

# Event Waste Guide

*Plan a clean, litter-free event!*

## Why borrow ClearStreams?

ClearStreams are convenient, portable stands used for setting up temporary waste stations. They help you run a clean, litter-free event by making collecting garbage and recycling from your guests easy. Also, recycling at events is required by State law, RCW 70.93.093. [See that law here.](#)



## Use the buddy system!

Always pair your garbage and recycling ClearStreams side by side. This improves convenience for your guests and helps you get the right materials in the right bin.

## How many ClearStreams should I borrow?

*Look at a map of your event. Plan to place ClearStreams in areas where guests will want to dispose of items. Mark each location on your map and count the number of ClearStreams needed.*

- Place ClearStreams near restrooms, exits, and areas where food and drink are consumed.
- Well-placed, highly visible waste stations will help your guests easily dispose of their waste and allow you to borrow less ClearStreams overall.
- Point out waste stations to guests during announcements and promote the recycling and sustainable efforts of your event!

## How many bags do I need?

- Each bag holds about 45 gallons of material.
- Consider the packaging and serviceware you and your vendors will provide and the anticipated attendance for your event. Each guest will have approximately 1 gallon of waste when using single-use disposable items.

## I think my event might need more than 15 bags for garbage/recycling.

- **Reduce** the number bags you need by serving refreshments on durable plates/cups/bowls or encourage guests to bring their own reusable material like water bottles and cups.
- **Reuse** your bags. If you will have dumpsters on site, ask your volunteers/staff to empty the bags in to the dumpster and then replace the same bag in the ClearStream.
- You can purchase additional bags from [ClearStream Recycling](#) or from a local hardware store.

## Picking up ClearStreams

Collect your ClearStreams on your appointment time/date at 12115 NE 99<sup>th</sup> Street #1830 Vancouver, WA 98682. Check in with reception upon arrival.

- **10** ClearStreams fit in the trunk of a car.
- **20** ClearStreams fit in an SUV with the seats folded down.
- **30** ClearStreams fit in the bed of a truck with a cargo net.



Picking up 5 garbage and 5 recycling ClearStreams.

## Garbage ClearStreams

- Use a black or gray bag in the garbage Clearstream.
- **Garbage items:** paper plates, napkins, paper coffee and water cups, plastic cups, plastic utensils, “compostable” plastic utensils, snow cone cups, wrappers, plastic bags, and food.



## Recycling ClearStreams

- Use a clear bag in the recycling Clearstream.
- **Recycle items:** plastic bottles and aluminum cans.
- Cardboard and paper should be collected separately to prevent liquid contamination. Collect from vendors after event.



## Food Scrap Composting

Composting for food scraps is available to event planners! Borrow a kitchen compost pail to collect food scraps at your event. Bring the pail and food scraps back with your ClearStreams to Waste Connection’s office for disposal. Food scrap collection should only be offered at stations with volunteer monitors.



## Reduce Waste

*Plan ahead with the types materials you’ll use for serving food and drink.*

- **Promote durables.** Try encouraging guests to bring their own water bottles or cups. Encourage vendors to offer cup discounts. Offer commemorative cups (and a collection area for guests who decide against keeping their cup so they can be donated later for reuse).
- **Choose recyclables.** Serve beverages in recyclable bottles and cans. Encourage your vendors to do the same.
- **Ban bags.** Ask your vendors not to hand out plastic bags. Consider paper or reusable bags.

## How to run a clean, litter-free event

- Have a team to set up and take down ClearStreams.
- Assign volunteers/staff to monitor ClearStreams during the event. When bags fill, take them to your dumpster/dropbox or to a designated vehicle if you are self-hauling waste to a transfer station.



Assign volunteers to monitor waste stations

- If your event is at a public park with permanent garbage and recycling containers (like Esther Short Park), you will need to change the bags in these as well.
- Assign volunteers/staff to pick up litter during and after event.
- Use signs for your waste stations and have volunteers/staff help the guests use the right bin.

## Remove Waste from the Event Site

- Dumpster and drop-box hauling service is available through Waste Connections.  
**Contact customer service at 360-892-5370** for pricing, information, and placing an order.
- Garbage and recycling can also be taken to a transfer station for disposal. Find out rates and hours at [this website](#).
- Events at Esther Short Park may reserve the dumpsters on site through the City of Vancouver.



Haul waste to a transfer station.



Order dumpster service or reserve dumpsters at Esther Short Park.

## Returning the Clearstreams

Come at your scheduled appointment time to return Clearstreams at 12115 NE 99<sup>th</sup> ST #1830. Check in with reception upon arrival.

Please clean the Clearstream lids before returning. Use a damp rag to wipe down lids.

## How can I get my own Clearstreams?

Grants are available for your own fleet of Clearstreams or other waste receptacles through Keep America Beautiful: <http://bingrant.org/> or purchase ClearStreams from [ClearStream Recycling](#).

## Questions

For questions about managing event waste and sustainable event planning, contact **Meg Johnson** at **360-449-8394** or [Megan.Johnson@wasteconnections.com](mailto:Megan.Johnson@wasteconnections.com).