandates/.

SUCCESSFUL VENUE/ EVENT RECYCLING

Plan your waste reduction strategy in advance.

Help is available from the following resources:

- Your local waste hauler
- California Conservation Corps
- Nonprofit, social, or charitable service organizations (Boy Scouts, 4-H club, homeless shelter, church group, etc.)
- Recyclables drop-off/buy-back center
- Independent recycler
- Manager of the venue facility or event
- Local government recycling coordinator
- Coordinators for other venues or events
- CalRecycle's webpage on venues and events (www.calrecycle.ca.gov/Venues)

REDUCE WASTE

Large venues and events generate a large amount of waste in a short period of time. Reducing waste can decrease operational expenses, provide additional revenue, and offer possible tax deductions for donated items. Reduce waste by reducing, reusing, and recycling. Start now by placing emphasis on reducing waste and recycling the following materials commonly generated at venues and events:

Corrugated Cardboard

- Flatten empty boxes and set them aside for recycling. Recycling will cut disposal costs and may even generate revenue.
- If waxed cardboard is not acceptable to cardboard buyers, it may be acceptable to composters.

Beverage Containers

- Many aluminum cans, glass, and plastic bottles have a California Refund Value (CRV).
- Receive 5 cents for a container that is less than 24 ounces and 10 cents for a container that is 24 ounces or larger. Redeem containers at a certified recycling center. Locate one at www.bottlesandcans.com/.
- Not every container is a CRV container. Look for "CRV" on the label to ensure recyclability. For complete details, access the CalRecycle website at www.calrecycle.ca.gov/bevcontainer/.

Wood Waste

(wood pallets, lumber, old stage props, etc.)

- Pallets can be sold, reused for shipping, or returned to vendors.
- Donate old stage props to local schools or community theaters.
- Shred or chip to use as mulch.

Revised 7/2016 publication #310-05-005

Plastics (bags, wrap, buckets, straws, cups, plates, eating utensils, etc.)

- Work to reduce waste by choosing reusable or compostable alternatives.
- Work with your service provider to identify recycling opportunities.

Paper (pamphlets, fliers, brochures, programs, tickets, receipts, catalogs, etc.)

- Keep recyclable paper clean and dry.
- Reduce paper use by printing on both sides.

Green Waste (centerpieces, animal bedding, manure, landscape trimmings, etc.)

- Plants, centerpieces, and other decorative greenery in good condition can often be donated to hospitals and senior centers. If an item is past its decorative life, it can be composted.
- Compost or mulch leaves and grass clippings, or when mowing, leave clippings on the lawn. Nature has a way of decomposing these organic materials and naturally reusing them.

Food

- Plan to serve food in a way that minimizes waste. For example, serve hot dogs or burritos in a napkin only.
- Donate excess food to area food banks or rescue organizations. Contact them prior to your event so you know how to properly store the food before donation.
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