



SUSTAINABLE WASTE MANAGEMENT

Options for Event Organisers

The starting point for sustainable waste management is to reduce waste in the first place!

An effective way of doing this is to use non-disposable items instead of single-use items. For example, the Shire's strong preference is that water is not sold or provided in individual plastic bottles at events. Event organisers should instead have a water fountain or dedicated water station with washable or re-useable glasses for people to use.

Compostable Containers / Cups / Cutlery

If single-use items are considered the only feasible option, the Shire strongly encourages event organisers to use compostable containers, cups, cutlery, etc.

To avoid these going to landfill, it's essential they are disposed in designated organic waste bins (see section below) rather than in general waste (red lid) or recycling (yellow lid) bins.

There are 2 types of certified compostable items, identifiable by different logos.

AS5810 "Home Compostable"



AS4736 "Industrial Compostable"



Only "Home Compostable" items can be safely composted at home. As there is no local industrial composting facility in Denmark, compostable items can still go to the Community Compost Hub (behind the Denmark Community Resource Centre). **For this to be done safely however, it is essential that any compostable items used at an event are "Home Compostable" AS5810.**

Certified "Home Compostable" AS5810 items can be easily purchased online, and there is no cost difference (based on the certification type). Examples include:

[Paper Food Containers – BioBoard Rectangular Containers | BioPak Australia](#)

[Dispersion Paper Cups – Aqueous Single Wall Hot Cups | BioPak Australia](#)

[Water-Based Paper Cups – Aqueous Double Wall Hot Cups | BioPak Australia](#)

Cutlery is the only exception. It's OK for cutlery to be AS4736 "Industrial Compostable", so long as they are made from birchwood or bamboo. These materials can still be broken down at the Community Compost Hub. One example of such cutlery is:

[Wooden Cutlery – FSC™ 100% Certified Birchwood BioCutlery | BioPak Australia](#)

Organic Waste Bins

Compostable single-use items shouldn't be disposed in general waste (red lid) or recycling (yellow lid) bins. The only way to ensure that compostable containers, cups, cutlery, etc don't go to landfill is to have dedicated and clearly marked 240L organic waste bins (regular wheelie bin but marked differently).

Event organisers can hire clearly marked organic waste bins from the Shire for \$27 per bin, which includes drop off, pick up and disposal of materials.

The organic materials collected in these bins are processed locally at the Community Compost Hub, which is a volunteer-run initiative managed by Green Skills with assistance from Great Southern Living Soil.

Basil Schur – Green Skills
0429 481 019
bschur@greenskills.org.au

Kim Frankowiak – Great Southern Living Soil
0458 202 270
info@greatsouthernlivingsoil.com.au

Containers for Change

Event organisers can hire **Containers for Change** (C4C) bins from the Shire for \$27 per bin (including drop off, pick up, disposal of materials). This ensures that all eligible plastic/glass bottles and aluminium cans are recycled.

C4C refunds can either be:

Allocated direct to the event organiser [Bank Transfers Refunds | Containers for Change WA](#)

Donated to a community group [Donate your refund | Containers for Change WA](#)

On 1 July 2026, C4C will be expanded to also include wine and spirit bottles, leading to even better waste reduction!

Recycling Bins

Event organisers can hire recycling (yellow lid) bins from the Shire for \$27 per bin, which includes drop off, pick up and disposal of materials.

Source Separation to Minimise Contamination

Using different bins for different waste streams is a good first step, when having single-use (rather than non-disposable) items is unavoidable. To make sure compostable, C4C and recyclable items don't go to landfill, it is **essential** that these different items are disposed in the correct designated bin. **If the wrong items are disposed in the wrong bin, this causes contamination and everything in that bin can still end up in landfill.**

Plastic Reduction Denmark is a volunteer-based local community group who can share information, help set up a suitable waste station, and may be able to provide volunteers to monitor disposal of waste at events, ensuring there is correct source separation into the correct bins (organic / C4C / recycling).

Karen Andersson – Plastic Reduction Denmark (Volunteer Coordinator)
0476 205 155
madmail30@gmail.com

Clear Signage / Consistent Messaging to Inform & Educate Patrons & Staff

To successfully reduce waste to landfill from an event, **it's very important event organisers ensure there is consistent messaging in all promotional material and clear signage at the event, about what items should go into which bin.** This helps inform and educate both patrons and staff about how and where to correctly dispose items and minimise contamination.

Change sometimes seems hard... until it happens

While this may all sound too difficult, when you break it down it's actually quite simple:

- Use non-disposable items whenever possible
- Make sure any single-use items are home compostable
- Have different bins at the event
- Make sure the correct items go into the correct bins

Once you have your systems and processes in place, it becomes second nature and just works!

The more that event organisers, patrons and staff become aware of how to minimise waste and how easy it is to achieve, the more these practices will become the norm. In the future we'll sometimes think back to the past and wonder how strange it was to create and bury so much rubbish!