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reduce  
reuse  
recycle  
recover

# rewords

words from zero waste sa

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Zero Waste SA

## WOMADelaide walks the talk

**By Vaughan Levitzke**

*Chief Executive, Zero Waste SA*

**We are thrilled to see an internationally renowned event such as WOMADelaide address the waste challenges facing us as a society.**

In a pilot project for Zero Waste SA, WOMADelaide, held at Botanic Park on March 4 to 6, agreed to divert its waste from landfill and be a Zero Waste event.

Climate change issue, and its impact on the way we live now, and into the future, has begun to cut through the media clutter and is reaching the hearts and minds of many South Australians. Climate change threatens the collapse of our biodiversity, our agricultural systems and a number of other fundamentals that we rely on to sustain us, and our way of life. Paradoxically, it is our all consuming way of life which is the primary cause of climate change.

Zero Waste SA's activities and programs aim to maximise the beneficial use of resources and in turn reduce the production of greenhouse gases. Our programs focus on waste avoidance and reduction at source, and re-use, recycling and recovery of materials. The change in direction that we have to undertake needs to be swift and comprehensive. Behavioural change is at the core of this. And, like WOMADelaide, we all need to walk the talk. Recognising the importance of understanding more about the community's attitudes and behaviours towards waste issues, Zero Waste SA will be undertaking a major market research project during April and May. One of the key aims is to identify the drivers and barriers for the adoption of effective waste reduction strategies. This information will help with the development of community information programs, particularly for the Local Government Education Assistance program.



*Flinders Bioremediation analyse the waste collected in the biodegradable bins on site. They were looking for quantities of food and paper, and contamination*

## Zero Waste SA sings out for WOMADelaide

**Early results from an audit undertaken by Flinders Bioremediation show that 96 percent of the biodegradable waste generated by WOMADelaide patrons was diverted from landfill – an excellent result!**

All food scraps, plates, beer cups and other paper were deposited into the specially marked biodegradable bin and taken off for analysis. All drink containers were recycled through Greenwith Grove Recyclers.

Almost 364 kg of waste was audited with the majority consisting of compostable material including paper plates, cardboard cups, cornstarch cutlery, wooden cutlery, foods, corks and cardboard. A smaller proportion included 5 kg of recyclables such as aluminium cans and plastic and glass containers.

Six percent of the material collected from the patron bins was contaminated - this included contamination by plastic film, textiles and disposable nappies.



*Zero Waste SA provides free bin caps to all endorsed Zero Waste events.*

A full analysis of the waste diverted from landfill at WOMADelaide will be completed in April with strategies developed to reduce the amount of contamination at future events.

WOMADelaide audiences, contractors, crew and artists were all asked to consider what material they brought to Botanic Park for the event and, where necessary, to take rubbish home again. Food caterers were required to only dispense biodegradable items with their meals. There were no waste outlets for plastic bags, metallic wrappers or hard plastic at the event.

Thirty four bins set up in stations were used with about 70,000 patrons visiting the event over three days. The event used all of Botanic Park with bins based around food court areas, at the Park's entrances and spread more or less evenly throughout the grounds.

Zero Waste Events are becoming a familiar sight with other successful events including Campbelltown Council's Proud Day, Norwood, Payneham and St Peters Council's Parade Food, Wine and Music Festival and the National Historical Machinery Association Rally. This event is the biggest tractor and engine rally in Australia. It was also a plastic bag free event. Upcoming events include the St Peters' Harvest Fair, with more events in the pipeline for later in the year.

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