



Zero waste event a success

With a concerted effort, 50 volunteers and a grant from council, Destination Orewa Beach achieved a remarkable 83% reduction in waste going to landfill at its Boulevard Arts Fiesta event in February.

We spoke with Business Association Manager Hellen Wilkins last November about her [zero waste approach](#) to one of the BID programme's major summertime events.

Reporting back, Helen says it was a great outcome for year one, and Orewa would repeat the exercise.

"Thanks to HBC Zero Waste, a manned three-bin system was in place with a waste sorting station set up in a discreet area of town and all waste was separated, bagged and weighed," Hellen says.

"As well as a great waste outcome, over 50 people volunteered to manage the waste stations in return for a \$1000 donation to Surf Club, so it was a very successful community engagement exercise as well."

In addition to a \$4000 grant from the Hibiscus & Bays Local Board, Auckland Council contributed \$1500 from our Waste Minimisation Fund as seed funding for the event.

Hellen estimates that the zero waste, three-bin approach cost seven times as much as its traditional, landfill focused approach.

"Transport of the compostable waste on its own was \$500 as there is only place (Tuakau) that can process this."

Proposed changes to the Waste Minimisation Act will impact everyone holding events in future, says Hellen who is budgeting an extra \$9,000 to hold two 'zero waste' events next summer.

Remarkable achievement

- 62.5kg of glass waste recycled
- 18.8kg of plastic was sorted in #1, #2 and #3 streams and recycled
- 6.4kg of aluminium cans recycled
- 73.9kg of food waste and compostable food containers went off to the commercial composting depot in Envirofert in Tuakau
- Only 35.1kg of waste didn't fit any recycle or compost stream and went to landfill.

- We are planning to invite our Waste Min team to present to BID programme managers on the proposed legislation and its implications later this year.