

MARION COUNTY FAIR POLICIES AND PROCEDURES

Sponsoring Department:
Community Services - County Fair

SUBJECT: ESTABLISHING AN ENVIRONMENTALLY FRIENDLY FAIR

1.0 Purpose

The Marion County fair has been working towards becoming a “green” fair since 2009. The goals of this effort are to decrease fair-generated solid waste; do minimal or no harm to the environment; create jobs (pick-up/clean-up, sorting/processing); and educate the public on environmentally friendly practices.

In “going green” the fair endeavors to decrease its ecological footprint with the following objectives in mind:

- Saving trees from being harvested for paper pulp
- Decreasing yards of waste hauled to disposal sites and associated costs
- Reducing water consumption
- Saving energy
- Reducing greenhouse gas emissions

2.0 General Policy

The fair will employ specific policies and procedures which will result in becoming a more “earth friendly” fair. This process involves partnering with groups and organizations that have the ideas, resources, and willingness to assist the fair in reaching its ecological goals.

The fair office itself is an environmentally friendly workplace, committed to sustainable business practices including the reuse of printer/copy paper, recycling of ink cartridges, and the recycling and sorting of waste.

3.0 Policy Guidelines/Procedures

Marion County Fair will:

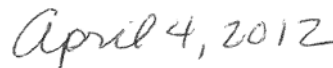
- 3.1 Contract out waste management and litter pick-up to established, environmentally friendly, agencies that have experience in sorting, separating, and recycling waste.
- 3.2 Consult with Marion County Environmental Services (MCES). MCES participates through having an informational booth and coordinating the participation of the *Master Recyclers* at the fair. (The *Master Recyclers* strategically place recycling receptacles on the fairgrounds. They also educate fair-goers on how to utilize the receptacles.)
- 3.3 Require food vendors to adhere to established food/materials handling requirements and standards. Vendors will follow fair procedures for disposing of food and materials and utilizing approved recyclable and compostable tableware.
- 3.4 When feasible, such as sponsor involvement, require food vendors to sell only bottled soft drink products versus fountain drinks. (This not only generates a recyclable product, but decreases cup, lid, and straw waste.)

- 3.5 Provide a site on the grounds for food vendors to recycle used cooking oils.
- 3.6 Work with local farmers in their efforts toward the development of biofuels (recycling cooking oil), the recycling of animal bedding waste, and general dissemination of agricultural practices supporting environmental improvements.
- 3.7 Partner with utility companies that are working on increased energy efficiencies and developing alternative energy sources. Their participation may include sponsorship, educational displays, and volunteer opportunities.
- 3.8 Where feasible, utilize recycled sign materials.
- 3.9 Decrease application/registration paper waste by:
 - Posting registration forms (for downloading) on the web - talent show, car show, dachshund races, open classes, etc.
 - Providing on-line registration for Open Class (OC) participants.
 - Posting OC department lists on the web pages.
 - Discontinuing the printing and mailing out of full OC department books or “fair books”. Only individual OC department lists are mailed out to requesting parties.
- 3.10 Encourage participation of environmentally friendly companies/organizations to bring educational displays such as vehicles, home efficiency devices, and other ideas for educating the public.
- 3.11 Within the commercial booths layout, identify a “green” area for environmentally friendly businesses to be placed for those like-minded businesses and interested parties to congregate.
- 3.12 Work with the State Fair in establishing the county fair’s event layout, being mindful to not disturb the natural environment. Will be careful in considering the placement of displays on sensitive grasses/soils, and restrict the touching of trees and other foliage with event materials. Will ensure vehicles only travel on identified paved travel areas.

Drafted: 11/23/11

Revised: March, 2012

Adopted by Fair Board: April 4, 2012



Fair Board Chair Signature

Date

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