



## SUMMARY

In partnership with Summerfolk organizers, the Grey Bruce Sustainability Network, and Busch Systems, a waste audit was conducted during the 43rd annual music and arts festival. The audit was performed during the three-day festival with the primary goal of establishing the current diversion rate and stream composition. This was the first year with organic collection at the festival. The food waste collected was donated to a local farmer as feed.

Refuse was collected, weighed, and recorded from different divisions, including the washroom, food, bar, administration, and concert areas. During the entire festival 4,014 lbs. of refuse was generated. The Summerfolk Festival baseline diversion rate was 38%. The case study highlights how much recycling, organics, and waste was generated in each division.

## QUICK FACTS



Outdoor Festival



Owen Sound, ON



Attendees: 12,600



Organics, Recycling, Waste

**695 lbs** of organics was collected during the audit and was donated to a farm for feed.

## KEY FINDINGS

The total amount of material collected in the waste stream at the Summerfolk festival was 2,481 lbs. The amount of recyclable material collected was 839 lbs. The amount of organics collected was 695 lbs. This equates to an overall diversion rate of 38%. Of the total refuse collected, "Waste" represents 62%, "Mixed Recycling" 21% and "Organics" 17%; not including cardboard.

The greatest amount of overall refuse came from the Food area; made up of mostly waste and organics. The greatest amount of recycling came from Bar area.

Forty-three percent of bags arrived at the sorting station without labels. The contents of these bags and the materials could not be included in this audit as the source was unknown. Unlabelled bags included 964.5 lbs of Waste, 262.6 lbs of Recycling, 307.6 lbs of Organics, and 204 lbs of cardboard.



Green Team member weighing a bag of mixed recycling.

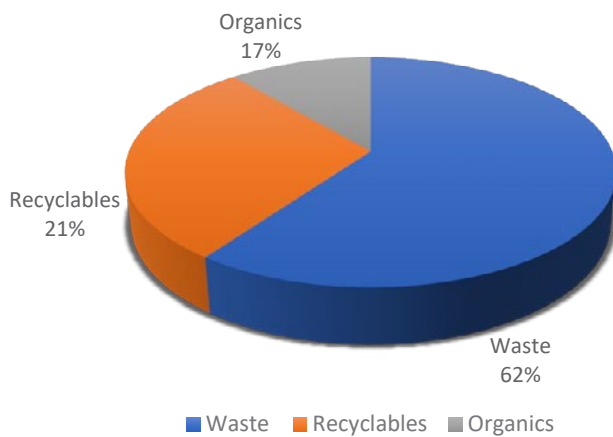


## FACTS & FIGURES

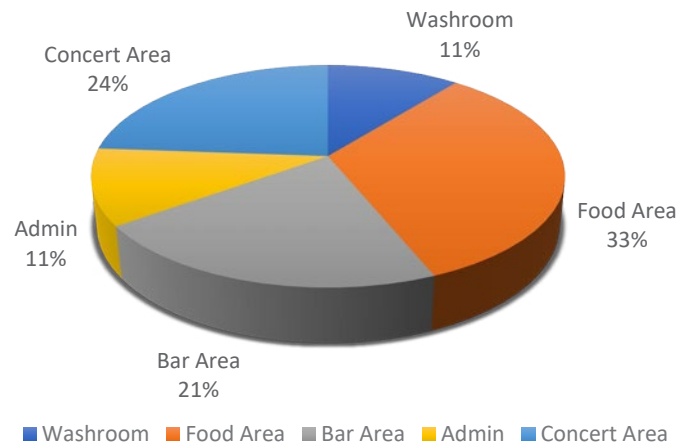
	Sum of Waste (lbs)		Sum of Organic (lbs)		Sum of Recycling (lbs)		TOTAL (lbs)	
Admin	179	7%	34	5%	38	5%	251	6%
Bar	290	12%	54	8%	140	17%	484	12%
Concert	381	15%	64	9%	98	12%	543	14%
Food Area	489	20%	190	27%	73	9%	752	19%
Washroom	177	7%	45	6%	23	3%	245	6%
UNLABELED	965	39%	308	44%	467	56%	1739	43%
<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>2,481</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>695</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>839</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>4,014</b>	<b>100%</b>

Total Refuse Produced by Division and Stream (lbs)

### Refuse Generation Overall



### Refuse Generation by Division



## RECOMMENDATIONS

1. Include a campaign about the organics collection and other sustainable initiatives going on at future festivals to encourage participation.
2. Provide signage on organics bins communicating only food waste is accepted and consider adding a second organics stream for all other compostable material.
3. Standardize station and bin set-up with consistent colours, streams, and signage.
4. Have high-traffic stations monitored by green team members to ensure materials go in the correct bin.
5. Educate vendors prior to the festival on how to properly sort and dispose of materials.

For the full waste audit visit: <https://www.buschsystems.com/resource-center/pdfs/case-studies/SummerFolk-Festival-Waste-Audit-Report-2018.pdf>

