

Colorado Environmental Film Festival 2017 Zero Waste Report

Summary:

Huge congratulations go out to CEFF 2017 staff, volunteers and board members in making this year's film festival a resoundingly successful Zero Waste Event! **A total of 315 pounds of waste was collected with a 90% diversion rate. This far exceeded an event goal of 75% diversion.**

Event Details: Evergreen's Alliance for Sustainability provided Zero Waste services for the 2017 Colorado Environmental Film Festival. February 23rd-25th, at the American Mountaineering Center in Golden, CO. Disposal for five waste streams were provided: Landfill, Recycle, Compost, plastic film wrap and foil-based snack bags. The festival launched on Thursday, Feb 23rd with a screening at 5pm and 6pm reception, and closed at 9 pm Saturday, Feb 25th after the final movie screening & reception.

ZW Goal: 75% diversion rate as calculated by percent of total waste by pounds.

Waste Station Set-Up:

- Waste station bins for Recycle and Compost were provided by Eco-Cycle out of Boulder. They are a wire frame holding a 50 gallon plastic or compostable liner with a color coded top. Landfill bins were the AMC's standard trash receptacles.
- Four waste stations were originally specified. Locations - 1) Lobby/registration area, 2) Eco-Expo Exhibit room/reception, 3) Hallway outside of CEFF Auditorium and 4) Entrance to Foss Auditorium. During set-up two changes were made: Waste station #2 was moved from the hallway outside the CEFF Auditorium to the Volunteer Break Room, and a fifth waste station was added in the kitchen/food preparation area.
- Waste stations in the public areas consisted of three streams: Recycle, Compost and Landfill. Plastic film wrap was collected in the kitchen and foil-based snack bags were collected in the volunteer break room.
- Numerous existing waste receptacles in the Mountaineering Center were moved to a storage room off the main lobby.
- EAS+Y provided signage for each of the waste bins with samples of each stream attached to signage.
- In addition to individual signs for each waste stream, EAS+Y will provided a standing sign with "Thank You for making this a ZERO WASTE Event" for each waste station with a tally of waste collected.



Waste Streams: Landfill consisted primarily of KIND snack bar wrappers and miscellaneous trash attendees brought on-site (ex: To Go coffee cups and brown bag lunch waste from the kid's program).

The majority of recycling consisted of vendor & event cardboard boxes and food trays. Compostable materials consisted of plates, beverage cups, napkins and food waste.

The event's haul totaled 315 pounds of waste and breaks down as follows:

- Landfill = 32 lbs - (10%)
- Recycle = 113 lbs - (36%)
- Compost = 170 lbs - (54%)

The 2017 CEFF event collected a whopping 90% of the waste stream as recyclable and compostable! As a reference point, a typical event diverts 40-50% of their waste, and a well managed green event diverts >60%.

Volunteers: Three CEFF and five EAS+Y trained volunteers monitored the waste stations, taking two hour shifts at high traffic times throughout the event. One EAS+Y ZW Mentor was on site throughout the event. One to two monitors rotated between the waste stations to separate the waste and ensured clean streams and to provide ZW education to festival attendees.



Disposal:

Landfill and Recyclable materials were placed in the Mountaineering Center's waste roll-offs located in the parking lot. Compostable material was taken by EAS+Y to the Bergen Park King Soopers, an EAS+Y ZW partner involved in a pilot Kroger composting program utilizing Alpine Waste & Recycling compost service. Plastic film was also taken the Bergen Park King Soopers to join their plastic film recycling stream. Foil-based snack packages were sent to TerraCycle's recycle program, arranged by CEFF staff.

Thank you for the opportunity to support environmental awareness through your Zero Waste initiative. We look forward to working with CEFF towards even more ambitious goals and outreach for next year!

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