

Waste Management and Sustainability



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Although the parks and open spaces within Aberdeen have sufficient waste bins for day to day use, they are not sufficient for events which attract a larger than normal footfall, increased duration of stay or activities more likely to create waste. Event organisers will be required to ensure that additional waste provision is arranged for their event, utilising the support of a licensed waste contractor.

Event organisers are encouraged by Aberdeen City Council and EventScotland to develop sustainable events by ensuring that they put plans in place to:

- Reduce
- Re-Use
- Recycle

Aberdeen City Council have recently committed to phase out single use plastics and event organiser are encouraged to review the single use plastic used at their events and to look for ways to reduce their use.

EventScotland encourages businesses including event organisers to pledge their commitment to sustainability at <http://pledge.resourceefficientscotland.com/>

To assist event organisers, Resource Efficient Scotland have produced a detailed and very helpful guide for running environmentally sustainable events, which can be found [here](#).

Under the Waste (Scotland) Regulations and the Environmental Protection Regulations, Event Organisers have a legal duty to collect, store, recycle and dispose of waste at their events. The accumulation and poor management of waste can present risks to the environment as well as those at the event by increasing the risk of slips and trips, blocking pathways and fire exits and increasing the risk of fire. At all times a duty of care is also owed to those at the event so waste should be minimised and managed.

Waste management plans should be developed to ensure that enough waste bins are provided, that regular monitoring takes place, collections and uplifts are accommodated safely during the event when required and that legal obligations are met. It is recommended that a competent waste management contractor is engaged to assist in the development and delivery of the event's waste management plan.

The needs of the event will depend on the format, location and size of the proposed event. The Event Organiser should work with their contracted supplier to ensure:

- a sufficient supply of waste bins is available for the anticipated waste type and volume produced by the event (mixed recycling, food waste, glass or general etc.).
- consideration of the specific needs and waste of public attendees, based on the numbers attending and the probable causes of waste e.g. bar waste, food waste or paper / cardboard etc.
- consideration of the specific needs and waste of trade and catering suppliers, which may produce large amounts of cardboard, plastic and food waste etc.
- that various types of bin are clustered in strategic locations with clear signage to encourage members of the public to separate their waste. If there is only one bin type available, then all types of waste will be deposited within it.
- that monitoring takes place throughout the event to ensure that bins are emptied before they become full
- litter picking is arranged to prevent the build-up of waste which hasn't made its way to the bins provided

- it is the responsibility of the event organiser to make appropriate arrangements to remove and have waste (including litter) collected and disposed of in the appropriate legal manner. Failure to do so can result in additional charges being applied by your waste contractor and/or fines being issued by competent authorities as a result of non-compliance.
- site rules and contract obligations are developed to confirm that “keeping work areas tidy” is part of contractors, suppliers and vendor’s duties. This can be reinforced by way of inclusion in Pre-Event Information and site briefings.

Further Reading

[SEPA - Waste Regulations](#)

[HSE - Handling Waste](#)

Mitigate the Risks

The risks involved in the installation of refuse infrastructure and collection during the event should be mitigated by **coordination of work activities, ensuring cooperation onsite** and the **management of vehicle movements within pedestrian areas**.

The placement of waste bins should allow safe access to service throughout the event without the need for vehicles and pedestrians to mix. If there are locations which require vehicles to travel through pedestrian areas, then this must be managed to prevent accident or injury.

If staff or volunteers are required to deal with litter picking or waste handling then they should be competent to do so and have the appropriate equipment, training, briefing and supervision to carry this work out safely. It is important that risks such as injury from needles or broken glass are assessed and that staff are provided with correct Personal Protective Equipment PPE to prevent injury e.g. gloves and other protective clothing.

A system of reporting and responding should be developed along with regular monitoring of the provision to ensure that risks of overflowing bins are mitigated.

Mandatory Conditions:

- Aberdeen City Council’s terms and conditions for the use of council land require event organisers to keep venues clean and tidy, with litter picking during events and that all waste generated by the event, must be removed by the organiser after the event.