EVENT RECYCLING

A STRATEGY FOR COMMUNITY SUSTAINABILITY

Source: Cathy Summers, MR class of ’13
2 OUTLINE

- Staffing a waste station
- Coordinating recycling and waste management at an event
- More than waste station staffing
- Lessons learned
- Other tips
- Identifying event opportunities
3 RECYCLING AT LOCAL EVENTS: WASTE STATION STAFFING – WHY?

• Intro to waste stations

• Why do it?
  • To divert waste
  • To keep community / environment clean
  • To make a lasting impact
  • It’s a lot of fun
4 RECYCLING AT LOCAL EVENTS: WASTE STATION STAFFING – **GETTING INVOLVED**

- Sign up (opportunities via email list)
  - On campus (Andrea)
  - Off campus (Tino Barreras, Republic Services)
- Be prepared (weather, venue conditions [e.g., noise, standing])
  - Bring gloves
RECYCLING AT LOCAL EVENTS: WASTE STATION STAFFING GOALS

- Help people sort waste properly
- Educate and excite attendees
6 RECYCLING AT LOCAL EVENTS: WASTE STATION STAFFING **TIPS**

- Get in there!
- Own your station
- Narrate the sorting process
- Know the event
- Use your resources and knowledge from class
- When in doubt..
COORDINATING RECYCLING AND WASTE MANAGEMENT: BEFORE THE EVENT

- Determine event needs
  
  How? Historical and anecdotal information

- Gather activity information
  - Type, venue, duration
  - Sources of waste
    - What are vendors selling/giving away?
    - What will participants have to dispose of?
  - Participants
8 COORDINATING RECYCLING AND WASTE MANAGEMENT: BEFORE THE EVENT

- How was waste managed in the past?
- What resources are available?
  - Will the event provide volunteers?
  - Are there garbage cans already available?
  - Is there running water?
- Estimate numbers of waste stations, carts, and dumpsters
- Create a tentative schedule of shifts to determine number of volunteers
COORDINATING RECYCLING AND WASTE MANAGEMENT: BEFORE THE EVENT

- Request resources
  - Hardware
    - Carts, dumpsters/bins, ClearStream frames and bags (signs for carts)
    - How many? What sizes? Where and when to drop off and pick up?
    - Event coordinators can call Republic Services or come to an office to order (Some groups eligible for grants or donations of carts and dumpsters)
  - Consumables
    - Garbage can liners? Disposable gloves (for volunteers)?
  - Volunteers (multiple strategies!)
    - See Request Master Recyclers for Your Event
    - Outreach to event volunteers or outside groups
COORDINATING RECYCLING AND WASTE MANAGEMENT: JUST BEFORE THE EVENT

• Reach out to and prepare volunteers
  • Thank them! Tell them you’re glad to have them!
  • Provide instructions
    • When is their shift? (respect their schedules)
    • Is there any preparation they need to do? (e.g., registering as event volunteer)
    • Where to park and report
    • What to bring (gloves, appropriate clothes, badge)
  • Inform them if there are perqs that come with volunteering (T-shirt? Lunch?)
• Remind them and confirm their shift info
COORDINATING RECYCLING AND WASTE MANAGEMENT: DURING THE EVENT

• Review event needs
  • During set-up and as the event unfolds

• Execute
  • Set up waste stations
  • Assign volunteers
  • Be a runner
    • Check back with volunteers
    • Assess how things are going and change if needed

• Stay until clean-up is done
12. Coordinating Recycling and Waste Management: Always Follow Up

- Follow-up
  - Thank volunteers and ask for their feedback
  - Compile after-event comments
    - For your own future use
    - Feedback to the event coordinator(s)
LESSONS LEARNED

• Events appropriate for Master Recycler involvement should:
  • Implement a system or program that diverts materials from the waste stream, **OR**
  • Provide one-on-one educational contact, **AND**
  • Provide a meaningful educational and/or skill-enhancing experience for the volunteer

• Keep goals of Master Recycling in mind

• Rely on your volunteers – they can be innovative!

• Waste is part of the job, but focus on recycling
OTHER TIPS

• Be a good steward of event sponsor’s stakeholders as well as yours
  • Be professional and respectful
  • Comply with event procedures and policies
    • E.g., if they require volunteer registrations for legal or other purposes

• Listen and ask questions; look for better ways to do things
IDENTIFYING EVENTS

• Role change
  • Waste station staffer to waste management coordinator

• See a need in events you attend
  • Talk to event coordinator

• Recruitment out of the blue
  • Make sure you understand their needs and whether it makes sense to assist
Q&A:
EVENT RECYCLING, WASTE STATION STAFFING