EVENT RECYCLING

A STRATEGY FOR COMMUNITY SUSTAINABILITY

Cathy Summers, MR class of ‘13
2 OUTLINE

• My experience / qualifications
• 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 MY EXPERIENCE

• 2013 Master Recycler class
• Volunteer hours
  • Waste stations
  • Waste audits
  • Presentations to the public and to co-workers
  • Reuse table staffing
  • Coordination of event recycling/waste disposal
    • Fund-raising runs
• Annual Master Recycler get-togethers
4 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
5 RECYCLING AT LOCAL EVENTS: WASTE STATION STAFFING – GETTING INVOLVED

• Sign up (opportunities via email list)
  • On campus (Andrea)
  • Off campus (Julie Jackson, 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
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..
8 WASTE STATION REVIEW

• Role playing
  • You are staffing a waste station…
COORDINATING RECYCLING AND WASTE MANAGEMENT: BEFORE THE EVENT

- Determine event needs
  
  \textit{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
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
14 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)
MORE THAN STAFFING A WASTE STATION

- Fund-raising?
  - Bottles and cans are worth money!

- Try to pair non-MR with MR at waste stations
  - Keep asking coordinators to provide volunteers and emphasize that one of the MR purposes is outreach to the public

- Reach out to the vendors!

- Encourage MRs to talk to attendees about what you’re doing
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
• 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
THANKS!

• And good luck as you start to earn your own payback hours.
• Future opportunity:
  • IRun for Kids – Saturday morning, March 14, 2020
21 CONTACTS

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