

Lafayette Art & Wine Festival - Waste Report

Event Information:

Lafayette Art & Wine

10am – 7pm, Saturday, September 23, 2023

10am – 6pm, Sunday, September 24, 2023

Downtown Lafayette

Event Contacts:

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Chamber Director

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Event Recycling Coordinator

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Stations Monitors

Republic Services contracted with Green Mary to provide station monitors at the waste stations of contracted special events. Green Mary is a preferred vendor for multiple bay area cities, with an emphasis on reducing landfill waste.

Prior to the event, Green Mary was trained on their responsibilities for the event, which included:

- Having a clear understanding of which items should be placed in which receptacle.
- Educating event-goers on how to properly dispose of waste in the appropriate receptacles.
- Preventing contamination by sorting incorrectly placed waste into the correct bin.
- Directing people who had service-related questions to the Republic Services/RecycleSmart booth.

Although we typically deploy Clear Stream stations at special events, the event organizers prefer and specifically requested carts, which Republic Services delivered to the event site on the Friday before the event.



To facilitate a higher diversion rate, the Green Mary supervisor and staff members went to different stations with trash grabbers and resorted any incorrectly sorted materials into the proper receptacle. Working with the staff provided by The Chamber of Commerce, the full bags were removed and brought to the consolidation area, where staff did another sort for quality control of the collected materials, when time permitted, before placing materials into the appropriate debris boxes or dumpster. This was a key in achieving a high diversion rate.

Public Education Outreach

Republic Services and RecycleSmart hosted a public information booth at the event. The booth was staffed by Republic Services' Sustainability Advisors Casey Levias, Grace Martin, and John Taylor, and RecycleSmart staff members Janna McKay, Jennifer Faught and Ashley Louisiana.

Tasks completed:

- Provided information about various diversion programs and customer guides brochures.
- Answered service-related questions.
- Encouraged event-goers to take photos in the new "We Put Food Scraps in the Green Cart" mural screen.
- Distributed giveaways.
- Took down customer concerns to resolve back at the office.
- Distributed 73 kitchen food scrap pails during the event, and will be delivering another 10 pails afterwards.



Diversion Stations	Collection Containers	Station Monitors
40 stations (landfill, recycle and organics carts at each station)	Debris boxes: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 1x20yd landfill debris box • 1x40yd recycle debris box • 3x30yd recycle debris box Bins: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 2x4yd landfill bin – one ended up being used for organics Carts: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 40x64gal landfill carts • 40x64gal recycle carts • 50x64gal organics carts 	18 monitors, 1 job coach, 1 supervisor

Methodology

Due to the size of this event, the waste collection process differs from other contracted events. Waste stations consisted of three carts: landfill, recycle and organics. The landfill and recycle carts were lined so full bags could be taken to the consolidation and sorting station, and deposited into the appropriate end-use debris boxes. The organics carts were unlined, and food scraps, paper towels, and other food-soiled paper could be deposited directly into these containers, and were swapped out with empty carts as needed throughout the event. Forty stations were dispersed throughout the festival. Green Mary staff focused heavily on the stations near the food and dining

areas. Event staff was responsible for replacing bags and full organics carts, and transporting material to the consolidation area.

Waste Diversion Tonnage:

Recycling	Organics	Landfill	2023 Diversion Rate	2022 Diversion Rate
4.6 tons	1.35 tons	0.56 tons	91.4%	82%

Best Practices of Waste Diversion

The Lafayette Art and Wine Festival has a commitment to waste reduction well beyond the norm. The event planners implemented several successful diversion methods to reduce the amount material sent to the landfill:

- The event planners put an emphasis on banning plastic bags, plastic bottles, and Styrofoam from vendor booths and sent out a Sustainable Purchasing Guide to every vendor. This gave vendors advance notice of items they could and could not use and provided information on where they could obtain environmentally responsible serving products.
- Jeremy Steel from the Lafayette Chamber was the designated Recycling Coordinator for the event. Having a dedicated event planner to manage the waste diversion process throughout the event was key to achieving a high diversion rate.
- Given the size of the event and the high attendance, it was crucial to make waste stations easily accessible. We worked with Steel and his team to disperse the stations throughout the event, and cluster some in particularly dense or food-heavy areas.
- Event planners hired Express Employment to empty the waste stations and replace full bags. Republic Services created a waste separation guide that visually represented which containers the different bags went into for clarity.
- The city trash containers were covered in black plastic bags to ensure that the cart stations provided for the event were the only containers used.
- Green Mary staff not only served as educators and station monitors at the carts throughout the event, but even had someone at the consolidation area doing a quick post-sort of materials before placing it into the appropriate debris box or container.

Recommendation

- **Additional signage for the carts:** Typically, our event Clear Streams have a billboard frame that displays signage for each material stream. However, since event organizers requested carts rather than Clear Streams, signage on the top lid of carts is not as visible since the lids are typically always flipped open. We recommend and can provide larger posters or special laminated signs on the front upper part of the carts in the future.



Clockwise from upper left: A recycle cart filled with empty aluminum cans; an organics container filled with pizza boxes and food scraps; an organics cart with mostly paper towels; a landfill cart with miscellaneous trash and packaging that will be sorted.

Below: Consolidation, staging and post-sort area.



2023 Lafayette Art and Wine Diversion Calculations

Recycling Tonnage

1.88	tons	Roll-off
1.09	tons	Roll-off
0.36	tons	Roll-off
1.27	tons	Roll-off
4.6	tons	

Organics Tonnage

1.08	tons	Estimated from 50x64-gal carts
0.27	tons	Estimated 4-yd bin (full)
1.35	tons	

Landfill Tonnage

0.26	tons	Roll-off
0.3	tons	Estimated 4-yd bin (half full; mixed MSW 300 lbs/cy)
0.56	tons	

[Source: 2016 EPA Conversion Factors](#)