



Improving Peterborough Folk Festival's Eco-Initiatives



We respectfully acknowledge that Peterborough County is located on the treaty and traditional territory of the Michi Saagiig Anishabeg.

Introduction

The Peterborough Folk Festival is an annual music event that aims to bring attention to Peterborough's local artists. As a socially conscious event, they look to reduce their ecological impact and identified volume of landfill waste as a concern. This project aimed to assess their current practices against best practices and to provide recommendations for two key areas of waste diversion.

Methodologies

Research was conducted through structured discussions with the host organization, academic literature reviews, grey literature reviews, email communication with local waste professionals, and analysis of the websites and advertisements of commended green festivals.



See QR code for references.



Green Festival Best Practices

- Vendors sign onto “green contracts” or make a “green deposit”.
- Attendees and vendors not allowed to use single-use plastic.
- Highly visible educational signage.
- Waste either sorted into many categories at stations, or by volunteers afterwards.
- Long-term waste management plans involving comprehensive waste tracking.



Review of Current Practices

- Dishwashing station for reusable dishes is good. Some disposable products used.
- Multiple waste stations with paired recycling and landfill bins. Only compost bins are at dish station. No instructional signage on bins.
- Recycling and landfill collected by city; compost dependent on community.
- Vendors are offered reusables, but not strictly required to use them
- Water station.



Recommendations for Organic Waste Diversion

- Include compost bins at all waste stations with clear educational signage.
- Set attendee expectations in promotional materials.
- Ensure compost gets to the municipal composting facility, either through arrangements with the city or a private company.
- Track volume of compost, recycling and landfill waste and monitor contamination. Use this data to set annual diversion goals.



Recommendations for Reusable Dish Usage

- Use compostable sponges, reusable cloths and biodegradable soap at the dish station.
- Set vendor expectations when forming agreements.
- Make vendors pre-aware of the shape and size of reusable dishes.
- Maintain an approved list of compostable paper dish brands for vendors as an alternative.
- Post-festival, collect vendor feedback.



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