

Green Guide to Organising a Festival, Fair or other outdoor event:



Limerick•Clare•Kerry

MANAGING
WASTE
BETTER

Outdoor events are great fun for the public and can attract thousands of people of all ages.

As an organiser you have a lot to think about and do, so this guide has been put together to help you with protecting the environment before, during and after your event.

All events have an impact on the environment in terms of the amount of water and energy consumed as well as litter and waste generated. Additionally how people get to and from the event will have an impact locally.

As a festival organiser, if you can plan ahead with the environment in mind, you can significantly lessen the impact of your event on your local environment as well as potentially saving money for both the organisers, local businesses and visitors.

This short guide is aimed to getting you started and further info is available at: www.managewaste.ie

TRAVEL:

- When advertising your event encourage visitors to use sustainable methods of transport to get to your event: car share, use public transport, cycle or walk. You could think about a specific competition for those that made the effort to travel sustainably.
- Provide local public transport information
- If public car parks are provided make sure there are segregated waste bins provided as many event goers will deposit waste at the end of the event.
- If temporary signage is used for the event don't forget to collect it afterwards for use next year.



WATER:

- A dripping tap can waste up to 40 litres of water, check all public water supplies in toilets & sinks and mend leaks.
- Fit tap aerators to reduce volume of water used – remember a medium flow of water (about 6 l/min) is adequate for hand washing.
- Hot water is expensive – use sparingly.
- Insert “Hippo’s” or other water displacement devices in cisterns to reduce water consumption.
- Visit all the restaurants, pubs & other participating hospitality venues and encourage water awareness – it makes good business and environmental sense. Involving them will also help make the event even more successful.
- Encourage everyone to drink tap water.



YOUR GREEN GUIDE to Organising a Festival, Fair or other outdoor event:

WASTE:

- Provide plenty of bins in accessible areas with good signage: at the very least encourage people to segregate waste from recyclables and if possible introduce a third bin for food waste.
- Use pictures/symbols rather than words on waste bins.
- Use Clear bags in bins – it leads to less contamination.
- Encourage all hospitality and retail outlets to supply food and drink in packaging that can be recycled.
- Talk to suppliers of take-away food about compostable packaging which is now readily available.
- Talk to market vendors about taking their waste home with them.
- Establish a benchmark for waste: Kg's of waste per visitor: aim to reduce this next year.



ENERGY:

- Use natural daylight wherever possible.
- Use natural ventilation rather than air conditioning where possible.
- Only heat water for showers and hand basins to a maximum of 60°.
- Encourage all participating businesses to fit CFL's and LED's to reduce energy consumption from lighting.
- Encourage a "Turn Down/Switch off campaign."
- Encourage the use of Green Energy.



SUSTAINABLE SUPPLIERS:

- Encourage the use of ethical/green suppliers such as Fair Trade and other eco-labels.
- Encourage a "Buy Local" Campaign, this reduces the environmental impact of goods and services by reducing the miles they travel and is also good for the local economy.
- Discourage the consumption of single use items where possible – for example using washable crockery rather than paper plates.
- Encourage the use of compostable catering products such as coffee cups, cutlery etc.
- Encourage the use of environmentally friendly cleaning products.



LITTER:

- If there is a campsite, supply all pitches with 2 bags – one for waste and one for recycling.
- Organise litter pickers into teams – one to pick recyclables, the other to pick waste.
- Make public announcements to remind people to use the bins and recycle.

