

Waste Management at Events



This factsheet has been developed for applicants who have sought in-kind assistance from council with regard to supply of general waste and recycling bins for events.

Mackay Regional Council is committed to improving resource recovery in public places and encourages event holders to run a sustainable waste event.

A sustainable waste event aims to minimise the environmental impact of waste going to landfill by adopting best practice in the management, including providing waste and recycling bins and promoting “Do the right thing; use the right bin”.

A good waste management plan is recommended for any event. It is important to ensure that the

waste management system is suitable and easy to use. Simple systems will allow visitors to do the right thing: recycle easily and dispose of general waste properly.

What to consider when developing an event waste management plan:

Bin infrastructure and configuration is very important and the placement of bins should be considered carefully. Bin signage should clearly identify the respective bin use, i.e. general waste bin or recycling bin.

It is recommended that for appropriate disposal options, general waste bins be placed adjacent to recycling bins. For areas identified as having high general waste creation, a ratio of 2 general waste bins to every 1 recycling bin should be considered.

Never position a recycling bin on its own; the recycling bin should always be positioned next to a general waste bin to give an option for waste disposal.

Where possible, a 2-bin configuration should have the garbage bin closest to the high traffic area. This will help in avoiding contamination of the recycling bin by those who do not intend to separate their waste. Some suggested generic bin locations include:

- At entrances and exits
- Near tables or picnic grounds where food is consumed, not necessarily purchased
- Along walkways and high traffic areas
- Near toilets or other utilities
- Car parks

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The table pictured below is a guide for the minimum number of waste bins per patron use (this does not include existing bins that may be at the site) you may need to provide at an event.

Number of Patrons	Food &/or drink sold & consumed	Number of 240 litre general waste bins	Number of 240 litre recycling waste bins
100	No	1	1
100	Yes	2	2

For major events, bulk skip bins will be required to allow for the emptying of the 240 litre general and recycling bins into the skip during the event. This will avoid overflowing of bins in high use areas.

Number of Patrons	Food &/or drink sold & consumed	Number of 240 litre general waste bins
Up to 1000 patrons	Yes	1
More than 1000 & up to 4000 patrons	Yes	2
4000 +	Yes	As requested by event organiser

Bin Signage

Mackay Regional Council has signage available to assist with clearly identifying the respective bin use (general waste bins and recycling bins).

Prior to the event

- Position the bins for optimum use considering location as outline above
- Ensure bins are labelled to clearly identify use
- Keep a small number of bins in reserve to replace full bins or add to areas generating high levels of waste
- Allocate some volunteers to oversee the waste management of the event

During the event

- Organisers are responsible for managing waste on site and need to ensure bins are accessible and frequently emptied or replaced if full relocate bins during the event from low use areas to high use areas if required
- Monitor the bins during the event to ensure correct use of waste and recycling bins

After the event

- Check the bins for contamination and attempt to rectify minor contamination
- Recycling bins with major contamination should have an X sticker applied to the bin

placed with the general waste bins for waste collection.

Note: This action helps to eliminate contamination of recycling and improve the overall recycling rate.

For more information phone council on 1300 MACKAY (1300 622 529) or visit the website mackay.qld.gov.au