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## **New Western Fair Recycling Initiative - Every Little Bit Helps!**

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The Western Fair Association has implemented a new recycling and waste management program within the fairgrounds. The annual Western Fair is the first real test of the new receptacle-based collection system for garbage and recycling.

“The 88 acre fairgrounds is a unique site with a number of different events and facilities so it was a challenge to find the right method for collection” said Rob Lilbourne, Facility Operations Manager.

The organization introduced the new recycling and waste management system to help maintain the fairgrounds, which are renowned for their cleanliness. To do its part in the current push to go green, Western Fair went one step farther, and implemented an internal composting system to deal with food waste. Currently there are composting stations in a number of our internal food and beverage areas as well as staff buildings to collect food waste that is in turn composted on site and used in the many well-maintained flower beds and green spaces around the event site.

The new recycling stations, seen throughout the Fair this year, are a grouping of three different container types: one for glass, metal and plastic, another for paper and one for waste. They are bundled together, labelled and placed all over the grounds. “There are 104 receptacle stations being put to the test at the 2007 Western Fair” said Rob Lilbourne.

Heather Blackwell, Corporate Affairs Coordinator stated “we are witnessing a very positive response to these new receptacles. In the last year, our customers have demanded more from us with regard to our recycling efforts, though we have had blue bins in place for awhile. We looked at a number of models before developing this new recycling system for our grounds. From my vantage point in a small office near the Adult Midway, the recycling program has been very successful. It’s a simple program that is going to make an impact on many events on our grounds and in a much larger sense on our global community as the push to go green continues to increase,” says Heather Blackwell.

“You see the younger population, who were raised in the green generation, walking along and hitting each bin with the appropriate item without even stopping to think. For others, you witness them pausing, analysing their garbage and doing their best to put the right item in the right container. That’s success” says Hugh Mitchell, Chief Operating Officer at the Western Fair Association.

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