



Calgary Folk Music Festival Green Event Report

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Overview

Green Calgary and Calgary Folk Music Festival (CFMF) have been working together since 2008 on waste reduction initiatives at CFMF's annual festival including quantifying the waste and recycling during the event to determine the success of the programs.

This year CFMF has introduced a number of new environmental initiatives and continues to show leadership in the realm of festival 'greening'. CFMF's waste reduction efforts have really shone through with an increase in the diversion rate and a decrease in both waste and recycling. For instance, the number of beverage containers disposed of at the festival was reduced by 43%, mostly due to the bottled water ban.

This report quantifies the waste, recycling and organics collection at the festival with a comparison to previous years. The report also provides comments and recommendations on other environmental aspects of the festival.

Waste & Recycling Breakdown

Table 1: 2011 Overall Waste & Diversion

	2010	2011
Waste	24,125 kg *	5850 kg
Recycling	5742 kg	2777 kg
Organics	4503 kg	5543 kg
Diversion Rate	30 %	58%

Table 2: Recycling & Organics Breakdown

Material	Weight (kg)			
	2008	2009	2010	2011
Mixed Recycling (cardboard, paper, plastic, glass, metal)	2675	4730	4535	2250
Beverage Containers	1400	914	1207	527
Wood	1010	0	205	0
Organics	2190	4200	4500	5385
Oil	0	49	3	158
Total	7275	9893	10245	8320

* There is a significant difference in waste from 2010 to 2011. There could be several reasons for this. 2011 is the first year that Green Calgary was able to obtain actual scale tickets from the waste company. In 2010 Green Calgary relied on a mix of actual numbers from the waste company and volume estimations from the City of Calgary that were then converted to weight. Alternatively, reduction efforts could have had a major effect on waste outputs, or a change in attendance due to weather on the Friday night may have had an impact.

Figure 1: 2010 vs. 2011 Diversion Rate

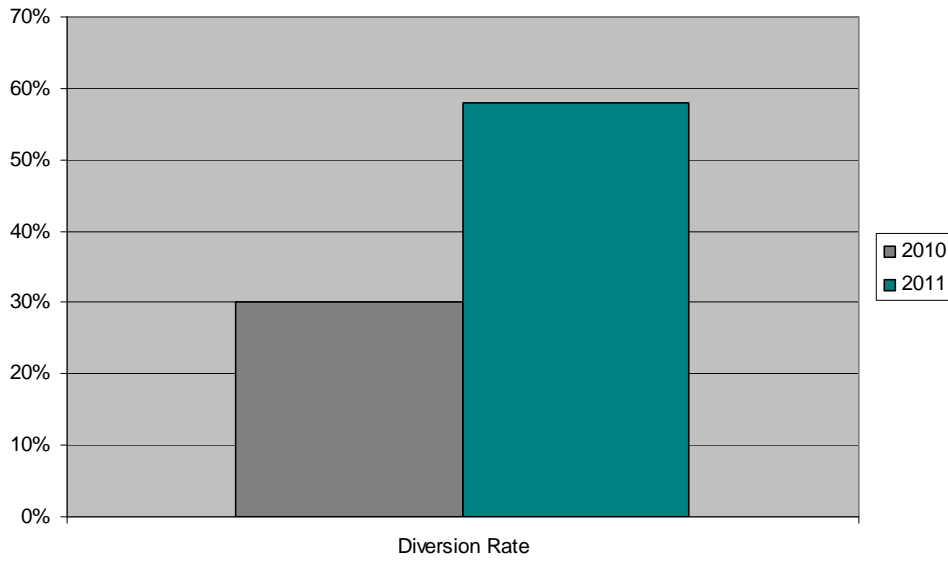
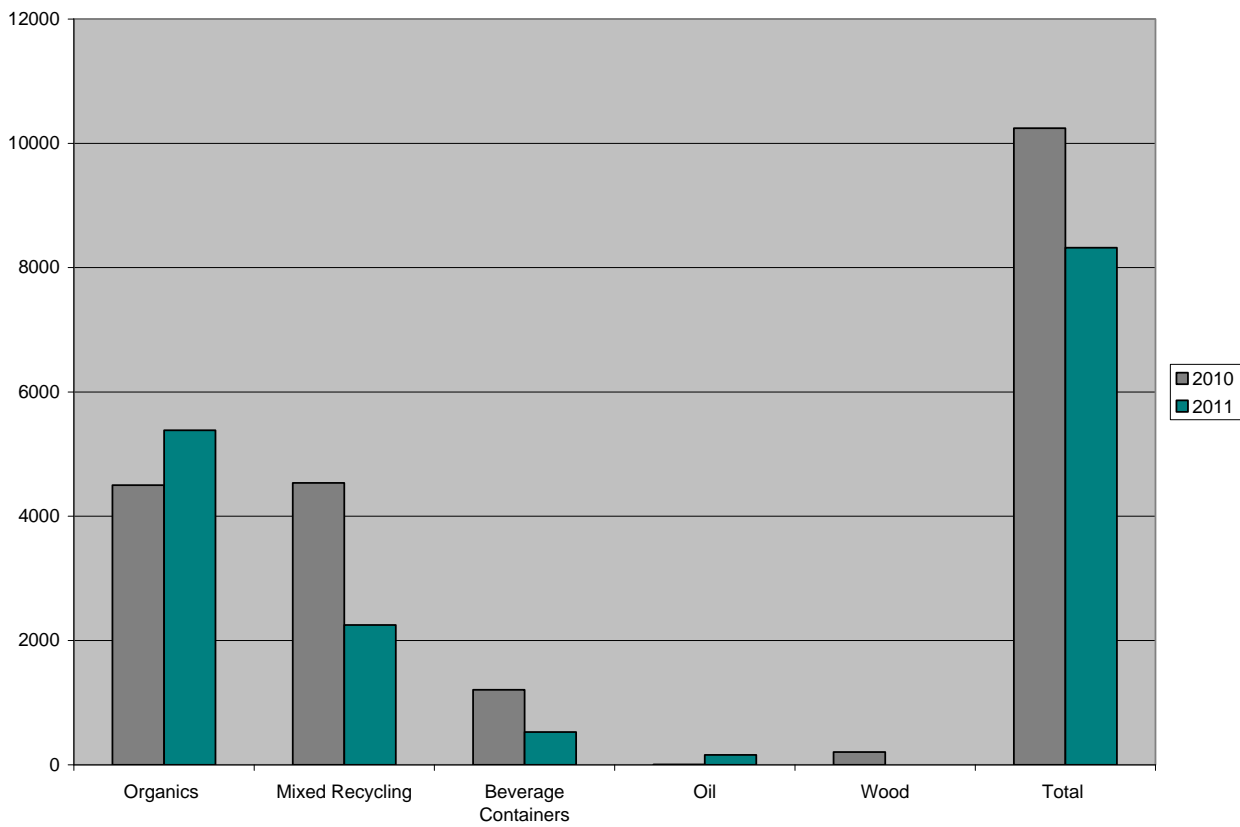


Figure 2: 2010 vs. 2011 Recycling & Organics Collection



Comments & Recommendations

ISSUE	COMMENTS	RECOMMENDATIONS
PUBLIC RECYCLING STATIONS		
Overall Collection	The festival produced less waste and recycling than previous years. This is likely due to a number of factors including CFMF's waste reduction efforts, low attendance on the Friday (PEL Recycling collected 33% less organics on Friday than Thursday) and the attainment of more accurate data in 2011.	Keep up the great effort! Continue to measure your waste and recycling output in the future to track the festival's progress.
Comingled Recycling Collection	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - City allowed the Folk Festival to use their mixed recycling program. This is much easier for patrons to follow and allows the Folk Festival to collect more material types. - Less recycling was collected this year but the amount of waste was reduced as well. In this instance, a reduction in recycling is a positive outcome as there was less disposable material overall. 	Continue partnering with the City of Calgary for the festival's recycling.
Organics Collection	Organics collection went well. More material was collected than previous years. There was contamination but some is to be expected. Much of the contamination at the public stations came from the plate scraping area and the recycling station by the food vendors, just in front of Ship & Anchor and Sunterra.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Set up full recycling stations with volunteers in front or beside plate recycling stations. - Ensure that volunteers are at busy stations at all times.
Beverage Container Collection	There was a very notable reduction in the number of beverage containers collected. Vecova, the bottle depot that collects the beverage containers for the festival, stated they observed over a 90 % decrease in water bottle containers due to the water bottle ban.	When working with Vecova next year, discuss the importance of obtaining recycling data after the festival and set a deadline that is in line with grant report deadlines and award nominations.

PUBLIC RECYCLING STATIONS CONT.

Waste	There was a significant decrease in waste this year. The drastic drop may partly be due to the increased accuracy of information that was obtained in 2011. This year was the first year scale tickets for the weight of the waste were obtained. In 2010 Green Calgary relied on a mix of weights provided by the waste company and estimations on volume observed by the City of Calgary. However, even if only the actual weights given to Green Calgary were taken into account (ie. City of Calgary estimations were not factored in), CFMF would have still reduced the amount of waste produced in 2011 by 35 % (from 9,000 kg to 5,850 kg).	Ensure that the waste vendor will again be able to provide scale tickets for their waste disposal to ensure consistency in waste measurement.
Volunteer Monitoring	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Volunteers were knowledgeable and friendly. - On Sunday many stations were not being monitored and contamination occurred as a result. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Have volunteers scheduled to be present at stations at all times (except around those stages that are not in use).
Plate Recycling Stations	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Collection areas at the plate recycling stations were the most contaminated. These stations only had organics and waste bins and were too far away from the plate recycling volunteers to direct patrons on proper separation of materials. - Plate recycling volunteers were not trained on waste diversion separation. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Set up full recycling stations at plate recycling with all bins present (waste, organics, recycling, beverage containers). - Have the enviro-crew volunteers man these stations. <p>Or</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Train the plate recycling volunteers during the orientation on waste & recycling separation and move bins closer to their tent. In previous years plate recycling volunteers have had buckets right in front of them where they directed patrons to scrape their plate before returning it. Consider reinstating this procedure.

PUBLIC RECYCLING STATIONS CONT.

Signage	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Signage was nice and simple. - There was a bit of confusion around the inclusion or exclusion of meat on the organics and landfill signage (see Figure 1 & 2, Appendix A, page 9). At first the organics signage stated that all food waste except meat was acceptable, and the landfill signage stated that meat was to be added to the landfill bin. Duct tape was then used to augment the signs to encourage patrons to add meat to the organics bin, not the landfill bin. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Consider covering any mention to "meat" on the organics and landfill signage. Meat is okay in small amounts, but should not be advertised. - If new signage is created, consider adding pictures.
FOOD VENDORS		
Recycling Collection	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Rinsing and contamination was not a considerable problem with most vendors. India Palace was not rinsing out their tin cans at first, but was reminded to do so during the weekend. - Some vendor bins were overflowing during the weekend. - Due to a lack of bins, most vendors had to share, and some vendors did not have bins close enough to access. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Request more bins from your recycler. Vendors such as Sunterra and Ship & Anchor have very high volumes of recyclables and need their own bin. - Provide extra clear bags to vendors when handing out bins in case the bin gets full.
Organics Collection	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Vendors diverted much of their organic waste to the appropriate bins. - One vendor was adding bones to the organics. A small amount of cooked meat is okay, but no bones or raw meat. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Depending on which compost facility the organics is taken to next year, vendors may need to be reminded to exclude bones from their organics collection.
Vendor Signage	Vendor signage was created last minute to label the bins. Signage is very important to minimize contamination.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Continue to create and use signage for the vendor area. It does not need to be as detailed or stylized as signage used for the public. Just a quick indicator of which bin to use for each material. - Same signage can be used for the hospitality tent's cooking area.
Vendor Crew Training	The vendor crew was trained during the environment crew meeting on how to separate material for disposal.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Continue training vendor crew on recycling and compost separation. - Consider also training them on compostable food ware. - Consider having vendor crew check on the vendor recycling and organics collection throughout the weekend to ensure minimal contamination.

FOOD VENDORS CONT.

Compostable Food Ware	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Green Calgary and a member of the CFMF vendor crew visited vendors on Thursday during setup to ensure that all vendors were compliant. A few vendors were instructed not to use certain items and alternatives were found. Vendors were also monitored throughout the weekend. - Extra compostable food ware items were purchased by Folk Festival to have available for vendors that needed to switch. This was confusing however, as the vendor crew was unsure of how to charge vendors for needed items. - Most vendors were compliant with the compostable food ware requirement. Some items had to be switched out during the festival including sauce containers at Joy's Caribbean Foods, straws at Phil & Sebastian and the Lemonade Hut and utensils at Ship & Anchor and India Palace Restaurant. - Tim Hortons cups are not compostable. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Continue to remind vendors that compostable food ware policies are mandatory. - Inform vendor crew on how to charge for compostable food ware and include price button on the cash register. - Continue visiting vendors during setup and throughout the weekend to ensure compliance. This is a very important piece in order to reduce contamination of the organics collection. - Continue trying to work with Tim Hortons to switch to compostable food ware. - Some vendor items were labeled as compostable but lacked certification. Certification is important to ensure that claims of compostability are in fact true. Vendors can look out for these certifications: BPI, ASTM D6400 or D6868, CAN/BNQ 0017-088, EN 13432 or OK Compost.
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HOSPITALITY AREA

Recycling and Organics collection	The food preparation (back of house) collection in the hospitality tent had very minimal signage (some handmade). The lack of signage led to considerable contamination of both the recycling and compost.	Create simple signage for the bins in the hospitality area. The same signage as the vendor area can be used.
Local food	CFMF incorporated local and organic produce into their hospitality food this year by having "harvester" volunteers visit Blue Mountain Biodynamic Farm and pick vegetables and herbs for their fellow volunteers.	Fantastic initiative! Please continue.

WATER

Water Bottle Ban	Very progressive initiative that was well supported on the island by sufficient water access and availability of reusable water bottles for purchase. According to Vecova, the beverage container recycler for the festival, this initiative reduced the amount of water bottles disposed of on site by more than 90%.	Fantastic initiative! Please continue.
Water Access	There was plenty of water access between the water stations and the TD representatives that were walking through the crowd and filling up water bottles. Access to water was ample.	n/a
Tap Water Usage	Over the weekend 12,000 litres of water was provided and used for the TD water stations. This is equivalent to 24,000 water bottles (standard 500 ml)!	n/a

AFTER PARTIES

Beer Cups	Compostable beer cups were not used at the after party this year. Plastic disposable cups were used instead.	Use reusable beer glasses at the after party, or return to the use of compostable beer cups and supply a few bins for their collection in order to send them to a compost facility.
Recycling	PEL Recycling did not pick up any compost or recycling from the Westin from the after parties. Westin does however, have organics and recycling collection in place and the material from the Folk Festival parties was likely added to their regular collection.	Speak to the Westin to ensure that they recycle the pizza boxes and other recycling and organics from the CFMF after parties.

COMMUNICATION

CFMF Guide	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The "Our Environment" section in the CFMF guide was easy to find as it was near the beginning on page four. - Great approach informing patrons of their role in helping CFMF with festival eco-initiatives. 	If CFMF has additional room for this section in the future, list all other initiatives that have been undertaken. The list is very impressive and will work to inspire patrons to participate with CFMF eco-initiatives and consider green action in their own lives.
CFMF Website	Excellent and detailed "green efforts" section on CFMF's website.	Include all initiatives such as the partnership with Blue Mountain Biodynamic Farm and the use of cargo bikes.

GREEN PROCUREMENT		
Folk Festival Merchandise & Volunteer Shirts	American apparel t-shirts were used. American apparel is considered a progressive company in regards to their sustainability and labour practices.	Consider purchasing from American Apparel's "Sustainable Edition" which uses 100 % organic cotton.
Festival Guide & Other Printed Material	Programs and posters were printed on FSC certified paper.	Request the FSC logo and include it in the printing of promotional material and guides.
CARBON EMISSIONS REDUCTION & OFFSETTING		
Sustainable Energy	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Solar power was used in the family area, Bioboxes and Bin 15 through a partnership with Skyfire Energy. - 75 % of the City of Calgary's electricity comes from renewable energy, supplied by Enmax. This includes electricity used on Princes Island Park. The City of Calgary will be purchasing 100 % renewable energy in 2012. 	- Consider offsetting the CFMF's office year round with alternative energy. Both Enmax and Bullfrog Power provide this service.
Offset Program	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The environment crew gave away 3,200 white spruce tree seedlings to patrons during the festival to help offset artist travel emissions. - Remaining artist emissions not offset by the tree giveaway will be offset with Tree Canada. 	Great initiative! Please continue.
Use of Big Bikes	CFMF partnered with David Winkler from Unique Blends to use their Big Bikes (transport bikes) to displace a few golf carts normally used at the festival by volunteers and staff.	Great initiative! Please continue.
OTHER		
Obtaining Information on Waste & Recycling	Green Calgary was able to obtain information on the waste, recycling and organics collected during the weekend. Waste and beverage container information however, was difficult to get. This information is crucial for the report in order for CFMF to track progress.	If contracts are used with waste and recycling vendors include the obligation to provide information on the amount of waste or recycling with a deadline included.
Wood Pallet Recycling	Some pallets were reused this year during the festival but none were recycled.	Remember to set aside pallets and have them picked up for recycling. PEL Recycling has hauled the pallets to the wood recycler in previous years and can still offer this service if requested.

Appendix A: Photos from CFMF



Figure 1: Augmented Organics Signage



Figure 2: Augmented Landfill Signage