

VOLUNTEER EVENT TRAINING

TOWARD
ZERO
WASTE

Concerts, festivals, open markets and events with higher attendees often require Toward Zero Waste volunteers. If contamination of the recycling or compost bins are too high, the event waste will end up at the landfill, which will negate your efforts for waste reduction! To reduce the amount of contamination, find volunteers who will supervise the various waste stations throughout the event and direct attendees on how to properly sort waste.

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Follow these guidelines to ensure your volunteers are set up for success:

- Make sure there are great incentives for volunteer positions. Free attendance to your event and a meal voucher does wonders for recruiting a good crowd.
- Recruit volunteers that are knowledgeable about and have interest in reducing waste.
- Learn ahead of time from your vendors and exhibitors what type of waste they will generate at the event. Let volunteers know before the start of the event what items go in which receptacles.
- Make a list of the items that may be hard to determine what receptacle they will go in. For example, corn plastic cups are compostable, not recyclable despite the visible similarities to a regular plastic cup. Have your volunteers keep the list at their waste station for reference.
- Plastic bags are not recyclable in commercial recycling. It is best to not line recycling containers. Trash bags are great and expect for landfill collection.
- Have volunteers organize waste stations keeping these best practices in mind.
 - It is better to have fewer, large centrally located stations than to have several small stations.
 - Never orphan a can. Always offer all stream available at each waste station.
 - Sign every bin with the proper sign at eye level, if possible.
- Provide waste pickers or gloves for volunteer to correct items tossed into the wrong bin.
- Let the volunteers know what to do when their waste station is full. Full bins should be replaced with an empty bin rather than leaving a station without all available streams.
- Provide your volunteers with contact information for questions before and during the event.