



Zero Waste Event Report

Farm to Table 2017

Sanne Stienstra, Green Business Coordinator, Washington County Solid Waste & Recycling

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HILLSBORO DOWNTOWN
PARTNERSHIP

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INTRODUCTION

The Hillsboro Downtown Partnership (HDP) is a 501c3 nonprofit organization dedicated to making it easier, more enjoyable and more profitable to do business in downtown Hillsboro. The organization hosted its second annual Farm to Table Dinner (F2T) on Friday, July 14, 2017. The purpose of the event is to promote the food culture in downtown Hillsboro and raise funds for HDP programs such as visual improvements in the downtown area, and marketing and promoting downtown to customers and investors. The event was attended by 300 people and held on Main Street in downtown Hillsboro, between 2nd and 3rd Avenues.

F2T 2017 was planned and implemented by HDP's executive director, Saira Siddiqui, and a planning committee made up of 15 dedicated volunteers. For the 2017 event, the planning committee decided to work toward making F2T a zero waste event, which would be the first event of its kind in Hillsboro.

According to the Zero Waste International Alliance, zero waste is "a goal that is ethical, economical, efficient and visionary, to guide people in changing their lifestyles and practices to emulate sustainable natural cycles, where all discarded materials are designed to become resources for others to use." A zero waste event typically involves preventing as much waste as possible, such as by using durable mugs instead of plastic ones, and then recycling or composting at least 90% of what is left.

To design a zero waste event requires forethought and planning. F2T's planning committee anticipated what kind of waste would be generated at the event, what could be avoided, and how to recycle, compost or dispose of the waste that may have been unavoidable.

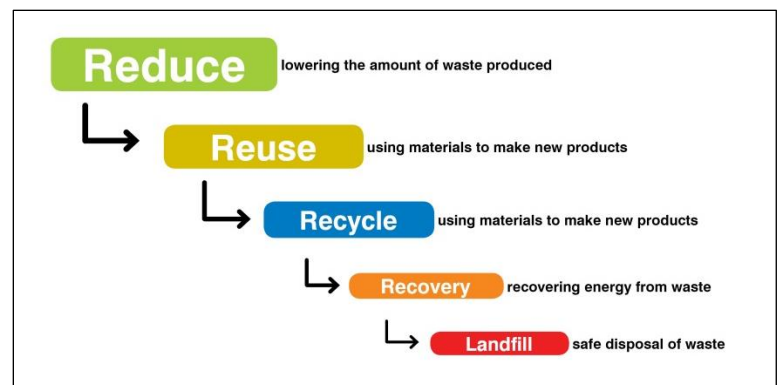


AVOIDED WASTE

Avoided waste is difficult to measure, but it is the most important category in the waste reduction hierarchy, because it has the greatest environmental benefits.

DISHWARE

A considerable amount of waste was avoided, or prevented, by renting all durable dishware and napkins from Party Pros. It is unknown how much waste was prevented by renting dishware and napkins rather than using disposable items, but with 300 diners and 50 volunteers, it is not a small amount.



Waste reduction hierarchy

GARNISH

Chefs did not use large amounts of garnish this year, after the sustainability lead from last year noted that a lot of kale garnish went uneaten. Although the kale was composted, avoiding the use of that food in the first place is preferred over composting.

MATERIALS GENERATED

A total of 546.2 pounds of waste was generated at the event. Of that weight, 481.7 pounds or 88% was diverted from landfill either by recycling, composting or reuse. The remaining 64.5% or 12% was sent to landfill. Although the event did not reach a full 90% diversion rate, these results are excellent for a first-time attempt.

GLASS RECYCLING

Glass recycling, which was made up almost exclusively of wine bottles, was the largest waste category by weight. Wine bottles weighed 230.2 pounds and made up 42% of the total waste by weight and were recycled in the Clark's mixed recycling container and then the Civic Center's mixed recycling containers.

FOOD WASTE

Food waste was generated both by chefs in preparing their dishes for dinner and by diners who left uneaten food on their plates. Anecdotally, volunteers noticed that there was less uneaten food this year than last year. The total food

waste collected weight 108 pounds, or 20% of the total waste generated by weight. This material was deposited in the Civic Center's food waste bins and taken to a facility called Pacific Region Compost in Corvallis to create compost.

MIXED RECYCLING

Mixed recycling primarily included paper from dinner programs, auction programs, print-at-home tickets guests brought from home; cardboard from supplies, ingredients, and wine boxes; and miscellaneous bottles and cans, such as water bottles provided to volunteers. Weighing 79.4 pounds, mixed recycling comprised 15% of the total waste



1: Wine bottles collected for recycling.
2: Food scraps collected by The Other Chef.
3: Food scraps collected by Clark's.
4: Garbage including butter wrappers, toothpicks, and napkins.

generated during the event (by weight). These items were recycled in the Clark's mixed recycling container and the Civic Center's mixed recycling containers.

GARBAGE

Garbage weight 64.5 pounds and comprised 12% of the total waste generated at the event, by weight. Primary items found in the garbage included: Tillamook butter wrappers, toothpicks, paper napkins, sample hummus packaging, paper plates (from volunteer meals), plastic utensils (from volunteer), and wristbands. There was some additional garbage generated in the volunteer room that was not visually inspected by the waste and sustainability volunteers. Additionally, a large amount of the weight in this category came from the trash boxes that were provided by Hillsboro Garbage Disposal. These boxes are made out of waxed cardboard, and not recyclable.

LIQUID WASTE

Soup that diners left in their bowls had to be kept separate from the other food waste because liquid is not allowed in the County's compost program. Soup waste was not weighed but volunteer estimated it filled two five-gallon buckets a little more than halfway. Water weighs about eight pounds per gallon, so there was an estimated weight of 48 pounds, or 9% of the total amount generated by weight. Soup waste was collected in five-gallon buckets and poured down the drain at Clark's, where it will eventually go to the wastewater treatment facility and be made into a fertilizer blend called [Clean Water Grow](#).

PLASTIC FILM RECYCLING

Plastic film is not accepted in the curbside recycling program, so it was collected separately and dropped off at Far West Recycling's public recycling depot. Film was primarily made up of shrink wrap that came off the rented dishware from Party Pros. It weighed 11.1 pounds and made up 2% of the total waste by weight.

RIGID PLASTIC RECYCLING

Rigid plastics, such as clamshells, are also not accepted curbside so this material was collected separately and dropped off at Far West Recycling. Rigid plastics generated at the event included plastic beer and wine cups from outside vendors, and clamshell packaging from volunteer food. This category weighed just three pounds and comprised 1% of the total waste by weight.

WINE CORKS

Wine corks were collected for donation to SCRAP PDX, a creative reuse center in Portland. The corks will be resold and used by people for creative projects. Corks weighed two pounds and made up less than 1% of the total waste generated by weight.

SILENT AUCTION

The planning committee worked hard to reduce waste from the silent auction baskets. Although the items and wrapping from those baskets would not be disposed of during the event, the committee felt it was important to extend the zero waste ethic beyond the dinner. All baskets were purchased secondhand from Goodwill, basket filler was made from shredded paper, baskets were wrapped in reusable tulle material leftover from another event, raffia was brought from a committee member's home, and reusable cloth napkins were used as filler, as well. Each basket had a small card with information about zero waste and where items in the basket could be recycled or donated after the event.

Thank you for being part of our zero waste event!



"Zero waste" means: All of the material we discard today is designed to become resources for others to use. Everything we used to assemble this package is reusable or recyclable!

See the back for ideas on how to responsibly dispose of items in this package.

WASTE STATIONS

There were two bussing/waste stations at the event, which were set up under a tent with a folding table and bus tubs rented from Party Pros. Washington County Solid Waste & Recycling provided bins and compostable liners for collecting food scraps, liquid waste, wine corks and recycling (see photo). There were five containers for diverting waste – food scraps, liquid waste, mixed recycling, rigid plastics, and plastic films. Wine boxes were used to collect wine bottles and two 4-gallon buckets were placed at each drink station to collect wine corks. Every container was labeled with the items that should be placed in it (except the soup waste bucket had a compost sticker on it).



Garbage was collected in waxed cardboard trash boxes provided by Hillsboro Garbage Disposal. Eight boxes were delivered to the event, but only four were used (and none were filled up).

Each waste station was staffed by a waste and sustainability volunteer – Sanne Stienstra and Gus O'Bosky. Volunteer bussers and servers brought bussed dishes to one of the two waste stations, and some were able to help scrape their plates into the compost before returning to guests to get more plates. However, most of the plate scraping and dish sorting (to return to Party Pros) was done by Gus and Sanne.

RECOMMENDATIONS FOR NEXT YEAR

MORE VOLUNTEERS

Each waste station could use two dedicated volunteers – one zero waste expert and one expert busser who can help sort and organize dishware.

FEWER TRASH BOXES

The majority of this year's garbage was made up of the actual trash boxes provided by Hillsboro Garbage Disposal. Since the boxes are waxed and not recyclable, the fewest number of boxes possible should be used. Full garbage bags can be disposed of in the garbage dumpster, so realistically, only one box per waste station is needed. Alternatively, waxed cardboard is more durable than non-waxed, so the boxes could have been reused next year.

ANTICIPATE WASTE FROM VOLUNTEERS

There was more landfill-bound waste than anticipated this year because the planning committee overlooked waste generated by volunteers, such as snacks, water bottles, and other equipment. Next year, the committee should incorporate volunteer waste into the plan and take steps to reduce waste generation where possible, such as avoiding disposable dishware.

APPENDICES

TABLE 1: TOTAL WASTE GENERATED BY CATEGORY AND WEIGHT

Category	Specific Items	Diversion Category	Weight (lbs)
Mixed Recycling	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Paper programs • Paper print-at-home tickets • Cardboard boxes • Misc. bottles and cans 	Recycled	79.4
Glass Recycling	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Wine bottles 	Recycled	230.2
Plastic Film Recycling	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Shrink wrap from rentals • Ice bags 	Recycled	11.1
Rigid Plastic Recycling	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Plastic beer and wine cups • Misc. clamshells and packaging 	Recycled	3
Reuse – donated to SCRAP PDX	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Wine corks 	Reused	2
Food Waste	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Prep waste from chefs (Clark's, The Other Chef, Aybla Grill) • Plate waste from diners • Compostable liner bags 	Composted	108
Liquid Waste	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Soup waste from diners • Water waste from diners (not measured) 	Composted	48 (estimated)
Garbage	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Butter wrappers • Toothpicks • Paper napkins • Sample hummus packaging • Paper plates (volunteers) • Plastic utensils (volunteers) • Wristbands 	Landfilled	64.5
Total Waste Generation			546.2
Total Waste Diverted			481.7
Diversion Rate			88%

TABLE 2: PERCENTAGE WASTE GENERATION BY WEIGHT

