

Take Action Burlington

Greening Your Festival or Event

In 1990, the City of Burlington declared itself a sustainable development community. Since then the city has developed policies around waste, energy, and purchasing to minimize negative impacts on the environment. We are now mandating that all events taking place on city property also minimize their environmental impact by taking into consideration the reduction and diversion of waste generated, water and energy conservation, and the promotion of active and sustainable forms of transportation in getting to and from events. In addition to the Burlington specific information listed below, we encourage you to visit www.greenfestivals.ca for great tips and best practices.

Before the event

Waste collection

[Guidelines for Halton Region to provide waste diversion services at community events](#)

- Outlines the services Halton Region is able to provide for public community events.
- Specifies the roles and responsibilities of Halton Region when providing waste diversion assistance to public community events.

[Request form for waste services at community events](#)

- To request waste diversion services, please fill in and submit the form **at least six weeks before the community event** to be considered for service. This does not guarantee that services will be provided.

[Purchasing guide](#)

- Helps event organizers plan for the purchase of acceptable food packaging, dishware, cups and cutlery.

[Posters: Put waste in its place!](#)

- Provides information on acceptable Blue Box and GreenCart materials.
- Posters are also available in [French](#), [Spanish](#), [Polish](#), [Punjabi](#), and [Simplified Chinese](#).

[Self-assessment](#)

- Complete the self-assessment before your event to determine how prepared you are to manage your event's waste. This self-assessment does not need to be shared with Halton Region or the City of Burlington.

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Water

In 2010, as part of the City of Burlington's *Towards Zero Waste* and *Thirsty? Try the tap* campaigns, the city phased out selling bottled water in city facilities with water fountains.

To help minimize the use of bottled water at city events, two portable water bottle refilling stations are available (one has a single dispenser; the other has a triple dispenser) for use if there is a connection to a municipal water source nearby. Please refer to the [festivals and events equipment rental form](#) for more information (note that pick-up and delivery is not included). Don't forget to promote for event participants to bring their own refillable water bottles.

Transportation

Promote active or sustainable forms of transportation to your event. Encourage walking, cycling, taking transit or carpooling. Consider offering a shuttle bus to and from your event and promoting walk and cycle times to your event from popular Burlington locations.

- [Burlington Transit](#)
- [Burlington Cycling Network Map](#)
- How walkable is your event? View [Walk Score](#)

During the event

For information on using waste management volunteers at your event and tips to reduce contamination – please refer to “Best Practices” in the [Guidelines for Halton Region to Provide Waste Diversion Services to Community Events](#).

After the event

- Address contamination issues and sort as much as you can prior to Halton Region's pick up.
- Create a plan for how you can reduce contamination at your next event.
- Refer to "The collection of waste material" in the [Guidelines for Halton Region to Provide Waste Diversion Services to Community Events](#) to find waste collection options.
- Please remember to leave the site better than you found it.
- Make sure the water refilling station is picked up. Do not leave it unattended.
- If possible, measure the amount of waste diverted from the landfill through your event greening initiatives. This is important information to have from year to year as you strive towards becoming a 'zero waste' event.