



SUSTAINABILITY COMMISSION WASTE REDUCTION COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION

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January 5, 2021

CONCERNS

* Large events generate tons of waste through planning, purchasing, infrastructure, food/public services and post-event wastes.

* Currently, there are inadequate requirements for waste management or sustainability practices at these events (i.e. sporting, County Fairgrounds, concerts, lectures, festivals, conferences)

* Waste in the Lane County Landfill is the largest emitter of GHGs in Lane County, emitting ~174,089 MTCO_{2e} according to the 2019 GHG inventory. Greenhouse gas emitting food and organics waste account for 40% of the landfill. **Eugene's portion of that total is 79,840 MTCO_{2e}, or [8% of Eugene's overall sector-based emissions](#).** Events are a source of food waste and organics.

* Events are a significant source of non-food organics waste such as temporary landscaping, field coverings, sod, or decorations.

* For perspective: an average football game produces 50 to 100 tons of waste and releases 188 to 376 metric tons of carbon dioxide into the atmosphere. (From [Greening Your Game Day](#))

GOAL

The Eugene city council has set ambitious climate recovery and waste reduction targets. A reduction in waste from the city's frequent large events will benefit these targets.

The City of Eugene can require common sense zero waste practices and management ordinances for large scale events taking place within the urban growth boundary. These will have measurable impact on reducing waste going to the landfill and greenhouse gas emissions.

RELEVANT ORDINANCES

*Climate action plan updated in November 2019 and CRO updated in 2016

*City of Eugene implemented Polystyrene Foodware ban January 2020

*Plastic Bag ban updated and re-enacted in November 2019

*Upon request for condiments, utensils and straw, enacted in May 2019

*Nationally, states (such as: Minnesota, Maryland, Wisconsin and California), have enacted Large Events ordinances and laws. For example, The State of California implemented this in 2003:

http://leginfo.legislature.ca.gov/faces/billNavClient.xhtml?bill_id=200320040AB2176

Efforts from this legislation include: integrated waste management requirements for permitting of any large events, mandatory waste diversion reporting, sustainable purchasing practices for all large events, space provision for event to manage waste and minimum of 50% waste recovery .



BACKGROUND

The City of Eugene worked directly on educating, serving as technical support and encouraging waste reduction and recovery at the Olympic Trials from 2008-2016. Under the City's guidance, most of these events demonstrated comprehensive waste management with a zero waste focus and recovery rates over 80%.

For the 2020 trials event, there was no evident waste management plan. The City has created resources for events if organizers choose to use them. There are no mandatory waste management planning requirements, diversion, or required reporting. In the past, the City was more directly involved with trials planning but not for other large events.

The occurrence of large events is a growing trend and economic opportunity for Eugene. sporting events, concerts, Lane County Fairgrounds events, festivals, trade-shows, conferences are growing in popularity and recurrence.

BENEFITS OF A CITY ORDINANCE

- *helping to meet City goals on GHG reductions
- *collect data on waste management from events and reduction impacts
- *help meet State goals of 50% waste diversion by 2025
- *Consistency in waste management at all large events held within UGB
- *waste reduction to county landfill
- *educating the public and normalizing waste reduction practices (i.e eliminating bottled water sales and allowing refilling)
- *standardizing impactful waste practices at local events

PROPOSED ORDINANCE PROVISIONS

An event is defined to be any organized, public gathering expected to attract more than x attendees and participants. This includes concerts, sporting events, and fairs. An event organizer needs to focus both on waste prevention and on waste diversion and report back to the community about the impact on our shared resources from their event.

1. Event will strive for and demonstrate a minimum of 50% waste diversion.
2. Event will sell no bottled water. Event will provide multiple water fountains or water filling stations. Attendees and participants are advised to bring empty water bottles or to buy a reusable container at the event.
(expands city's efforts to reduce plastic waste)
3. Event will utilize bulk container dispensers for condiments.
(expands city's efforts to reduce plastic waste)
4. Event will eliminate all single-use plastic cups, and to-go containers, to be replaced by recycled-



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content paper containers or through use of recyclable durables such as done at CU Boulder.

UC Boulder utilizes the stadium Ball Jar program (<https://www.colorado.edu/ecenter/greening-cu/sports-sustainability/sponsor-spotlight>), which replaces all disposable single use cups, with durable recyclable aluminum ball jar cups that are collected for recycling. There are currently no single use disposable cups that are recyclable, thus this proprietary program is being employed for zero waste football games at colleges around the country.

Other venues employ refillable souvenir cups such as at [Disneyland](#).

Other examples include minimizing overall packaging waste production from food consumption (such as use of bulk condiments).

*compostable foodware is not accepted in Eugene/Lane County and thus is not an option for zero waste practices

(expands city's efforts to reduce plastic waste and reduce overall waste production)

5. Event will sort and recycle waste, including direction of food waste for composting, by volunteers or by vendor/service. Unused food will be recovered and sent to a local food bank.

Event will work to maximize diversion opportunities for all bulk items produced such as: ground cover, furniture, scaffolding etc...)

(expands city's best practices to events, CO2 at landfill)

6. Event will use paper with 70% post-consumer recycled content for all printed materials. Event will work to reduce overall paper use through double sided copying and email communications.

7. Upon completion, Event will submit a short waste report to the City staff. This would document: tonnages of waste, recycling and composting; note any waste reduction initiatives (such as reduction in purchasing and inventory); bulk reuse such as donating construction and infrastructure materials.

In lieu of a report, an event choosing to participate in a green event certification process, would submit final report from certifying agency (Such as Council for Sustainable Sport).

(allows for tracking of practices that the City is working to monitor and reduce)

8. Event is encouraged to adopt as many other elements from the City of Eugene Sustainable Event Checklist (https://www.eugene.or.gov/DocumentCenter/View/30993/2017Sustainable_Event_Checklist)

SUMMARY

The City has been working on implementing the CAP and developing waste reduction and resource initiatives to benefit these efforts through environmental, economic and social means. Though there are some efforts that are voluntary that are not consistent or extensive, and the City would be served by creating a consistent ordinance where all events implement baseline waste reduction/diversion and sustainability initiatives.



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RESOURCES

US Green Building Council Zero Waste Events guide:

<https://true.gbci.org/sites/default/files/resources/Technical%20Guide%20for%20TRUE%20for%20Events.pdf>

A guide to Zero Waste Events from the US Green Building Council that comprehensively lays out a strategic plan for events. Of note: it utilizes “compostable food ware” which is no longer accepted in Eugene and Lane County. Thus an opportunity exists to implement durable cups (such as done at the University of Colorado through Ball Company using stainless steel reusable cups) and if not, to eliminate all plastic cups and to-go containers in place of recycled content paper products thus reducing plastic cup waste.

City of Eugene Check-off list

https://www.eugene-or.gov/DocumentCenter/View/30993/2017Sustainable_Event_Checklist

State of California Events Recycling Law

<https://www.fostercity.org/publicworks/page/ab-2176-recycling-large-events>