

Greening the dandelion festival

This year we have taken some steps towards making the dandelion festival a little more ecologically sustainable. We believe this is important because as we are already starting to feel the effects of resource depletion, and so if we can reduce the amount of materials we need and the amount of waste going to the landfill, we will be able to contribute to a “greener” and, cleaner future. Here are the steps we are taking:

Waste stations: The festival will be providing waste stations where festival goers will be able to minimize the negative impact their waste has on the environment and perhaps even make it a positive one. We will be providing compost, recycling and regular garbage containers. We will also have properly instructed volunteers manning each station as well as signs showing you what can be put in what bin.

Water stations: The festival, is going to be giving out free water for all thirsty festival goers so be sure to **bring your own reusable water bottles**. This water will be Kemptville municipal tap water. We will be discouraging the sale of plastic water bottles by street vendors. This action is an effort to reduce the amount of waste generated by the festival because it renders the function of disposable water bottles obsolete. This action helps keep the festival local because the water festival goers will be drinking will be sourced locally and the money they will be saving will be able to be spent on something else at the festival, which supports local business. This action also reduces the amount of greenhouse gases emitted by the festival because it does not require the transportation and production of those disposable water bottles.

Compostable utensils: The festival will be encouraging vendors selling food for immediate consumption to use compostable utensils. This action benefits the festival because it means that if any of these utensils are sent to the landfill, they will breakdown in a relatively short time in comparison to other disposables. The dandelion festival will be doing a bulk order for all those vendors interested in using compostable utensils.

We also encourage festival goers to:

Bring a refillable water bottle: this helps the festival, the environment and you! Free water refills will be provided, the environment isn't polluted with a disposable water bottles and your usage helps to create a community oriented atmosphere.

Carpool, walk or bike: see if your neighbors are going to the festival, plan to share rides with them if it is possible. If you are within biking or walking distance, try and do so as **there will be new bike racks available** in the downtown area.

Bring food which is litter-less: if you are going to bring any food try to bring those which have no packaging/ will not create any garbage. Use reusable containers to transport food where possible.

If you have any questions on what we are doing, suggestions on other things you would like to see in our effort to green the festival, or concerns about what we are doing, please contact Nick Weissflog at nick.weissflog@hotmail.com