

Zero Waste Events Case Study

Go Organic Festival 2005



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Go Organic Festival 2005

The Go Organic Festival was held on Saturday 24 and Sunday 25 of September from 10am until 5pm and attracted an estimated 20,000 visitors.

The Festival was a fun, family-friendly free-entry event that invited visitors to eat, drink, taste, touch and experience the organic difference. The festival is Adelaide's first and possibly Australia's largest farmers' market, involving producers from many of the State's food producing regions.

The entertainment program at the Festival included music and dance performances, children's entertainment, including a colourful Scarecrow project involving schools and kindergartens. The Festival also hosted a demonstration kitchen and an extensive speakers' program.

The Go Organic Festival was supported by Zero Waste SA through the Zero Waste Events Program. Zero Waste SA provided a cost subsidy to undertake an audit of the waste generated at the Festival. The information from the audit will help to improve waste minimisation at future Festivals. The cost subsidy also covered the provision of bin caps, biodegradable crockery, cutlery and bin liners and signage.

Waste minimisation initiatives

As a Zero Waste Event, organisers restricted food items to be sold in biodegradable and recyclable materials only. Festival visitors were provided with beverages in recyclable bottles or plastic cups and food stuffs in biodegradable bowls and plates with paper napkins made from recycled material.

Festival vendors were informed of the initiatives in place through briefing material sent out prior to the event. Visitors were informed of the initiatives at the event through signage stating that the Festival was a Zero Waste Event.

Festival visitors separated their biodegradable waste from bottles, cans and cartons at easy to use, brightly coloured bin stations located throughout the Festival grounds. A BiobiN® was provided back of house for biodegradable waste.

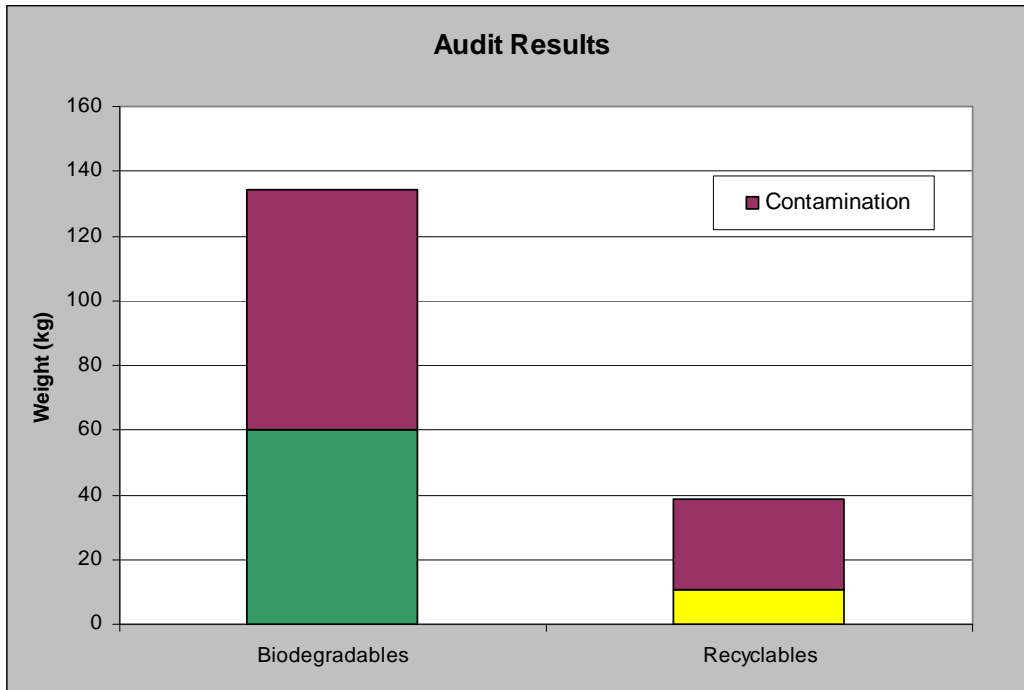
An audit of the biodegradable waste was carried out to provide a snap shot of the type and amounts of waste being generated at the Festival. Recyclable material including bottles, cans and cartons were collected and sent for recycling.

Results from the event

A total of 18 m³ of general and biodegradable waste was generated at the Festival, with 10 m³ of this material sent for composting. Additionally, 377 CDL containers and 180 non-CDL recyclable containers were collected and recycled from the event.

Type of waste	Measure
Total biodegradable waste	10m ³
Total general waste (sent to landfill)	8m ³
Total recyclable material	557 containers

Of the biodegradable waste audited, 85% was suitable for composting. The main contaminant items were plastic catering items, plastic bags and glass. The contamination rate in the recyclable waste stream was 15%, with the main contaminants being biodegradable waste (eg. cardboard cups), plastic catering items and 2 litre milk containers. Results are displayed graphically below.



The following improvements to the initiatives have been identified for future festivals and similar events:

- Investigations should be made into finding alternative packaging for food samples, such as replacing plastic tasting cups and spoons with biodegradable, poly lactic acid (PLA), cornstarch or wooden items. This will help reduce the amount of general waste generated at the Festival
- Cages for cardboard should be provided back of house for vendors and clearly marked
- Bin stations should be provided back of house to groups of or individual vendors to dispose of recyclable or biodegradable waste including juice pulp
- Vendors should not provide plastic bags to visitors for their shopping

The organisers of the event intend to continue implementing waste minimisation and recycling initiatives at future Festivals, and have recognised a need for improvement in some areas. In future, the event organiser intends to purchase biodegradable catering items such as PLA cups and wooden cutlery in bulk to on-sell to vendors in order to reduce the cost associated with purchasing these items in small quantities. This will also help to more tightly regulate catering items used at future events.