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“Trash Free” HILLSBOROUGH HOG DAY

Keep in mind that a “trash free”, (also known as zero-waste), event is an ideal, a goal, to strive for not necessarily the reality. There will be garbage, (the stuff that cannot be recycled or composted) and that needs to be planned for. Our goal is waste minimization; reducing waste in the first place, composting and recycling as much as we can, thus reducing waste by 75-80 even 90%! We can do it!

Organics Recycling Checklist

The organics waste stream at special events is biodegradable food and paper waste and utensils made from corn, potato or wheat starch, also referred to as “compostables”. These materials generally come from two sources:

- 1) **Pre-consumer**, or vendor preparation waste, and
- 2) **Post-consumer waste**, which comes from vendor customers/festival goers

Pre-consumer waste collection is easy to arrange. Provide vendors with a special labeled container and clear instructions, starting with their vendor contract, so they know that only food and paper (wax paper is OK, paper cups are ok) and other biodegradable waste (wooden stir sticks, wooden toothpicks) should go into the designated bucket or shared container. A list of what should be considered biodegradable by vendors is in the next section.

Contract language can say **“At Hog Day this year vendors will be expected separate all food and paper waste used in food preparation so that it can be composted. A container labeled specifically for this purpose will be provided. The container will be serviced by festival volunteers. Nothing but food, paper and other biodegradable material should go into this container or the service will be removed.”** The vendors should be happy to comply, especially if they are expected to haul off their own garbage. It will be that much less they have to carry during cleanup!

Volunteers, also known as “roving recyclers”, should empty/replace the containers of biodegradable waste periodically into larger carts designated for this purpose. Any containers used for collecting biodegradable waste should be kept well away from the public to prevent them from getting contaminated with plastics and other non-organics.

Post-consumer organic waste collection also starts with the vendors and ends with staffed trash “sorting stations” where waste can be sorted into the categories:

Compostable waste

Recyclables (cans, bottles, etc)

Trash (plastic wrap, single serve condiments, etc)

Trash sorting stations will be discussed in detail later.

For zero-waste to work, **vendors must serve their food on biodegradable items:** paper plates, paper cups, paper trays, wax paper, wooden sticks, etc. Any non-biodegradable items used for serving will potentially contaminate the compostable waste collection. There must be clear language in the contract that states the type of materials that are acceptable or not, such as:

All serving materials given to the customer must be recyclable or compostable.

ITEMS YOU CAN USE FOR SERVING:

- **Waxed paper**
- **Paper or Wood**
- **Aluminum foil**
- **“Biodegradable” utensils made from corn, potato or wheat starch (such as PLA, Bagasse, Tater Ware, Ecoproducts),**

ITEMS YOU CANNOT USE FOR SERVING:

- **Styrofoam (#6 polystyrene)**
- **Plastic Drink Straws or Lids**
- **Other Plastic such as cutlery, wrappers or cups)**
- **Individual packets of condiments are not allowed due to the high contamination rate in the compost. Use bottled dressings or condiments instead.**

Any EXCEPTIONS must be approved by Festival Staff prior to Hog Day.

The event organizers should be made aware of any non-biodegradable serving item that a vendor might use prior to the event. For example, fresh lemonade vendors tend to use giant plastic cups with plastic lids and straws. The cups can be collected separately to be recycled, but that needs to be planned for in advance. The straws and lids cannot be recycled but are garbage.

To encourage “zero-waste” participation, you can charge vendors a deposit fee for compliance with the “recycling and compostable” rules. Violations, in matters of degrees, would cause them to lose some or all of their deposit. Either way, it is important that the vendors be checked before the festival starts to make sure they are in compliance. Nothing beats clear communication prior to the event to ensure compliance, but there should also be consequences to vendors for not adhering to the “zero-waste” rules. Starting early helps.

More tips to help achieve vendor compliance:

Festival organizers can provide biodegradable utensils for the vendors, and have the vendor pay for them or not. It is not realistic to expect vendors to purchase biodegradable utensils on their own~ they are four times as expensive as plastic ware. However, if there are going to be biodegradable utensils used, **everyone** should use them! The biodegradable utensils can be diverted for composting, but telling the difference between a compostable fork and a conventional one is difficult, especially on the fly.

The cost of the biodegradable utensils can be offset by the “zero-waste” deposit charged to the vendors, or an increase in their sign-on fee.

Have vendors order the amount of utensils they will need from you when they send in their contract.

Several sources of biodegradable utensils exist. Orange County has them in inventory, though it is unknown if Hog Day can purchase through the county. There is cost savings in a bulk purchase, so if it is not possible through the county, the Eno River Festival (also a zero waste event) might be able to partner in a purchase.

892	HY-S001	KNIVES, BIO-DEGRAD, POTATO STARCH, 20PK-50/CS	PK	30	\$3.00	\$90.00
893	HY-S002	FORKS, BIO-DEGRAD, POTATO STARCH, 20PK-50/CS	PK	26	\$3.00	\$78.00
894	HY-S003	SPOONS, BIO-DEGRAD, POTATO STARCH, 20PK-50/CS	PK	29	\$3.00	\$87.00

Or you can get quotes from the following vendors:

Not Just Paper in Durham. Contact (919) 688-6886 <http://brameco.com/paper/>

www.ecoproducts.com

www.worldcentric.org

If biodegradable utensils are used alternative (more specific) contract language might say:

The concessionaire will provide to patrons ONLY food service items that are compostable or recyclable.

ITEMS YOU CAN USE FOR SERVING:

- **Uncoated or wax coated paper: plates, bowls, cups, paper towels, napkins, food service tissue, waxed paper, cardboard;**
- **Wood: spoons, Popsicle sticks, skewers;**
- **Biodegradable utensils**
- **Aluminum: foil sheets and containers.**

The Festival will provide vendors with biodegradable utensils. Vendors must order utensils they will need from Hog Day organizers prior to the event.

ITEMS YOU CAN NOT USE FOR SERVING:

- **NO plastic utensils are allowed.**
- **NO plastic cups, trays, containers, wrap, straws, etc.**
- **No individual condiment packs are allowed. Use bottles of dressings and condiments at stands instead.**

Note: Hog Day should have enough to sell on the spot to those who forgot or somehow didn't get the message

Trash Sorting Stations

Disposal areas for the general public must be restricted to staffed "trash sorting stations" that have labeled containers for the separation of biodegradable waste, recyclable bottles and cans, and true trash. Volunteers, OC Solid Waste Management Staff and perhaps Town of Hillsborough Public Works staff can collectively staff the Trash Sorting Stations to ensure the proper sorting. Teams of collection staff will circulate the festival grounds collecting separated wastes from the sorting stations.

The Eno River Festival has agreed to let Hog Day use the stations that they have designed for this purpose at their festival! The stations are made of sturdy 2x4's and will need to be constructed on-site before the festival starts.

To learn more about the Eno River Trash Free efforts visit:

<http://www.enoriver.org/festival/trash.html>



Orange County Solid Waste Management Department will provide containers, signage and collection services for biodegradables and conventional recyclables and organize sorting station staff. Hog Day organizers will have to pay for any hauling costs incurred, as well as the biodegradable utensils, should you decide to purchase them

Disposal

Biodegradables:

Pre-consumer waste from the cookers and the BBQ contest has historically been recycled from Hog Day by Carolina Byproducts for a total cost of \$75. Brooks Contractors is the company Orange County Solid Waste contracts with to collect food waste from some local restaurants and they are also involved in collecting post-consumer biodegradable waste from the Eno River Festival. They would be able to site and collect a 30-yard box for the collection of food, paper and other biodegradable waste (including pre-consumer pig) for approximately \$250.00. It may cost slightly more depending on diesel prices. They would also be interested in collecting the waste cooker oil from any fryers used during the festival. They would provide separate barrels for this purpose.

Garbage or "True Trash":

The amount of garbage produced from the festival should be reduced dramatically, but still needs to be planned for. The Town of Hillsborough has historically collected garbage and paid the dumping fee at the landfill for HogDay. They can site ½ to 1/3 the normal number of dumpsters for the festival. Most of the "waste" in the form of food, paper and other biodegradables will now be going to the 30 yard sited by Brooks.