

How to Recycle at your Event



Yakima County Public Services
Solid Waste Division

Why recycle?

- Recycling conserves energy, saves precious resources and minimizes consumer and production waste. A can that is recycled can be back on the store shelf in just 60 days. And it requires 95 percent less energy and generates 95 percent less emissions.
- Recycling 40 aluminum beverage cans has the energy-saving equivalent of one gallon of gasoline. During 2006, Americans recycled enough aluminum cans to conserve the energy equivalent of over 15 million barrels of oil.
- Americans use 2,500,000 plastic bottles every hour! Most of them are thrown away!
- A modern glass bottle would take 4000 years or more to decompose -- and even longer if it's in the landfill.
- Every month, we throw out enough glass bottles and jars to fill up a giant skyscraper.



WA State Beverage Container Recycling Legislation States:

A recycling bill (HB 2056), which took effect in July 2007, requires that there be a recycling program provided at every official gathering and sports facility in communities where there is an established curbside and business recycling service. Vendors selling single-use aluminum, glass, or plastic bottles or cans are required to provide the recycling receptacles or reverse vending machines and provide service for the transport and recycling of the materials they sell.

An official gathering is defined as any event where authorization to hold the event is approved, recognized, or issued by a government, public body, or authority, including fairs, musical concerts, athletic games, festivals, tournaments, or any other formal or ceremonial event during which beverages are sold by a vendor or vendors in single-use aluminum, glass, or plastic bottles or cans.

Sports facilities are defined as outdoor recreational sports facilities, including athletic fields and ball parks at which beverages are sold by a vendor or vendors in single-use aluminum, glass or plastic bottles or cans.

The full bill can be viewed at:

<http://www.leg.wa.gov/pub/billinfo/2007-08/Pdf/Bill%20reports/House/2056.HBR.pdf>

How do I get started?

Reserve your bins

As soon as you know your dates, reserve your bins through Yakima County Solid Waste Division. You will typically need one recycle bin per garbage can.

Assign a program coordinator

Whether you use staff or volunteers to get your recycling program started, someone needs to be in charge.

Teach your staff or volunteers how you would like your recycling program to run

Show them the recycle bins that will be used, how and what items will be collected, what type of sorting (if any), and general usage/storage of bins.

Decide if you would like to self-haul your recyclables to a recycling center

If not, locate a hauler/processor who will transport and recycle your collected containers. Some haulers have dumpsters they rent for events. See back side of brochure for a complete list of recycling centers and haulers in Yakima County.

The Setup



Be sure to set a recycling container **next to each garbage can.** The more convenient you make it for your participants/attendees, the more likely they will recycle correctly.

Promotion and Signage

Let the folks attending your event know you're recycling! Post signs near the beverage stands and make announcements to help encourage recycling.

Maintenance

Maintain the recycling area and monitor everyone's participation - Keep the bins clean and tidy. A clean recycling area encourages others to keep it clean and uncluttered.

Reward good behavior

Praise the people using the recycling area. After the event, let event participants know how many pounds were collected. If recycling was a fundraiser, tell them how much money was raised.

Reserve Your Bins

There are many different types of recycling bins on the market, however many programs have reported greater success when using clear containers. Clear containers allow for participants to see what to recycle and follow the examples set by others.

Yakima County Solid Waste Division has purchased recycling containers for businesses and organizations to borrow for their events. These containers are available on a first come, first served basis.

To reserve your ClearStream® recycling containers, fill out a reservation form on our website: **YakimaRecycles.com** under the Event Recycling Tab. For assistance contact us at (509)574-2450.



Important Contacts:

Yakima County Solid Waste
(509) 574-2450

Recycling Centers:

Central Washington Recycling
(509) 248-4306

Dave's Recycling (Grandview)
(509) 882-4155

Local Recycling Haulers:

Basin Disposal
(509) 248-7533

Yakima Waste Systems
(509) 248-7533

Or contact your city's utilities
department for a hauler in your area.

Additional Resources:

ClearStream® Recycling Materials:
www.bagandtag.com

Environmental Protection Agency
www.epa.gov

Washington State Department of Ecology
www.ecy.wa.gov/

Yakima County Public Services Solid Waste Division

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YakimaRecycles.com

Information Sources: Washington State Department of Ecology, The Aluminum Association, Re-Sources Organization, The Recycling Foundation and Earth 911.