

Recycling at Public Events



Why recycle at public events?

Wisconsin law requires recycling of certain items, including:

- plastic bottles (#1 & #2)
- glass bottles and jars
- metal cans (aluminum and steel)
- paper and cardboard

The City of Milwaukee's recycling ordinances mirror the State law and provide enforcement authority. While this law has been in place for many years, the increase in popularity of single-serve beverage containers has made festival recycling even more important today. Recycling prevents valuable materials from going to waste. Implementing a recycling program shows concern for our community and for the environment, and contributes resources that support Wisconsin and U.S. industries. Recycling also helps reduce litter, keeping the grounds neat and clean. Event coordinators and facility managers are responsible for providing designated containers and collection services for the materials listed above that are used at the site. Cups and disposable food service ware need not be recycled.

Attaining Recycling Success

Most events can accomplish recycling success by collecting empty beverage containers from areas used by the public and cardboard from vendor areas. *Plastic cups generally are not accepted by recyclers and should not be collected in your recycling program.* Events that allow carry-ins should collect glass and plastic bottles and aluminum cans from the public. Besides cardboard, food vendors may also have steel cans, glass jars and #2 plastic jars for recycling.

Event Recycling Tools

The City of Milwaukee is a founding member of the Wisconsin Be SMART Coalition, which has created a **public place recycling toolkit** to help you succeed. You will find information, tips and case studies that assist festival planners and public venue managers with recycling and waste reduction. Access the free toolkit here:

<http://besmart.org/publicplacerecycling>



Recycling containers

For low cost rental of convenient, portable, and collapsible event recycling containers in the Milwaukee area, contact Keep Greater Milwaukee Beautiful at **414-272-5462**. Otherwise, check with your garbage and recycling hauler for options.

