



Recycling at Special Events

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Certiably Green Denver

- Voluntary Denver Parks and Recreation Certification Program
- Designed to Encourage Sustainability When Planning a Special Event
- To be certified you must complete a number of “core criteria”
- Applies to Waste Management, Energy and Transportation, Food Packaging, and Other Areas
- Also includes a number of electives. Two electives per category must be completed.

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Core Criteria Examples

- Provide Recycling
- Provide Bike Corrals
- Prohibit Styrofoam
- Ban Individual Condiment Packets
- Use 50% local small-business food vendors
- Use 100% recycled paper

Total of 23 Requirements

Elective Examples

- Incentivize Alternative Transportation Methods
- Purchase Carbon Offsets
- Vegetarian or Vegan Food Vendors
- Eliminate Plastic Bags
- Replace Printed Materials with Digital Materials

4-5 Electives per category

Methods in Other Cities

San Francisco

- Every event held in San Francisco is required to offer composting and recycling
- Enacted by Council as part of overall mandatory recycling/composting law
- Must Provide Signage and Must Be Placed as Close Together as Possible

Boulder

- Passed by Council and Enforced as Part of Permitting Process
- All city-permitted events must have single-stream recycling and composting
- All serviceware must be compostable or recyclable
- Must have dedicated staff

Salt Lake City

- Requires events to complete an assessment on their waste reduction efforts
- Does not have specific requirements for waste reduction
- Requires permittees to highlight areas for improvement

Austin, Texas

- Offers a “Zero Waste Event Rebate” Program for events expected to draw 500 or more attendees
- Can not distribute Single-Use Bags, Styrofoam, or Glass Containers
- Must Provide Invoices or receipts for Trash and Diversion Services
- Rebate can be up to \$750
- Rebate is calculated by the amount spent on diversion costs





Questions?