



Virginia Green Travel Event Report:

Richmond Bacon Festival

Date: June 12, 2016

Event Organizer: Enrichmond

Locality: 17th Street Farmer's Market, Richmond, VA

Participants: approx. 15,000

Green Event Summary

Table 1. Total and Diverted Waste for the 2016 Bacon Festival.

Trash Sent to Landfill	2,350 lbs.
Mixed Recyclables (bottles, cans, cardboard, glass, plastic)	2,500 lbs.
Food/Disposables Collected for Composting	530 lbs.
Waste avoided through "tap wine"	86 lbs.
Total Materials Managed	5,466 lbs.
Total Materials Recycled/Diverted From Landfill	3,116 lbs. (approx. 57%)

Top Green Practices in Place

- ✓ Disposal bins for trash, recycling, and compostables were clearly labelled.
- ✓ Eco-station flags help attendees locate stations and signal commitment by event organizers to sustainable practices.
- ✓ Virginia Green tent set up in a central location (increased eco-visibility.)
- ✓ Designated RVA Green Team staff and volunteers on site actively sorted materials at each eco-station to minimize contamination of recycling and compost.
- ✓ Majority of paper plates and silverware provided by vendors were compostable.
- ✓ Signs posted on beer tables as a reminder that beer cups are *reusable* and *recyclable*.
- ✓ Tap wine helped reduced glass waste (3 kegs @ 26 bottles @ 1.1 lbs./bottle)
- ✓ Use of water bottle refilling station.

- ✓Volunteers and staff members helped guide festival participants to throw away their trash.
- ✓Staff members wore RVA Green Team t-shirts and volunteers wore Green Team t-shirts to provide high visibility of green team efforts
- ✓High recycling/diversion rate (about 57%)

Top Areas for Future Improvement

- ✓ Some vendors used hard plastic forks, polystyrene clam shells, and aluminum foil.
- ✓ Recommend a requirement for all vendors to use completely compostable materials.
- ✓ Have more of the City’s water bottle-filling stations around the festival.
- ✓ Because of the large volume of people, many waste bins (esp. recycling) filled very quickly and got too full.
- ✓ Due to the heat, many volunteers didn’t show or had to leave early.



Virginia Green volunteers work to sort recyclables and compost and remove full bags, while a Virginia Green banner hangs on the live music stage.

