

waste future friendly fete



Gungahlin combined Schools and Parish Fete

Profile

The fete was a collaborative effort between Gold Creek Primary and High Schools, Holy Spirit Primary, Good Sheperd Primary and Gungahlin Holy Spirit Parish. It was held at Gold Creek High School, and involved 1,500 families that attend these schools and the members of the parish.



Initiatives

Vision

To minimise the impact of the schools and parish on the environment.

Planning

Representatives from the organisations discussed the importance of having the waste management system set up before the fete and for everyone to know their roles and responsibilities.

Before the fete we:

- Adopted a 'smart purchasing' policy, so only recyclable catering supplies were to be purchased
- Informed all stallholders that it was a 'plastic bag free' fete
- Informed the community through school and parish newsletters that recycling would be trialled at the fete and asked attendees to keep an eye out for the correct bins
- Collected the recycling bin lids from ACT NOWaste
- Checked the schools existing waste system and ensured all bins were emptied the day before the fete
- Ensured the bins were grouped together e.g. comingle, paper, etc
- Made sure the school had the capacity to take the organic waste
- Organised people to check and empty full bins during the fete
- Established a central area for people to empty bins, collect cardboard, etc during the fete
- Organised end-of-day people to collect waste, such as cardboard and take it away

Implementation

A number of initiatives were put in place to avoid as much waste as possible entering the school.

These initiatives included:

Avoidance

- All stall holders worked together to avoid duplication of purchases and made bulk purchases
- Instead of plastic bags, cloth bags with 'Future Friendly Fete' were sold on the day
- Trash and treasure stalls were sold to those interested in holding a stall similar to a car boot sale arrangement
- All unsold books were donated to other organisations for their fete
- Polystyrene cups and plates were banned and replaced with cardboard alternatives

Reuse

- Carpet from a previous event was used for the entertainers, and stored for use the next year
- Trash and Treasure stalls were sold for a minimal cost to each stallholder as they were selling items for reuse
- Pots for the propagation of seedlings were sourced from garden shops offering free small pots for reuse

Recycling

Six waste stations including recycling and general waste were placed around the site. Before the fete, all the excess glass bottles and jars from the Tombola stall were taken to the Regional Recycling Centre at Mitchell.





Paper and Cardboard

All paper and cardboard collected during the day was directed to a central location and taken to the Regional Recycling Centre at Mitchell. Two huge utility loads of flattened cardboard and paper were taken to the Centre instead of going into the waste hopper.

Co-mingled Recycling

Red bins were used to collect aluminium cans, glass and plastics. Eight 240 litre wheelie bins of material were collected on the day with all material being delivered to the Regional Recycling Centre at Mitchell.

Composting

All the cores and skins from one of the stalls were collected during the day in a bin clearly marked as compost and taken to the Junior Gold Creek site and fed to chickens. Approximately 1x50 litre bin of material was taken to the chickens.

Education

Bin lids supplied by ACT NOWaste (part of the Public Event Recycling Program) were used to educate fete goers to recycle at the fete.

Notices were posted in prominent places and attached to coffee stall tables to remind people to look for the correct bins to recycle.

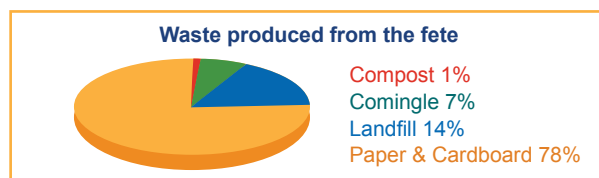


Results and Benefits

The following waste was collected on the day:

Material	Amount
Composting	50 litres of apple cores and peelings for composting
Comingle Recycling	54.58 kilograms
Paper and Cardboard	approximately 4 cubic metres
General Waste	104.17 kilograms or 1.5 cubic metres of waste

- At the previous fete, before recycling was introduced, waste going to landfill was approximately 8 cubic metres. After this fete the amount was reduced to 1.5 cubic metres
- The hopper in the previous years fete was emptied three times; at this fete it was only half full. This cut costs by 75%
- Only 14% of the waste went to landfill, the rest was reused or recycled
- Reduction of some 6.5 cubic metre of waste, saved money and redirected materials to recycling instead of landfill



Challenges

To convince people that some recyclable products such as cups are more expensive, but the extra cost is offset by emptying less hoppers.

Facts, Quotes, Hints

- Borrow labelled bin lids from ACT NoWaste
- Ensure calico bags are available for sale at all stalls, not at one location
- As it was a very large fete, the introduction of recycling was more successful than anticipated and involved large numbers of volunteers both before the fete and on the day
- It is vital to have a system in place to manage the waste during the fete
- The waste minimisation processes were very cost effective. Even though some items i.e. cardboard cups instead of polystyrene were purchased at a higher rate, the reduction in waste hopper removal far outweighed the costs.

