

Calgary Folk Music Festival 2010: Festival “Greening” Comments and Recommendations

Green Calgary has been working with the Calgary Folk Music Festival (CFMF) for three years on creating a comprehensive waste reduction plan and quantifying the amount of recyclables and organics collected over the weekend. This year Green Calgary was able to estimate the amount of waste produced. With information on both waste and recycling, a recycling rate – the percentage of waste material that is diverted from landfill – was determined. A recycling rate will more effectively identify the success of CFMF’s waste reduction programs.

Overall, the amount of material recycled and composted this year increased from 2008 and 2009. The increase this year can likely be attributed to the closure of public waste bins not accompanied by a recycling station. Although the waste reduction program is having a greater impact year after year, Green Calgary still sees opportunity to increase the recycling rate by maximizing the efficiency of the current systems in place. The opportunities Green Calgary has identified are outlined in the 2010 Recommendations & Comments (Page 3).

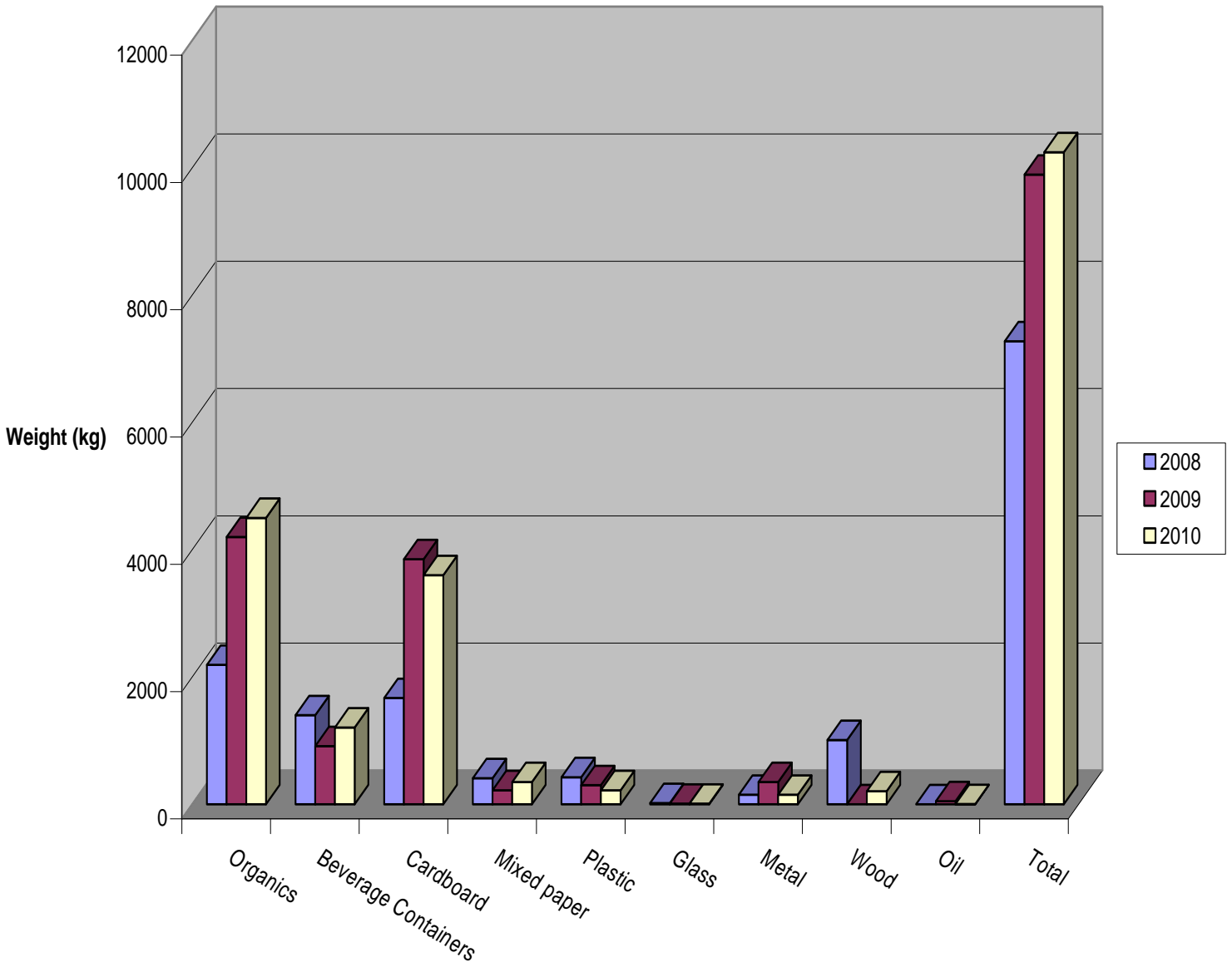
2010 OVERALL WASTE & RECYCLING

Waste	24,125 kg
Recycling	10,245 kg
Recycling Rate	30%

RECYCLING BREAKDOWN

Material	Weight (kg)			2010 Ecological Benefits
	2008	2009	2010	
Organics	2190	4200	4500	1 car off the road for a year
Beverage Containers	1400	914	1207	n/a
Cardboard	1670	3850	3600	89 trees saved
Wood	1010	0	205	
Mixed Paper	410	220	350	
Plastic	425	300	220	3 barrels of oil saved
Glass	20	10	10	n/a
Metal	150	350	150	Energy saved equivalent to 8 computers running for the entire year
Oil	0	49	3	n/a
Total	7275	9893	10245	1 garbage truck kept from landfill

CFMF RECYCLING 2008 – 2010



2010 RECOMMENDATIONS & COMMENTS

ISSUE	COMMENTS	RECOMMENDATION
PUBLIC RECYCLING STATIONS		
Overall Collection	Organics, beverage containers, mixed paper and waste were collected at each recycling station. Many patrons expressed their desire for plastic recycling. This would likely be possible if comingled recycling was available.	It was mentioned that in 2011 the City of Calgary may be able to accommodate festival recyclables in their comingled recycling program. This would be optimal as residents are already used to sorting recyclables from waste in this manner.
Organics Collection	<p>There was a fair amount of contamination in the organics bins.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Much of the contamination occurred due to the use of non-compostable food ware by some vendors and the occurrence of unmanned stations. - PEL Recycling mentioned that common items contaminating the organics were Tim Hortons coffee cups with lids. Diapers were also found. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Great initiative requiring vendors to use compostable food ware. Continue requirement, emphasizing that food ware must be “certified compostable”. - For ease of sorting require all disposable material to be “certified compostable”. One way to do this is to require all disposables to be purchased through Earth Distributors. <p>See the vendors section on page 4 for more details.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Make sure recycling stations are manned at all times. - Organics bins must be kept closed, otherwise passerby’s toss in garbage. - Have a diaper changing area on the island with only a waste bin present.
Paper Collection	The amount of paper collected this year increased. The predominant item collected was coffee cups.	n/a
Signage	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Signage and stations were messy and chaotic. This may have caused greater confusion when festival goers were trying to separate their waste into appropriate bins. - Green recycling flags were a great way to draw attention to the stations. - Signage stating the acceptable items was correct. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Have better organized and consistent recycling stations, bins and signage to increase ease of use by attendees. - Consider returning to signage type used during 2008 festival or other signage alternatives. See Appendix A (page 7).

PUBLIC RECYCLING STATIONS CONT.

<p>Beverage Containers</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Although the weight of beverage containers increased this year, the number of beverage containers collected actually decreased. This discrepancy is likely due to the new counting method of the bottle depot (deposit amount vs. type of container), which means Green Calgary has to employ a slightly different method to calculate the estimated weight. - The decrease in beverage containers may be due to the increased access to water stations. 	<p>n/a</p>
<p>Garbage bins</p>	<p>Cordoning off the unaccompanied garbage cans was a great initiative! It did however increase contamination at the recycling stations.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Please continue this initiative. - With the absence of garbage cans there is even greater necessity for all stations to be manned at all times (except around stages that are not in use).

FOOD VENDORS

<p>Recycling Collection</p>	<p>Vendors were asked to collect:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Mixed plastic - Mixed paper - Cardboard - Tin cans <p>Overall collection went okay with vendors, but a lot of the tin cans and plastic containers were contaminated with food. Many of the contaminated containers were sent to landfill. Indian Palace and Sunterra did not rinse the majority of their contaminated recyclables.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Continue meeting with vendors during their set-up to discuss recycling procedures. - Have volunteers check on vendor recycling during the festival, so that any procedures not being followed can be corrected during the event.
<p>Organics Collection</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Organics was collected by food vendors at the festival. There was quite a bit of contamination in the organics bins. - Cooking oil collection was offered. Only Go Greek food vendor provided cooking oil for recycling. All vendors were told that cooking oil could be recycled through the Folk Festival's recycling program. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Have volunteers check on organics collection during the festival. - Provide smaller containers for ease of food prep collection.

FOOD VENDORS CONT.

Compostable Food Ware	<p>Food vendors were asked to use only compostable food ware for their disposables. Some vendors did not adhere to this. Here are a few examples that were noticed by Green Calgary:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Sugar Creek's lemonade cups were regular plastic. - Sunterra's soufflé cups (for ketchup and other sauces) were regular plastic whereas the Ship & Anchor's were compostable. - Some vendors & hospitality were using Taterware. This product is not "certified compostable" and is not readily accepted by compost facilities. - Fiasco did not source small spoons for their ice cream. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Emphasize the need for vendors to use "certified compostable" food ware. - Have all compostable food ware items available through Earth Distributors including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Soufflé cups - A variety of sizes for drink cups - Hot dog holders - Compostable packaging paper instead of paper lined tin foil wrap. - Small ice cream spoons - Consider requiring all vendors to order through Earth Distributors as they only carry items that are certified compostable. If exceptions must be made, ask the type of food ware and brand name, to be approved well before the festival. - Work with Tim Hortons to get them to switch to compostable cups and lids for the festival. - Continue having Eco-manager, volunteers and/or Green Calgary check on vendors during set up to ensure all items are compostable.
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Flyers	<p>Wood Fire Pizza was indiscriminately handing out promotional flyers to attendees.</p>	<p>Ask vendors to refrain from distributing flyers. This is a very wasteful practice.</p>
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AFTER PARTIES

Compostable beer cup collection	<p>Collection containers were present for the compostable beer cups. These containers were placed next to tables where water was available. Unfortunately, many of the regular plastic water glasses contaminated the beer cup collection.</p>	<p>Consider having the Westin use reusable beer cups and/or water glasses. If this is not possible, consider having all drink ware compostable.</p>
Back of house recycling and composting	<p>This year the Westin agreed to have recycling and organics from the Folk Festival's after parties picked up by PEL Recycling (whom they already work with). Unfortunately both the recycling and organics were accidently thrown out.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Talk to the Westin about the mishap. Inform them of the importance of the festival's recycling programs and waste reduction goals. - Schedule PEL Recycling for a pickup on the Monday after the festival to ensure they collect the material before it has a chance to be thrown out.

GREEN PROCUREMENT		
Folk Festival Merchandise and Volunteer Shirts	Shirts were printed on American Apparel Organic Cotton.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Continue using sustainable materials for merchandise and volunteer t-shirts. - Consider expanding this program to other Folk Festival merchandise items.
Promotional Materials/ Volunteer Booklets	n/a	If not already, consider using 100% recycled content paper and vegetable based inks, where possible, for printed material.
COMMUNICATION		
CFMF Guide	“Our Environment” section focused on how attendees can participate and assist in the Folk Festival’s environmental initiatives. This was a great focus.	- Inform attendees of all of Folk Festival’s green initiatives, including the behind the scenes actions. For example, the reusable water bottles for artists was a great initiative that the public would not notice otherwise. Let them know and they will be impressed!
CFMF Website	No mention of green initiatives on the website.	Green Calgary strongly recommends that the Folk Festival website have an environment section where all initiatives are listed. This will make it easier for patrons to find out about your green efforts and be a great example for other festivals.
Signage On-Site	No signage on site highlighting the Folk Festival’s green initiatives	Consider creating signage to place near the gate to inform people of the green initiatives taking place that weekend.

APPENDIX A

CFMF Recycling Stations 2010



CFMF Recycling Stations 2008

