

14. Managing Waste



managing waste

Inevitably events generate large quantities of waste, from discarded food to general litter, some of which can present health hazards and other dangers to the public and those working on the site.

It is important to decide in advance how to handle the collection and disposal of this waste.

Organisers should carefully plan for managing waste on site, whether they do this themselves or employ the services of a specialist contractor. This should start by considering the types of waste that are likely to be generated. Contractors employed to manage waste must be Environment Agency licensed and it is essential to retain the Waste Transfer Notes of any waste consignment taken away from the site. These must be retained for 2 years as a proof of where the waste was taken.

In most cases general litter, food and packaging waste are likely to be the main issues but at events, such as festivals, there may be additional hazards which may need special attention. Consideration also needs to be given to waste from toilets and how this is going to be removed from the site. Waste must be segregated if it can be recycled. Sending waste to landfill is no longer an acceptable solution.

If there are animals on the site, there may also be waste generated there, from manure, shavings from bedding to straw and clippings. Similarly, attractions like firework displays can also generate waste that needs to be dealt with, some of which itself may be hazardous. Anyone producing more than 500kg of hazardous waste per year must be registered with the Environment Agency.

Collection and handling of waste on-site

The methods used to collect and safely handle waste on site will depend on a number of factors, including the type of event, the facilities likely to generate waste on the site, the duration of the event and the anticipated volumes of waste expected plus how, when and where it will be collected and removed to.

Planning should also consider the likely flows of people and the points where waste is most likely to be generated so that bins and other facilities can be positioned at the best points to capture as much waste as possible. Legislation such as the Environmental Protection Act places obligations on waste producers that it shouldn't escape their control. This means waste should always be contained in appropriate receptacles that will prevent it from escaping.

Consideration is also likely to be needed to be given to cleaning up the site at the end of the event to remove any remaining litter.

Local Authorities can require the event organiser to submit a waste management and cleansing plan before they authorise and/or license an event.

More detailed information about the above can be found in the Purple Guide at www.thepurpleguide.co.uk
(<http://www.thepurpleguide.co.uk>)