

Towards Zero Waste Events Pilot Project

Green Skills Inc

Introduction

The Towards Zero Waste Event Pilot Project is assisting public event management organisations to trial waste reduction strategies for a range of music, art and community education events held in Perth, Fremantle and Busselton.

Coordinated by Green Skills, the trials are being applied to a range of public events in 2007. The events will attract more than 100,000 people and help raise community awareness on the importance of recycling at public events.

The project will develop a model of best management practices for waste prevention and recovery that could be applied to any public event in the future.

Towards Zero Waste

Green Skills has helped event managers develop Waste Action Plans aimed at minimising waste generation and maximising recovery. Strategies include buying equipment and educating event staff, vendors and patrons to facilitate behavioural change.

Since starting the project, event managers have been able to recover 65-90 per cent of waste generated from public events; waste which would have otherwise gone to landfill.

Green Skills are working with project partners to identify viable alternatives to non recyclable or compostable packaging and catering supplies used at events.

Project outcomes

Fly By Night Club

Before the project, all waste generated by the club was going to landfill, estimated to be 230cuM per annum. The club is now recovering approximately 90 per cent of waste for recycling.

Fremantle Arts Centre

Before the project, most of the waste from outdoor events held at the Arts Centre was going to landfill, estimated to be 150cuM per annum. The club is now recovering about 80 per cent of waste for recycling.

Sunset Events

About 40,000 people attended the 2007 Southbound Festival and the 2007 West Coast Blues and Roots Festival. Previously, all waste generated by these two major music festivals went to landfill. As a result of the recycling initiatives in 2007, 70 per cent of the estimated 370 cubic metres of waste generated was recovered for recycling.

Project Partners

- Fremantle Arts Centre: Concerts, festivals and art exhibitions held at the centre
- Fly By Night Club: Concerts and festivals held at the club
- Swan River Trust: 'Great Gardens' workshops held at various venues in the metropolitan area
- Sunset Events: Southbound Music Festival (Busselton) and West Coast Blues and Roots Festival (Fremantle)

Strategic Waste Initiatives Scheme

Grants are available through the Strategic Waste Initiatives Scheme (SWIS) – a broad support scheme for projects that are consistent with the Waste Management Board's priorities for waste management in WA.

The scheme was developed to assist the State in achieving the vision of 'Towards Zero Waste in WA'. The grants are made available from the funds raised by the Waste Management and Recycling Account through the landfill levy.

More information regarding the Strategic Waste Initiatives Scheme is available on the Zero Waste WA website: <http://www.zerowastewa.com.au/ourwork/supportschemes/swis/>

For more information call the Department of Environment and Conservation on 64675318.

