



Welcome

Welcome to the first **Green Republic** newsletter for 2009. produced by **Festival Republic**. This newsletter is sent to Festival Republic's staff, crew, precinct managers, production managers, contractors, suppliers, service providers, artist managers, and other people and organisations whose work may contribute to reducing the environmental impact of our festivals.



2008 in Review & Looking to 2009

At the 2008 festivals the biggest areas in reduction of environmental impact from the festivals were made in waste management and salvage. Our cup and bottle deposits were successful in encouraging almost all to be returned for recycling. Our campground salvage campaign harvested tonnes of re-usable gear, and our bagful of cans for a beer resulted in tonnes of cans being recycled.

Campground Salvage

We have the always present problem of gear left by the audience (and some crew!) in campgrounds. In 2008 we made a big dint in what would have otherwise gone to landfill through our Green Messenger program and the massive salvage operation which kicks off first thing Monday morning after the shows.

150 Green Messengers were joined by around 100 people representing scouting groups from Berkshire and Yorkshire at Reading & Leeds, and together, they salvaged tonnes of re-usable gear. Tents, sleeping bags, cookers, sleeping mats, clothes, food, chairs. The list goes on. At Reading a full sized prime mover lorry packed to the brim took gear away for re-use.

We will be repeating the good work of 2008 along with refining operations, learning from our experience last year. This year the gear collected will be taken by nominated community organisation partners who will host a distribution day. The gear will be taken offsite, close to both Reading & Leeds Festivals, and a day held where registered community organisations and charities can come and take what they want, for a small donation to the group organising the day.

In 2009 we are banning gas canisters in the campgrounds and hope this may reduce the amount of gear trashed and set on fire. It's disappointing to see perfectly good gear that can be salvaged and re-used go up in flames. We are seeing a slight change in attitude to trashing gear, judging by emails coming in from those wanting to be part of the Green Messenger campaign, so hopefully this will add to a reduction in the amount of trashed gear.

Campground Recycling

Team Recycle was introduced at Reading & Leeds Festivals in 2008, along with segregated rubbish bins in the campgrounds for recycling. Stewards were stationed at the barrel bins in the campgrounds to make sure that the right thing went in the right bin. The 'Your Cans Count' campaign also encouraged campers to bring back a bagful of cans in exchange for a beer ticket. Between both festivals we collected over 5 tonne of cans.

Both programs will be repeated and expanded in 2009.





Compostables collected at Latitude.

Composting

Keeping biodegradable waste out of landfill is so very important. At Latitude Festival in 2008 we managed to successfully separate out three 40 yard skips of compostable waste, mainly food scraps and takeaway food packaging. In the arena we pulled out a whopping TEN BAGS of compostable waste for every two bags of recycling and one bag of landfill. We hope to better this success in 2009 through concentrating also on trader waste.

Food traders will be encouraged to diligently separate their compostable waste and to leave all perishables out neatly and separately at the end of the show.

We are also looking to trial the collection of takeaway food packaging in the arenas at Reading and Leeds, to see what impact we can make there.



Naughty Crew Camp.

Contractor Litter & Waste On Site

We were extremely impressed with the way the staff camping compounds were left after our campaign for Clean Crew Camps. Particular mention must go to AP Security, CAT, HAT, Oxfam, Midland Fire, EHO, TMS, Events Medical, and ESS. We had some messy offenders and you know who you are.

In 2009 we are expanding this commitment by including in all agreements and contracts, the requirement for clean crew camps and clean work areas.

It is expected that you will work with Festival Republic to reduce the environmental impact of your activities on site and adhere to guidelines with regards to segregating and disposing of waste correctly at the designated points.

This year we ask that you appoint someone from within your team to make sure your crews pick up their litter, recycle what they can, and take any work materials and camping gear home with them.

Before you leave site there will be a sign off procedure with your appointed litter manager and the Site Office or Event Waste Manager to check that your crew compounds are litter free and working areas are clear of commercial waste.

Crew Compounds: 'litter free' includes removing litter from cabins, tents, tent pegs, fire pits, caravan gas bottles, drinks cans, plastic bags, food etc...

Working Areas: 'clear of commercial waste' includes all tent pegs, flooring, stillages, water pipe, cables, carpet, rope, paint tins, timber etc...

Contractors who do not comply with this request will be liable to a financial penalty. The costs incurred by Festival Republic to rectify your compounds or remove discarded work materials from site will be passed directly on to you &, if necessary, deducted from the balance of your final payment.



Beautifully clean crew camp.



Metal chairs collected at Reading.

Trashed Chairs

At Reading Festival in 2008 we piloted a program to collect broken metal chairs to send to scrap metal for recycling. This resulted in a skip full of chairs, weighing in at 4 tonne. We hope to expand this program in 2009 to salvage as many trashed chairs as possible for metal recycling.

Purchasing Reminders

The impact of purchasing 'stuff' on our environment is significant. The waste created in the production of stuff, the energy needed, the mining of natural resources, transport etc, all add up to make a significant footprint for everything we buy and use. In the upcoming issues of the Green Republic newsletter we'll be giving you some tips on the best options when buy materials and supplies for work at our festivals. For now, here's something to think about.

- Always use FSC certified timber. (Sustainably grown trees.)
- Always use environmentally sound cleaning products.
- Use non toxic and low VOC paints.