

MUNICIPALITÉ DU CANTON DE POTTON
MUNICIPALITY OF THE TOWNSHIP OF POTTON



**POLICY FOR
ZERO WASTE EVENTS**

Mansonville, June 2014

INTRODUCTION

The Municipality of the Township of Potton is host to several events that attract many residents and visitors. Since 2013, it has offered three-way pick-up that includes recyclable materials, compostable materials and residual waste. Wishing to become more environmentally responsible, the Municipality wants to implement a policy of “zero waste” for all events taking place on its territory. A “zero waste” event minimizes the disposal of waste by reducing the use of packaging and encouraging the reuse and recovery of recyclable and compostable materials. This policy will clarify the objectives of the Municipality and the principles to which it adheres.

ISSUES

In Quebec, some 13 million tons of waste are produced each year. To avoid ending up in landfill, most of this waste can be repurposed, including being recycled or composted. To put an end to the waste of resources, the Quebec Policy on waste management sets objectives and provides a ban on the sending of certain materials to landfill. It is therefore vital to reduce the amount of waste generated by reducing excess packaging, opting for reuse and the proper sorting of materials.

OBJECTIVES

The primary objective of the “Zero Waste Event” policy is to reduce the amount of waste destined for landfill. The Municipality will reduce its environmental footprint and will make the population more aware of the sorting process. This policy also aims to determine the responsibilities of the Municipality and event organizers regarding the management of waste.

PRINCIPLES OF "ZERO WASTE"

1. Reduction

Plan the event according to the actual needs by reducing the generation of waste at source.

- Make the use of electronic advertising a priority;
- Make agreements with suppliers for the to return of surplus product;
- Buy in bulk;
- Promote the use of sustainable products;
- Avoid the sale of bottled water.

2. Reuse

Promote sustainable products that can be reused.

- Use dishes and containers, that can be washed and reused;
- Provide filling stations for water bottles;
- Use decorations that can be reused in future years;
- Choose eco-friendly keepsake gifts.

3. Recovery

Properly dispose of the waste generated at the event.

- Provide clearly identified sorting stations at strategic locations (containers for recyclables, compostable materials, returnable cans and ultimate waste);
- Communicate to participants instructions on the sorting of waste (ensure a presence at sorting stations to guide people);
- When using regular dishes is not possible, opt for dishes and containers that are recyclable or compostable;
- Distribute surplus food;
- Produce a report quantifying materials diverted from landfill.

APPLICATION OF POLICY

For all events taking place on the territory of the Municipality, the organizers and participants agree to adhere to the “Zero Waste Events” policy and appoint a person to manage the waste. This includes both events organized by the Municipality as well as external organizations.

RESPONSIBILITIES OF THE MUNICIPALITY

- The Municipality provides waste pick-up to those organizations that adhere to the “Zero Waste Event” policy. Otherwise, the event must take charge of waste collection and assume the costs of waste disposal;
- The Municipality may make available to the organizers containers necessary for the proper management of waste materials at the event. This does not include the transportation of these containers;
- The Municipality will provide support during the planning of the event and will provide guidance to organizers, making tools, guides, posters, etc. available;
- The Municipality shall publish on its website the “Zero Waste Event” policy and the list of events that adhere to it.