

Special Events Waste Management Background & Requirements



PURPOSE

The purpose of this information and the Waste Management Event Plan template is to support event organizers in creating and executing a clear and effective strategy for waste reduction and diversion. By completing this template, you will ensure your event aligns with local solid waste bylaws, minimizes landfill contributions, and promotes sustainable practices across all aspects of event operations. This includes setting up proper waste collection systems, preventing contamination, training staff and volunteers, engaging vendors in sustainable sourcing, and creating a cleaner, low-waste event experience for attendees.

WHY IT MATTERS

In Squamish, submitting a Waste Diversion Management Plan is mandatory for hosting events. But beyond meeting local requirements, developing and implementing a thoughtful waste strategy brings real value to your event, your business, and the community.

A strong waste diversion plan helps to:

- Reduce your environmental impact
- Cut down on disposal costs
- Align with community sustainability goals
- Enhance the experience for attendees, vendors, and volunteers

The event waste expectations are to:

- Achieve 100% diversion of recyclables
- Reduce general (landfill) waste by 50%
- Return the event site to its original - or better - condition within 12 hours of operation

REQUIREMENTS

Garbage, Recyclables and Organics Event Expectations

Waste receptacles provided for the event are as follows:

- Garbage Dumpsters
 - Garbage Totes
 - Garbage Bins
 - Recycling Dumpsters
 - Recycling Totes
 - Recycling Bins
 - Compost Totes
 - Compost Bins
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All food services will provide compostable and/or recyclable plates, drinking vessels' and eating utensils.

The following staff/volunteers will be on-site during and after the event to provide oversight for waste management (e.g. removing full receptacles, encouraging event attendees to use the correct receptacles, responding to any enquiries regarding waste management from the public or District of Squamish, etc.):

- Event Staff/Volunteers – responsible for assisting with waste management during the event
 - Event Staff/Volunteers – responsible for clean-up after the event
 - External Waste Management Support (if applicable) – in some cases, event organizers may choose to hire a third-party contractor to support or lead waste management and education efforts at the event
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Under the District's Solid Waste Utility Bylaw, event organizers are required to:

- Separate their recyclables from their waste (eg. organics, cardboard, soft plastics, etc.);
 - Reduce the contamination of the recyclable and organic streams;
 - Collect their waste in clear bags;
 - Provide written information to employees and contractors, and to all existing employees and contractors on how to separate and deposit Residual Waste, Organic Materials and Recyclable Materials into the appropriate Collection Containers and provide information on the District's Wildlife Attractant Bylaw; and
 - Post signage, of sufficient size and number, with information on separating Residual Waste, Organic Materials and Recyclable Materials on the Premises and in the disposal area, as well as information pursuant to the District's Wildlife Attractant Bylaw.
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Under the District's Wildlife Attractant Bylaw, all events are required to:

- Ensure that any Wildlife Attractant is disposed of in a designated Wildlife Resistant Container, Commercial Refuse Container or Wildlife Proof Enclosure.
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Under the Provincial Single-Use and Plastic Waste Prevention Regulation (effective as of July 15,2024):

Restricted Food Service Wares

Businesses are no longer allowed to sell or distribute single-use food service wares made with certain hard-to-recycle plastics.

- Applies to disposable items such as:
- Take Out Containers (bowls, boxes, cartons)
- Cups, plates, platters, trays
- Hinged containers, lidded containers
- Egg cartons
- Film wrap

Hard to Recycle Plastics Include:

- Biodegradable Plastics
- Compostable Plastics
- Polystyrene foam
- PVC (Polyvinyl Chloride)
- PVDC (Polyvinylidene Chloride)

Shopping Bag Regulations

- Plastic shopping bags are banned
- Business must charge \$2.00 for new reusable bags or \$.25 for paper bags

Food Service Accessories

Food Service providers can no longer offer single-use (disposable) plastic utensils. Other disposable accessories (e.g., wooden utensils, napkins, straws, condiments, garnishes, drink cup lids and sleeves) must be provided only upon request.

- Customers may request accessories by:
- Asking staff directly
- Picking items from a self-serve station
- Selecting items through an online order form

Find the Regulation and all the details:

<https://www2.gov.bc.ca/gov/content/environment/waste-management/zero-waste/plastics/supwpr>
