

Friday 11 November 2005

FRINGE GOES GREEN

Adelaide's iconic Fringe Festival is becoming a Zero Waste SA event, Environment and Conservation Minister John Hill says.

The amount of waste produced by the three-week event, to be staged in February and March next year, will be dramatically cut, and the focus will be on recycling.

Drink containers, paper plates, cutlery and beer cups will be collected and composted – making the Fringe only second to the Sydney Olympics as Australia's biggest green event, Minister Hill said.

"This is a great first step from the Fringe to go green," he said.

"This joint campaign between the Fringe and the State Government's recycling body, Zero Waste SA, will establish the Fringe as a model for other green events in South Australia."

Under the arrangement all Fringe-managed sites will be endorsed as Zero Waste events.

This means the amount of waste disposed to landfill will be reduced by:

- Recycling beverage containers.
- Prescribing the use of catering items such as paper plates, wooden cutlery and compostable beer cups by all food vendors and then composting this material once used.
- Recycling cardboard from food and other vendors.

Adelaide Fringe chief executive Gail Carnes said the event would draw almost 800,000 people. Almost 250 venues, ranging from motels to universities will participate in the Fringe.

"An event of this scale produces tonnes of waste: empty bottles and paper plates, plastic cutlery and food debris," she said.

"For the first time, the Fringe will ensure that as much of it as possible will be recycled."

The Zero Waste SA Events program provides sponsorship for events to be waste-free. WOMA Adelaide is also operating as a Zero Waste event, with compost produced from the waste collected this year used to fertilise the Botanic Gardens.

There have been another eight endorsed Zero Waste Events this year, with more coming up.

For more information go to: http://www.zerowaste.sa.gov.au/prog_events.php

The Adelaide Fringe will run from 24 February to 19 March.