

**It's not "ZERO-WASTE"  
but it is...**

# **EXTREME WASTE**



**SPECIAL  
EVENT  
EDITION**

# Orange County provides varying levels of waste reduction assistance to public and private special events

- Technical assistance (for food waste diversion, source reduction, straight-up recycling; for vendors and organizers)
- Containers, collection, equipment and staffing for large events where we also host an information booth
- Loan, delivery and pick-up of recycling and/or food waste containers for events where organizers agree to collect, manage and separate materials

# Waste reduction resources

- Recycling for all– people AND materials
  - Beverage containers, non-bottle plastics such as tubs, cups and plastic bags
  - Food waste diversion options
- Brooks Contractors for commercial composting and special events
- Volunteer 

# Care and Feeding of Volunteers

- Solicit through press releases, social media, government and university list-servs, high school and scout groups
- Save contact info to solicit experienced volunteers
- Send info to the group so they are well prepared
- Give goodies
- Thank you note with diversion results



# Small, Medium and Large Events

- How many people? Venue footprint?
  - Volume of waste, scale of operations
- How will the waste be managed?
  - What recycling services and/or composting facilities are available?
  - How much help is needed... how much help do you have?
- What will you be serving?
  - What can be recycled, replaced, or eliminated
  - Recommend durables first, work backwards

- Never leave trash alone!

- "Sanitize" the location
- Group with recycling and composting containers
- Must have someone minding the trash sort



- Trade offs: convenience, cost, availability
- Success will depend on the organizer



First in Flight



PLANAHE

NORTH CAROLINA

# SMALL EVENTS

- 300 people or less. Waste stream is manageable.
- Catered? Family style? Kegs? Bottles?  
Recommend durables, then a combination of durable and compostable...
- Just food? Compost at home. All compostables?  
4-5 carts of material
- Fork It Over
  - 200 stainless steel utensil sets from PTA Thrift and other donors.
  - Loan, take back and wash



# Farmer's Market "Potluck" Dinner

- White linen table cloths, fabric napkins, durable utensils and drink ware, paper plates.
  - Easy to compost plates and separate the rest
  - Has a classy look and feel

## **EXTREME WASTE DIVERSION!!!**

- Very little trash/ consistently 95%+ waste diversion

# MEDIUM SIZED EVENTS

- One - two thousand people; drop containers and collect the “results”
- Areas of waste production tend to be isolated
  - Encourage finger-foods: Pizza, hotdogs, popsicles = NO servingware or packaging!
- Race Without a Trace; best practices
  - Electronic goodie-bag
  - Reusable equipment and banners
  - Large thermos for paper water cups, not bottles



# FARM TO FORK

- Organizer provides ALL compostables to food vendors



- One fork/participant
- Paper table toppers
- Next to no need for sorting



# EXTREME WASTE

- 15 pounds “true trash” (plastic film contaminated with food waste or grease)
- 960 lbs food and related paper waste composted
- 590 lbs common recyclables (glass wine and beer bottles, paper table toppers, aluminum foil pans, very few plastic drink bottles)
- 25 lbs corrugated cardboard
- 20 lbs of clean plastic film such as ice bags
- 1 lb of wine corks (donated locally for creative reuse)

1611 total pounds

1596 diverted = 99% waste diversion

# COST? YES.

- 3 recycling staff \$12.50/9 hours = \$337.50
- Trucks and containers
- Volunteer solicitation and organizing



- Composting collection \$100 or more

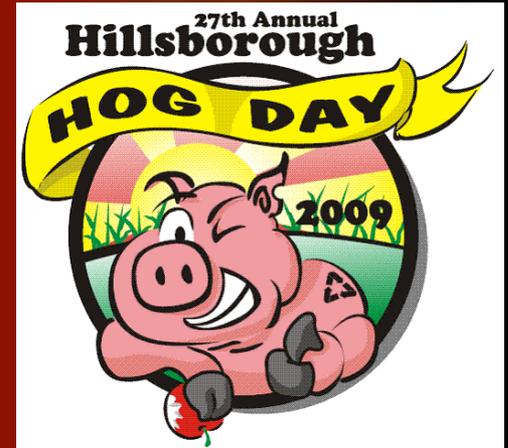
# LARGE EVENTS

- 10-30,000 people
- Mix of food and vendor types
- Lots of variables
- High volume of collections
- Vendors MUST be on board + organizer support/enforcement
  - MOU with organizers
  - Vendor contract has “green” goals and how to acquire compostable serving ware

# Hillsborough Hog Day

## Most environ-"mental"-ly improved

- 0-85% in only 10 years!
- Incremental improvements:
  - Communication, booth placement and amount of material diverted
  - Vendor contract to use only compostable or recyclable serving ware; enforced by organizer
  - Organizers pay for compost collection
  - Composter assured good material with planning and oversight



- Staffed trash sorting stations
- Clear signage
- Always pair a trash can with recycling bin at least



# EXTREME WASTE

## 2013 Hillsborough High School Waste Diversion

Total garbage, courtesy of Town of Hillsborough: 700 pounds

Comingled bottles, cans, and lemonade cups: 11 ninety gallon carts (.445 cubic yards) =  $11 \times .445 \times 225 = 1402$

Compostable food and paper waste = 1400 lbs

Used oil 10 gallons, 7.7 lbs per gallon = 77 lbs

Plastic bags and other film = 15 lbs

Total recycling/composting weight = 2894

Total refuse weight = 3594

**Waste diversion rate = 80%**

# Cost? Yes.

- Vehicles and containers
- Paid staff \$12.50/hour  
32 hours = \$600
  - Vendor liaison
  - Volunteer liaison
  - Booth assistance
- My time
  - Meetings, logistics, scheduling over 30 volunteers
- Brooks: drop-off and collect 16 compost carts on-site = \$300 (organizers pay)



# Benefits? Yes.

- GREAT education opportunities on all levels
  - Community volunteers
  - Community organizers
  - Food service folks
  - Point of contact with residents and visitors
- Sponsor status
- Saves money
- Models “Going Green”  
If Hog Day can do it...



# Thanks!

Muriel Williman

Orange County Solid Waste Management

(919) 968-2788

[muriel@orangecountync.gov](mailto:muriel@orangecountync.gov)

<http://www.orangecountync.gov/recycling/>