

12 February 2018

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Dear Event Organisers, Stallholders and Supporters

Waste Minimisation at Functions and Events

Northern Beaches Council's *Waste Minimisation at Functions and Events Policy* was adopted on 22 August 2017 and addresses our community's expectation that we protect our environment by reducing waste and litter. This includes the global issue of single-use plastic waste and the resulting plastic pollution of the world's oceans.

Each year, hundreds of events take place on public reserves within the Northern Beaches Council area and this policy helps event organisers to improve their environmental performance by:

- minimising waste and maximising recycling at events
- prohibiting the sale/distribution of single-use plastic/polystyrene and single-use sachets at events
- maintaining cleanliness of event sites during and after the event
- promoting and practicing sustainable procurement



Council's Waste Education team is here to assist event organisers and stall holders to minimise waste. We realise that the community has come to rely upon single-use plastics and that it may take some time to change behaviour. However, there are alternatives and the Waste Education team will work with you to provide support and encouragement to achieve better environmental outcomes.

What's new?

The sale or distribution of single-use plastic/polystyrene products and single-use sachets is prohibited. This includes front-of-house food and drink serving products, decorations (e.g. balloons), promotional giveaways and retail products and packaging. The Event Waste Management Guidelines provide alternatives to the prohibited products – a summary of these is provided below.

Waste Avoidance Solutions for Event Organisers

To reduce litter and support the transition away from disposable single-use plastic products, the following alternatives should be considered:

<u>Single-Use Plastics and Sachets</u>	<u>Approved Alternatives</u>
Individual sugar, salt, pepper sachets Individual sauce packets	Bulk shakers/dispensers Communal sauce bottles
Plastic/polystyrene plates, cups/glasses, bottled drinks, bowls, cutlery, takeaway containers, sample pots	Reusable serving-ware such as crockery Paper, cardboard, bamboo or sugarcane fibreboard products Glass jars, aluminium cans Share platters and tongs/cocktail sticks
Plastic straws	No straws or paper straws
Plastic stirrers	No stirrers or wooden stirrers
Plastic bags	Calico or paper bags
Bottled water	Public bubblers or bottle refill stations Attendees BYO drink bottle
Sunscreen sachets	Bulk pump pack sunscreen
	

Note: single-use plastic includes “bio-plastic” products. These products are marketed as compostable, however cannot be composted within our region’s waste processing system and will go to landfill. These products also behave like any other disposable plastic in the environment in the unfortunate event that they are littered.

Drinking Water

There are simple, waste-free alternatives to providing bottled water at functions and events, with public drinking water stations available at most popular event sites. Most families carry their own drinks bottle when out and about and Council’s *Swap this for That* and water stations programs are raising awareness of the availability of public drinking water and the benefits of carrying your own bottle. Portable bubblers can be booked for a fee via Sydney Water oursydneyourwater.com.au/portable-water-stations/

Many events pre-advertise a “leave no trace” policy to event attendees, instructing them to bring their own drink bottle for refilling.



Support

Council’s Waste Education Officers are available to assist event organisers and stallholders with event waste planning, waste and single-use plastic avoidance.

Thank you for working with Council to produce the low-waste, litter-free events that our community expects.

Yours faithfully

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