

How to Recycle MORE with ClearStream Containers

Congratulations on being a leader by including recycling in your event! Ramsey County is pleased to loan ClearStream recycling containers to help your organization recycle. Here are tips to make your recycling efforts as successful as possible.



Plan Ahead

- ❑ Leave enough time and energy to plan how your recycling effort will work and put everything into place. You may well be discouraged at the results if you simply put out a few recycling containers and have not thought through what makes a recycling effort run smoothly.
- ❑ At the end of the event, you want as much recyclable bottles and cans as possible separated from trash, recycling bins that are not overflowing, and recyclables that are clean enough for a recycler to want them and not rejected because there is too much trash mixed in. That requires some smart advance work.

Select a Champion Coordinator and Crew

- ❑ Designate someone who can be the point person for planning and coordinating the recycling effort. Others will probably be needed to help, but having one person in charge makes it easier to keep things running well.
- ❑ Line up volunteers or paid workers who will help with setting up, monitoring and servicing the containers. Make sure you have enough people on board and at the right times to keep both trash and recycling containers from overflowing! You do not want people putting trash in recycling bins because the trash bin next to it is overflowing. Likewise, you want to give people a chance to recycle that bottle or can instead of throwing it in the trash by keeping the recycling bins from overflowing.

Decide What to Recycle

- ❑ The ClearStream containers are designed to collect plastic and glass bottles and metal cans. Almost all recycling collectors can take bottles and cans as a combined stream.
- ❑ Think about other recyclables or compostables that could be collected at your event. Vendors and exhibitors at events often have cardboard and paper that can be recycled. Food vendors may have food waste or cooking oil/grease that could be recycled through specialty recycling services. Food waste and non-recyclable paper (cups, napkins, plates, food boats, etc.) could also be collected for composting. Contact Ramsey County for help in looking at these options.

Pick Your Recycling Collection Company

- ❑ It can be easier to work with one company to provide both trash and recycling hauling service, but you can also work with independent recycling company to haul away recyclables. An independent recycling company is a good option if you already have chosen a trash hauler who cannot provide you the recycling service you want.
- ❑ Keep your costs low—here are some tips. Shop around for competitive pricing before you choose trash and recycling haulers. Explore sponsorships with trash and recycling haulers. Maximize the capacity of trash and recycling storage containers on-site to reduce the number of times a hauler has to come, but plan enough pick-ups to avoid problems with smells and insects in warm weather.

- ❑ For a list of companies that provide recycling pick-up services in the metro area, go to RethinkRecycling.com and click on “for businesses.” A company not listed on the website is Eureka Recycling, a Minneapolis non-profit company that picks up only recyclables. Contact information: (651) 222-7678, www.eurekarecycling.org.
- ❑ If you are able to transport recyclables directly to a recycling center, Vasko Disposal Solutions runs the only major drop-off center in Ramsey County. Location and contact information: 309 Como Ave., St. Paul, (651) 487-8546, www.vaskorubbish.com.

Decide How Many Containers You Need

- ❑ Think about what portion of all the waste created from your event is likely to be bottles and cans. Find out from your vendors how many will sell beverages in bottles and cans versus fountain sales using cups. The more recyclables you expect compared to trash, the more recycling containers you will need.
- ❑ Think about how many trash containers will be set out. Ideally, you will want to match a recycling container to each trash container. If that is not practical, or there are not enough recycling containers available, consider using 1 recycling container for every 2 or 3 trash containers. **Never put out a recycling container without a companion trash container!**

Place Recycling Bins in Smart Spots

- ❑ Make sure every recycling bin is matched with at least one trash receptacle. They must be placed next to each other. This is critical to keep the trash out of recycling bins.
- ❑ Put each recycling and trash station in a visible location where people are going to be throwing away cans and bottles. Think high-traffic areas, such as where food and beverages are being consumed, near rest rooms or portable toilet stations, and at exits from the event.
- ❑ Consider putting signs over the recycling stations to get additional visibility.



Keep trash out of the recycling.

ALWAYS place trash containers next to recycling bins.

- ❑ Make sure the ClearStream containers are stabilized with the bases attached if outdoors. If high winds are expected, you may want to put a bag of sand or other heavy object on the base to ensure the container does not tip over.

Talk It Up!

- ❑ Keep your crew well informed and pumped up about their important role in making recycling a success! Give training information in advance. Make sure they know how to set up the containers, replace the bags, and where to transfer the recyclables. Consider a task sheet that makes it clear what they need to do to keep things running smoothly.
- ❑ Communicate directly with vendors and exhibitors about the recycling program. They can be recycling ambassadors to visitors. Visit vendor and exhibitor booths to assure the people stationed there know how the program works. Post a flyer at each booth with instructions.
- ❑ Promote recycling opportunities to visitors to your event. Posters or signage reinforcing the message can be strategically placed at the event. Include messages about recycling in event communications and advertisements.
- ❑ Ramsey County can help you plan and put together these kinds of communication and training efforts.

Thank you for participating in the ClearStream container loan program! If you have questions or would like additional help, contact Environmental Health at (651) 266-1199 or email at AskEH@co.ramsey.mn.us.