

Planning for Zero-Waste Summer Adventures

Although the recent bout of nasty weather isn't overly inspiring, many of us will go ahead with summer camping plans in the upcoming months. For those who attended Whāingaroa's Soundsplash event, the festival and camping season has already begun. When planning events, as well as your own trips, it is very important to think about how to make summer fun zero waste.

Xtreme Zero Waste, who successfully diverted 88.2% of waste from landfill during Soundsplash 2016, put a waste management plan in place for this year's event. This included organising 50 volunteers as well as a team of Xtreme Zero Waste staff to be on-site from 7am to 1am daily. The volunteers were there to assist festival goers use the correct recycling, composting and landfill bins by manning the bin stations; oversaw the waste management behind the bars ensuring all waste products were placed in the correct bins for recycling (glass, aluminium cans, plastic bottles and

cups); conducted continuous litter sweeps in both the festival area and campsite areas; and regularly emptied waste and recycling bins. The main roles of the volunteers was to ensure all areas of the festival were waste free at all times. The staff on site took care of processing and containment of the collected waste. If you attended Soundsplash and visited one of the numerous food stalls, you would have noticed that food was being served with compostable products and cutlery. Vendors were kitted out with their own compost bins and given signage to help festival-goers put their composting in the right place. The vendors were also requested to inform customers of their compostable products. In addition, campers were handed a

20-litre bio bag when entering the camping area for their food waste containment. Compost from the festival was brought back to Xtreme Zero Waste to be turned into nutritious Superfood for gardens.

Issues arose in the Soundsplash camping area due to the second festival night's gusting winds and rain. In order to seek shelter many of the 4,500 campers ditched their gear including plastic bags, bottles, waste and tents and went home. The litter sweeps and processing continued in this weather by volunteers from Xtreme and with the help of some 80 local volunteers answering to a call for help on Facebook. Gradually the campsite was cleared of litter. A special thank you goes out to the members of the Whāingaroa community who joined the clean-up teams in helping to pick up wind blown litter. Soundsplash organisers and Xtreme Zero Waste will debrief in the coming weeks to determine how much waste was diverted from landfill.

It takes a lot of extra energy and cost to run a zero waste event. Big ups to Soundsplash organisers, Naomi and Brian, for making this a priority.

Special thanks to the festival volunteers and Whāingaroa community who helped minimise waste at Soundsplash!



Photo: Recycle, compost and landfill bins at Soundsplash.

Many of us may adhere to strict waste diversion practices at home, but what happens when you leave for a festival, trekking or trip to a batch? In a new environment it can be easy to forget our good habits. Sometimes these trips can mean an endless supply of plastic baggies, individually wrapped food bars and drink bottles all in the name of convenience.

With a little bit of planning and thoughtfulness, summer holidays can be a reduced-waste adventure. The key is to plan and prepare! The recent wind event at Soundsplash is a reminder that we must always plan on packing out trash or it will be a drain on local resources and threaten the environment.

Whether you are car camping at Womad, backcountry trekking on the Routeburn or even renting a batch this summer remember to plan your trip with zero waste in mind.

Ideas to help plan your zero-waste summer holidays!

- Festival goers and campers also may want to think through a trip menu so the right amount of food can be packed in re-usable containers, rather than relying on heavily packaged food.
- For camping, try designating a reusable container for food scraps that can be given to worms or put in the compost bin.
- Before attending a festival, find out if the event is zero waste. Vendors at a zero waste event should provide compostable cutlery and plates. If not, bring your own cutlery and plates and ask vendors to serve you this way.

- No matter where you go, bring a re-usable water bottle and bag, such as our very own Plastic Bag Free Raglan jute bag available for a limited time at WEC.
- If travelling to a batch, find out what is recyclable in that town. Every place runs a different waste management system, so it is important to know what to put where so recyclables and compostables end up resources rather than trash.
- Camping by firelight is not possible in many places with fire bans or at festivals. Try a solar powered alternative, such as Kathmandu's LuminAid (pictured right).
- Blueberry, Lemon and Quinoa Slice from My Darling Lemon Thyme (www.mydarlinglemonthyme.com/2013/12/

[blueberry-lemon-quinoa-slice-recipe.html](http://www.simplyquinoa.com/chunky-monkey-quinoa-breakfast-cookies)) and Chunky Monkey Quinoa Breakfast Cookies (www.simplyquinoa.com/chunky-monkey-quinoa-breakfast-cookies) are two tested recipes that are great for car camping or trekking. These provide a great alternative to individually wrapped snacks. Seal them in a reusable container or beeswax wraps for a waste free treat. Beeswax wraps are becoming increasingly available, such as those from the former Raglanite behind LilyBee Wrap (www.facebook.com/LilyBeeWrap) or you can easily make your own using one of the numerous tutorials online.



Photo: Solar lanterns are a great camping addition.

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