



Zero Waste Partnership UW Bothell Chancellor's Dinner Results in 93% Diversion Rate

Hollywood Schoolhouse | May 17, 2013

“The theme of sustainability is critical to our global future and is central to the values, vision and economic interests of our students, state and region. Addressing this vital issue is a key priority [and] will become a signature focus for this campus.”

- Susan Jeffords, Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs,
University of Washington Bothell

Sustainability As A Core Value

A unique and deepening partnership between two organizations committed to sustainability - the University of Bothell and Waste Management - has resulted in the transformation of one of the University's prominent annual events. Working in concert with members of the University's Chancellor's Advisory Committee on Environmental Sustainability (CACES), Waste Management and Hollywood Schoolhouse helped to make the 2013 Chancellor's Dinner one of the most sustainable events in school history.

Planning for Success

Annual events create a unique opportunity to showcase sustainable efforts and publically model an organization's commitment to environmental sustainability.

This year UW Bothell invited Waste Management to help turn their annual Chancellor's Dinner into a zero waste event.

Working together, Waste Management's outreach and education staff and UW Bothell's event staff started the zero waste planning process by identifying all of the elements of the event (signage, food, programs, auction, giveaways, etc.) and where waste might be generated.

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Sustainable Choices

A successful zero waste event is evaluated based on the total garbage generated verses how much of the event’s waste can be recycled, reused, repurposed, donated or composted.



Based on the in-depth evaluation of the event’s waste stream, the following sustainable choices were made:

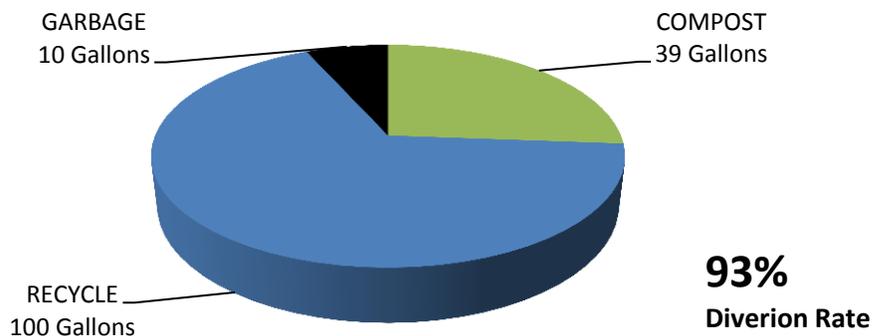
Item	Choices	Decision	Waste Impact
Event Signs	Foam Core or Paper Board	Paper Board	Recyclable
Coffee Station	Paper Cups or Ceramic Mugs	Ceramic Mugs	Reusable
Appetizer Plates	Plastic or Ceramic	Ceramic	Reusable
Food Scraps	Garbage or Compost	Compost – 4 32-gallon bins used by kitchen, banquet and bussing staff	Compostable
Public Disposal Bins	Garbage or Compost	Compost – only used items during pre-dinner program that were compostable or durable	Compostable

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Coffee Cream	Single-serving Containers or Ceramic Pitchers	Ceramic Pitchers	Reusable
Guest Gifts	Single-use or Sustainable	Reusable Mugs with Organic, Fair-Trade, Shade Grown Coffee; recyclable packaging	Reusable, Compostable
Name Badges	Single-use or Reusable	Reusable	Reusable
Directional Signs	Single-use or Reusable	Sandwich Boards	Reusable
Auction Bid Sheets	Carbon Paper or Paper	Paper	Recyclable
Action Item Signs	Laminated Paper or Paper	Paper	Recyclable
Dinner Napkins	Paper or Cloth	Cloth	Reusable
Water Stations	Water Bottles or Plastic Cups	Plastic Cups	Recyclable
Decorations	Single-use or Sustainable	Potted Plant Centerpieces	Reusable
Guest Beverages	Single-use or Glass/Ceramic	Glass/Ceramic	Reusable
Program	Single-use Signs or Electronic Presentation	Electronic Videos	Reusable

2013 UW Bothell Chancellor's Dinner Total Waste Generated



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Staff Engagement

Waste Management provided a hands-on zero waste training for the Hollywood Schoolhouse event staff to review the goals of the event, highlight the resources available to capture recyclables and compost and answer questions about what goes where.



Recycling and compost posters were hung at all of the back-of-house collection stations, and lined compost bins were placed in the guest areas.

Each staff member was given an “Ask me, I’m a recycling expert!” badge to wear the night of the event calling guests’ attention to the sustainable efforts being made that evening.

Impact

In total, 149 gallons of waste was generated at the Chancellor’s Dinner, and only 10 gallons – or 7% was garbage. The remaining waste was successfully recycled, composted or dropped off at a community recycling center. The majority of the garbage generated came from the building’s two bathrooms, and the rest consisted of disposable gloves worn by kitchen staff, foil coffee bags, food-soiled plastic and plastic wrap and plastic lids.

The final diversion rate for the event was 93%. This is a significant accomplishment which can be credited to the zero waste planning and sustainable choices made by UW Bothell and Hollywood Schoolhouse event staff.

