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RECOS

The eco-event toolkit



RECOS



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Recos – The ecoevent toolkit

The RECOS project was launched in early 2022 by the French association Collectif Parasites. An association founded by young people from the Avesnois region, and organizer of a music and performing arts festival, the Paradisiac Field eco-festival, Collectif Parasites was looking to meet other rural cultural organizations with similar environmental and social concerns. Contratto Sociale, in the heart of Italy's Abruzzo region, and Green Association, an association working all around the Bulgarian countryside, joined the adventure, the former organizing a communal music festival every year, the latter contributing to the country's most ecological festival.

In the course of initial discussions, the three organizations realized that they had much more in common than their «event» dimension, and that none of them confined their activities to cultural programming alone. For example, Green association welcomes tens of European volunteers via the European Solidarity Corps programme, and accompanies them in learning sets of eco-friendly skills, introducing them to resilient lifestyles and practices. Collectif Parasites organizes workshops and informal education projects for all citizens of the territory, produces audiovisual media, and up until recently, accompanied other organizations and citizen-led initiatives. Contratto Sociale works on community development, managing a

community hub in the heart of the village, organizing different events and participatory projects.

The RECOS project aims to bring together, question and compare different points of view and practices on three subjects that unite us: rural youth, rural territories and eco-events. Through international mobility, our three associations were able to exchange and share their practices in terms of volunteer network management, event organization, environmental awareness and the role our structures play in raising public awareness.

Like the cultural sector as a whole, festivals, bringing together from a few hundred to a few hundred

thousand people, while celebrated for their contribution to culture and entertainment, are not exempt from significant environmental impacts. These large-scale events generate a considerable ecological footprint, mainly due to the consumption of resources, carbon emissions and waste generated.

Mobility is a major factor. The massive movement of artists, technical crews, resources and audiences to and from festivals results in significant greenhouse gas emissions, notably through ground and sometimes air transport. These emissions contribute significantly to climate change.

What's more, the infrastructure required to host these events, such as stages, food stalls, temporary facilities and lighting, often has a significant ecological impact. The production of energy to power these facilities, often based on non-renewable sources, also contributes to the carbon footprint of festivals. Installing them in natural areas can also have a negative impact on the surrounding biodiversity.

Waste management also poses a major challenge. Festivals generate





uge quantities of waste, from paper communications and food packaging to temporary building materials, waste left behind by festival-goers and environmentally harmful products in water and soil. Much of this waste often ends up in landfill, contributing to environmental pollution. We should also mention the impact of digital technology on the environment.

Sustainability is, of course, about making choices that protect the environment and biodiversity, but it's also about taking care of the human side, the social side and the links between people and the hosting territory. Indeed, holding large-scale festive events in rural areas can be a real economic, social and tourist opportunity, conducive to territorial and community development, provided that the organizer takes the time to value and focus on the local resources around him.

In the face of these challenges, cultural initiatives are emerging, with artists and organizations playing a leading role in raising awareness of the ecological emergency, transforming imaginations and leaving their mark on minds. Sustainable initiatives must be

implemented at all levels. Raising public awareness of the importance of sustainable and responsible practices is also an essential step in bringing about significant change.

It is essential that culture evolves towards a different operating model, perhaps offering an example to follow. This toolkit brings together various ideas, practices and thought-processes devoted to this necessary transition in cultural events. The «Eco-Events toolkit» deliverable is a summary of the exchanges during the mobility in Bulgaria, in September 2023. It aims to cross-reference and valorize various ecological practices implemented by participating organizations at their festivals.

This toolkit is aimed primarily at event organizers, whether novice or more experienced, but can also definitely be used for other target groups. Its aim is not to provide an exhaustive overview of all the ecological actions that can be implemented within large-scale events, but rather to initiate eco-responsible thinking in the implementation of these events, using a number of different supports



Cards

These brief cards are designed to be used as discussion tools.

Recipes

More detailed, they are designed to encourage readers to experiment.

Overview of the discussions

Short texts aimed at providing additional food for thought.



But before... Meet the festivals !



Rock your Head

Rock Your Head is an independent music festival that has been taking place in August in Montebello di Bertona, since 2008. Until the fourth edition, it was organised by an informal group of friends, who, in 2012, established Contratto Sociale, which, since then, has been managing every aspect concerning the conception and implementation of the Festival (management; production; artistic direction; fundraising; communication).

Rock Your Head Festival aims to restore sociality to abandoned spaces and places through concerts, shows, workshops and moments of fun and sharing.

In this perspective, in 2017, it moved from its traditional location (a sport centre) to settle in the historic centre of Montebello, the area of the village which, more than any other, is in a state of abandonment. For this reason, Contratto Sociale has chosen it as the ideal place for the realisation of the Festival, as well as for its other annual activities, according to its mission.

Afternoon and evening concerts – which bring in Montebello many people, especially youth and tourists – are the core of Rock Your Head Festival. Since its first editions, the line-up includes national and international independent bands and artists with a Do It

Yourself vision which reveal hybrid and contaminated sounds that cannot be attributed to a specific genre. But Rock Your Head Festival is not just music: alongside a careful musical proposal oriented towards novelty and experimentation, it offers various collateral activities to the concerts (workshops, conferences, assemblies, presentations...) focused on the topic of habitability and inner areas, in order to create a greater awareness of the territory among communities, especially young people. In this regard, Contratto Sociale promotes steady collaborations and a common path with other organisations who operate in the local area, which are actively involved in the organisation of the event.

The organisation of the Rock Your Head Festival rests on two pillars :

Artistic direction 7 people

It deals with the musical and artistic aspect by defining scenography, graphic templates, communication line and artists to be involved, as well as the logistical part.

Thematic areas 1 manager per area

Education area (design and implementation of workshops and socio-cultural activities), research and strategic planning (thematic in-depth activities and urban regeneration actions), communication (implementation of promotion and communication plan, press office and online promotion), planning (networking, fundraising and sponsorship), administrative (financial management of the Festival).



See more : www.rockyourheadfestival.it



Beglika Festival

For a dozen years Beglika organizes events of co-creators in the nature-friendly way of life. Through all this time the organization and the people behind it were transforming themselves, experimenting with inspiration and believing that anything is possible. Most of our activities are focused on the shared economy - models of modern sharing of goods, services and ideas.

The Mission

- To popularize Bulgarian traditions and customs,
- To contribute physical, intellectual, social and spiritual development
- To support disadvantaged people

The festival happens in a natural reserve next to the lake Beglika in the Rodopi mountain in southwestern Bulgaria. It lasts more than 1 week, with more than 1000 visitors and participants, music program and more than 400 workshops on different topics (sustainability, spirituality, permaculture, nature, wellbeing, community living, sport, culture, art, food, non-formal education, etc.)

At Beglika we have always talked about change and its urgency, but the truth is that few of us are genuinely ready for change – in our societies, ineconomies, in relationships – in the relationship each of us has with the world that surrounds us. Beglika is the place to make a laboratory of new relations under the open air sky. To try, to learn and to move towards the best that we can be. As a community, as people, as systems.

The layers are shifting and what we can give to each other and together is quality time for real experiences, conversations, real meetings, a place for transformations of our tribe and the people in it. A place to make memories. That's why we gather in a new way - the festival is

now a gathering, a team where there are almost no organizers, because together we will make this week an island of freedom and the zenith of one a wonderful and special summer.

Beglika is a place for intellectual exchange, creativity, work, entertainment, education; a gathering point for non-governmental organizations and artists, a place for meetings, discussions, developing ideas and presenting projects, lectures, seminars, trainings, talks, presentations, organized team building events, workshops/circles for children and adults, professional forums, concerts, games, literary and cinema evenings, international creative exchanges.



See more : www.beglika.org



Paradisiac Field ecoFestival

The Paradisiac Field eco-festival was born in 2011, on the initiative of a group of young people, barely 18, in the Avesnois region. Passionate about music and spending time together, these young people wanted to bring to their rural territory an artistic proposition that didn't yet exist there: that of alternative, punk music, but also street theater and circus. The young people organized themselves, learning how to program, decorate, provide security, catering, etc. The first edition was a real success, attracting almost 200 participants. To renew the experience, make the site public and facilitate logistics, the group of youngsters created the Collectif Parasites association. In 2024, the Paradisiac Field is still the most unifying element of the

association's activities. Indeed, despite the professionalization of the association, the event remains mainly voluntary - it's the commitment of around twenty members of the association throughout the year leading up to the festival that makes it possible, and makes it special. In fact, the logistical and management skills, as well as the artistic, architectural and pedagogical skills of each member of the association are coordinated to create an eclectic, yet harmonious event. During the three-day festival, more than 150 volunteers help run the event.

Since 2011, the «PF» has gone through 5 editions, each more ambitious and richer than the last. In 2022, no fewer than 2,500 festival-goers came to enjoy three days

packed with 28 concerts, 11 shows and dozens of workshops programmed within a «low-tech village». The event's mission? To thrill people, young and old, urban and rural, men and women! With a diverse, impactful program, mostly adapted to family audiences, reduced rates for residents of neighboring villages, and close collaboration with local organizations, the Paradisiac Field festival aims to help people dream of a better world. In the associative village and on 3 stages, dozens of artists and craftsmen invite festival-goers to sing, dance, laugh, think, do... There's something for everyone!

Respect for the environment is one of the key values espoused by the Collectif Parasites and its volunteers, and Paradisiac Field aims to be an «eco-festival»: this means that the entire organization of the festival is designed to be

eco-responsible, with each edition cleaner than the last. To achieve this, a number of things are put in place, including: a 0 plastic waste policy, a local community village, a green energy supply, dry toilets, food sourced from local producers, a scenography made entirely from recycled materials, a technical management team committed to minimizing waste, 0 carbon emission options of transport to reach the festival site (bicycle, carriage...). In addition to its commitment to ecological transition, the festival is also committed to being exemplary in terms of inclusivity and individual care: gender equality and the fight against gender-based violence are promoted via the festival's programming and rigorous signage, prevention and rest areas are provided on site, and groups of volunteers are trained to intervene to care for and ensure the safety of all festival-goers.



See more : www.collectif-parasites.com

Cut and play



cut here

The camping kit

Hygiene

03. Eco-events toolkit

Call artists with an eco-friendly view

Line up & workshops

Transport

02. Eco-events toolkit


Make your own goodies workshop

Communication

01. Eco-events toolkit



01. Eco-events toolkit



Goodies are great keepsakes and communication objects, but their mass production is wasteful, and most of the time, their lifespan is short. Consider limiting yours to useful, durable, and handmade objects that participants need to actively engage with!

Advantages

- Less prone to going to waste
- Fun activities on site
- An opportunity to raise awareness

Disadvantages

- Possibly more time consuming
- An increased need for people/volunteers to run workshops

02. Eco-events toolkit



Be patient and reach out to your favourite artist when you know it can be more sustainable for the planet (if you love that Californian band, wait until they are on tour in Europe, please!). Encourage artists to embrace your environmental approach, and invite them to promote your cause on their social media platforms!

Advantages

- Reduce CO2 emissions from artist travels
- Reach more people by promoting your eco-friendly with artists
- Provide more space for local artists

Disadvantages

- Rural settings are often challenging to reach without a car/van
- Building a high-quality lineup with limited proposals reduces the growth potential of a festival

03. Eco-events toolkit



Personal waste, chemicals, cigarette butts, abandoned equipment... Camping areas can quickly become polluted and polluting places. When these areas are set up on natural land, the impact of campers must be limited all the more. Offer a camping «kit»: Natural soap, a pocket ashtray, a trash bag... This small gesture will set a framework, and encourage festival-goers to respect the place where they find themselves.

Advantages

- Less waste and pollution: less work for the organizers afterwards!
- Heightened conscience of the space

Disadvantages

- Additional costs (though feeble)
- Additional preparation and volunteer involvement

cut here



The community kitchen

Food and drinks



04. Eco-events toolkit

RICOS

The compost toilets

Hygiene



05. Eco-events toolkit

RICOS

Dish washing station

Hygiene



06. Eco-events toolkit

RICOS

cut here



Advantages

- Less stuff to makes traveling easier and gives space for more sustainable options
- Possible income from the meals
- Creates a community

Disadvantages

- Possible queues
- Cleaning responsibility

04.

Eco-events toolkit

A space with stoves, ovens and other cooking facilities people can use for free. Three times a day there can be served a meal for a minimum price. It can be linked with a farmers market next to it.

Advantages

- Cost-effective
- Enriches the soil
- You can even leave them after the event to be used

Disadvantages

- Takes time and energy to be build
- Need to be cleaned or moved if you want to use them for more than 1-2 years

05.

Eco-events toolkit

Instead of renting chemical toilets, compost toilets can be made on site. Instructions on how to use them need to be attached and biodegradable toilet paper provided.

Advantages

- Saves water
- Multiple people can use it at the same time

Disadvantages

- Hard to introduce it to people who are not used to it

06.

Eco-events toolkit

Same water can be used multiple times to wash dishes. Create a washing station for everyone at the event, put instructions on how to use it, place it in a comfortable spot, close to water and use it as much as possible. The more you use it, the more water you save.

cut here



Encourage carpooling

Transport

07.

Eco-events toolkit

Equipment rental

Places and spaces

08.

Eco-events toolkit

The festival bus

Transport

09.

Eco-events toolkit

cut here



07. Eco-events toolkit



If public transport isn't available to you.... During preparation, but also the event, make sure carpooling is encouraged, facilitated, and promoted as the best transport option to and from your event! Create carpooling organization pages and channels specific to your event, communicate about these options, provide an organization panel on the event site, or, more radical... Announce the absence of parking for non-carpooling vehicles!

Advantages

- Fewer cars on site
- Less emissions caused by individual transport

Disadvantages

- It's difficult to convince everyone to make effort!
- Creating and promoting carpooling platforms takes time

08. Eco-events toolkit



If your festival plans to accommodate participants by creating a camping area, you might also consider a rental equipment service. To avoid throwable, low-quality buys, you could entrust the service to industry professionals, offering services ranging from tent and camping equipment rentals to bike rental for moving within the festival area.


Advantages

- Reduce the purchase of low-quality equipment
- Expand networks with other productive entities in the area
- Provide additional services to camping participants.

Disadvantages

- Uncertainty about the exact need for the service and how many people may request it, committing financially with estimated numbers with the company providing the service.

09. Eco-events toolkit



A bus schedule can be made specifically for the festival from the biggest cities and back.

Advantages

- Less CO2
- Cheaper
- Possible income

Disadvantages

- Upfront cost

cut here



cut here



10. Eco-events toolkit



Foodtrucks ?
Think charter !

Food and drinks

RECOS

11. Eco-events toolkit



Get certified

Communication

RECOS

12. Eco-events toolkit



Green power

Line up & workshops

RECOS

10.

Eco-events toolkit

Foodtrucks are great options for events: they're usually fast and cheap. But many of them don't pay much attention to the products they're selling (quality, origin, GMOs...). Create a charter of values, include what matters to you (local, organic, prices, etc.) and condition the presence of foodtrucks on their signature.

Advantages

- Supports local producers
- Reduces the impact of importation!
- Faster, fresher foods

Disadvantages

- Depending on the local offer, may reduce possibilities
- Some foodtrucks may refuse

11.

Eco-events toolkit

Getting certified is often a great idea: it can both push you and your team to dive deeper into sustainable practices, and is an efficient communication strategy! A wide range of certifications are available: choose the one that best suits your ambitions, and go for it!

Advantages

- Pushes deeper change
- Communication efficiency
- Join a worldwide network

Disadvantages

- Takes time and effort
- Some certifications are costly, therefore inaccessible to most events

12.

Eco-events toolkit

Currently, most sports, cultural, musical events depend on fossil fuel based electrical generators to provide enough electricity to satisfy their needs. Be aware of your electrical consumption, think of reducing needs and centralizing electrical distribution as much as possible. For the rest of your electrical needs, if hooking up to the city's network isn't an option, look into solar, hydrogen-based, bio-oil generators - innovations are developing quickly!

Advantages

- Fewer carbon emissions

Disadvantages

- Sustainable options aren't available everywhere
- Prices may be considerably higher

cut here



Green team volunteers

Accommodation

Hygiene

13. Eco-events toolkit

The local accommodation

accommodation

14. Eco-events toolkit

The local networks

Food and drinks

Communication

Decoration

Places and spaces

15. Eco-events toolkit

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13.

Eco-events toolkit

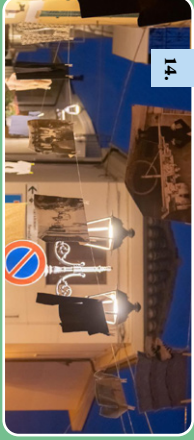
Create a « green » volunteering team ! They have a special and one of the most important missions in an eco-festival. Together, these volunteers are responsible for looking over waste management, managing the dry toilets, and ensuring festival-goers safety ; bringing them water, monitoring behaviors, making sure everyone is healthy and happy...

Advantages

- Takes care of people and the environment
- Better site management → less problems !

Disadvantages

- Takes time to train volunteers
- A need for many volunteers to ensure team rotations



14.

Eco-events toolkit

To make sure attendees stay, try a decentralized hospitality approach as well as the canning ground to provide multiple solutions and accommodate a more diverse audience. Try to involve the local population and economic sectors to find as many housing solutions as possible for accommodating festival participants, both informally and formally.

Advantages

- Territorial networks promote collaboration
- They allow for the exchange of resources, skills, and knowledge
- The diversity of skills within a network can foster innovation

Disadvantages

- Effective coordination is a must, but it's quite challenging
- Building trustful relationships within a network takes time



15.

Eco-events toolkit

Other organizations can be a great resource, and help out in certain areas. Asking them to help creates important partnerships and frees up some mental space !

Advantages

- Territorial networks promote collaboration
- They allow for the exchange of resources, skills, and knowledge
- The diversity of perspectives and skills within a network can foster innovation

Disadvantages

- Effective coordination is a must, but it's quite challenging
- Building trustful relationships within a network takes time

cut here

Low-tech Workshops

Line up & workshops

16. Eco-events toolkit

Mutualize resources

Decoration
Communication

Line up & workshops

17. Eco-events toolkit

Prioritize plant based options

accommodation

18. Eco-events toolkit

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16.

Eco-events toolkit

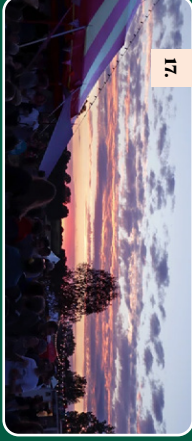
Use your event as an opportunity to demonstrate and pass on zero-waste and/or low-tech practices! Through workshops or booths, raise awareness of the need for energy sobriety, by offering festival-goers the chance to discover and learn about various practices (e.g. Aquaponics, solar ovens, straw insulation...). You can even create a participative workshop!

Advantages

- Fun participative activities for festival-goers!
- An opportunity to share and educate

Disadvantages

- Depending on the proposed activity, an increased need for space and materials



17.

Eco-events toolkit

From eco-cups to lights to dry toilets, should all event organizers own all the equipment they use? While some things make up the identity of your event, others are general necessary things. As an alternative (and in the long run, a cheaper) alternative to renting, and instead of buying new, think about sharing with other event organizers in the area. Create a network, invest together and pool your equipment!

Advantages

- Minimizes costs!
- Reinforces local networks through mutual help
- Buying less, producing less!

Disadvantages

- More organization, more compromise!
- A limited ability to modify shared resources to suit your event specifically



18.

Eco-events toolkit

It isn't a secret, meat production has a strong impact on our environment. To further limit the impact of your event, consider prioritizing a vegetarian or even vegan food offer! Beyond the «inclusive» aspect of vegetarian options, they're also less expensive - enough to satisfy your guests' wallets! Let your suppliers or food trucks know what you expect, by means of a charter, conditions of participation, or informal requirements.

Advantages

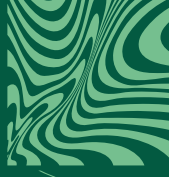
- Healthy, inclusive and cheaper meal options
- Easy to focus efforts on local vegetable producers

Disadvantages

- Some festival-goers may be frustrated

Recycle and reuse!

Decoration



Eco-events toolkit

Eco-events toolkit

19.

Reusable cups

Food and drinks



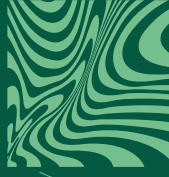
Eco-events toolkit

Eco-events toolkit

20.

The village as a stage

Places and spaces



Eco-events toolkit

Eco-events toolkit

21.

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19.

Eco-events toolkit

All materials can serve multiple purposes, you just need to be creative enough! Be curious and ask around: businesses, industries, farms and locals may want to get rid of materials that could be useful for your decorative ambitions... and can be reused and transformed!

Advantages

- Cheaper than buying new
- Solicits creativity
- A cosy "homemade" feel to your events

Disadvantages

- Organizing transit can take some time
- An increased need for storage



20.

Eco-events toolkit

Ask people to use their own cups/dishes/cutlery. If they don't have you can offer them reusable ones for "rent" on a deposit (ex. for 5€) and when they give it back washed they get their deposit back.

Advantages

- Lessen the usage of single-use plastic
- Possible income if people like the offered ones and want to keep them or if they lose it/forget to give it back
- Clearer space, less trash

Disadvantages

- More expensive, but it's only for the first event
- You have to wash
- Possible cheating: People to steal others cups and give them to get their deposit



21.

Eco-events toolkit

There are many places that, due to inconvenience, are not used as festival locations. Planning performances in these spaces gives you the opportunity to revitalize them and provide them with a new sense. Moreover, using natural settings, accompanied by a few scenic elements makes everything more cost-effective and original. Let's work with creativity!

Advantages

- Limit the user, rental, purchase of equipment
- Reevaluate less frequented and sometimes disappreciated places
- Allow participants to discover new locations

Disadvantages

- Be wary of safety requirements for performances in unconventional locations
- Artists must be willing to adapt and perform in non-conventional venues

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Eco-events toolkit



Eco-events toolkit



Eco-events toolkit

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22.

Eco-events toolkit

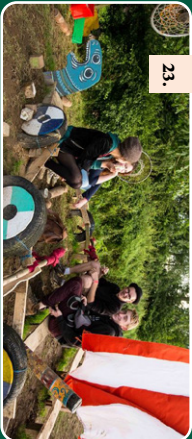
Make sure you offer different trash bins to festival-goers, allowing them to sort their garbage accordingly: compost, recycling, glass etc... If you have facilities nearby that are able to treat more specific categories of trash, don't hesitate to add those options (clothes, camping materials, metals...)

Advantages

- Sensitize festival-goers to recycling
- Make sure materials have the chance to have a second life!

Disadvantages

- Mostly depends on your territory's available facilities
- More work needed to dispose of sorted trash properly



23.

Eco-events toolkit

To encourage festival-goers to minimize the impact of their travels to and from your event, organize a game or a challenge, offering different prizes (lower ticket prices, a drink, a medal...) to reward the « greenest travelers »! With good communication, you may be surprised by the number of festival-goers ready to cycle, hitch-hike, walk to you!

Advantages

- Less emissions caused by individual transport
- A fun challenge to involve participants before and during the event

Disadvantages

- Although many will enjoy the challenge, these options aren't available to everyone. Keep in mind campers travel with equipment!
- Prizes may cost a little!



24.

Eco-events toolkit

Beautiful signs can be made of the leftover wooden pieces and to minimize the usage of artificial material they can be drawn with a pyrography or wood carving. Try to use it creatively. Not only signs can be made that way, but also maps and others. It's good to generally prioritize eco-friendly paints and materials

Advantages

- Maximum usage of materials
- Prettier
- Can be left in the nature and it won't pollute

Disadvantages

- Takes more time



✂
cut here



Themes and recipes



Themes

Place and space

In the pursuit of organizing sustainable events, it is crucial to recognize the interconnectedness between event planning and the impact on the surrounding environment. Anchoring events to the local territory not only ensures environmental sustainability but also fosters social connections that are essential for a well-rounded and responsible gathering. When choosing a location, it becomes imperative to consider factors such as the number of attendees, their obvious and more discreet needs, and the potential disruptions the event might cause on social and natural life, such as noise, lights, vibrations, traffic...

For events held in rural areas, careful consideration of public transport access is essential. Opting for a venue near a train station or bus stop encourages the use of eco-friendly transportation and facilitates carpooling among festival-goers. Additionally, organizers should be mindful of natural cycles within the chosen space, taking note of local flora and fauna. Awareness of the species that

inhabit the site is crucial, and adjustments or relocation may be necessary to avoid disrupting natural cycles that may occur.

Connecting with local life is a key element of sustainable event planning. This involves building relationships with local communities, businesses, and individuals. Involving local producers, institutions, neighbors, and crafters not only contributes to the success of the event but also strengthens ties with the local community. Providing benefits such as lower ticket prices for local inhabitants or offering early bird tickets demonstrates a commitment to inclusivity and community engagement. Also, collaborating with local farmers and organizations can contribute to the sustainability of the event. By relying on local resources and expertise, event organizers can minimize their ecological footprint and support the local economy. This collaboration extends to inviting the local population to participate actively in the event, fostering a sense of ownership and pride within the community.



To enhance awareness and engagement, organizers can implement various strategies. Conducting awareness workshops that focus on the local nature and unique features of the space educates festival-goers, volunteers, and locals alike. Distributing «eco-event» toolkits containing items like trash bags, portable ashtrays, and handmade biodegradable soap encourages responsible behavior and waste management. Creating «infocards» about the location, providing tips, and emphasizing the importance of preserving the environment further contribute to an informed and conscientious community.

A dedicated volunteer team, referred to as the «green team» can play a pivotal role in maintaining the event's sustainability. Tasks such as managing dry toilets, picking up trash, and ensuring the overall cleanliness of the space demonstrate a commitment to environmental stewardship.

By integrating these sustainable practices into event planning, organizers can create memorable experiences that not only celebrate the event itself but also foster a deeper connection between attendees and the local territory.



Recycled ashtrays

Accommodation

Places and spaces

Communication

Ingredients :

- Large plastic bottle caps (exemple juice bottles)
- Plastic bottles
- A glue gun and glue
- Sandpaper or a lighter

Steps :

1. Cut your bottle flush with the neck, leaving enough plastic to glue something around it.
2. If necessary, smooth the cut by lightly melting the plastic with a lighter, or by rubbing the harsh cut against sandpaper.
3. Using a glue gun, glue a cap around the cut neck.

Brief commentary

These are perfect to hand out to festival-goers during the event ! They can be included in kits, and be given out as goodies...

Themes

Transport

In the pursuit of organizing sustainable events, addressing transportation emissions emerges as a pivotal aspect. According to the “AGF Festival Carbon Footprint Report 2022-2023”, transport is the most impactful aspect of festival organization, accounting for up to 58% or a festival’s carbon emissions. For smaller festivals, this can climb to 70%. By incorporating thoughtful practices, event organizers can significantly diminish their environmental impact while enhancing the overall eco-friendliness of the event.

For participants, establishing shared transport services proves to be a key strategy. This involves reaching out to local transport companies to set up a shuttle service connecting major provincial and regional transport hotspots to the festival venue. Additionally, organizers can create a forum, Telegram, or WhatsApp group, providing a platform for participants to freely and informally organize shared rides, avoiding the complexities of apps and tools. In instances where festival venues

are dispersed, offering a bike rental service becomes a sustainable solution, enabling eco-friendly movement between locations.

In considering the transportation practices of artists, a deliberate approach can further contribute to sustainability. Organizers can choose to schedule performances with artists when it aligns with sustainable travel choices. For instance, waiting until an artist is on a European/National tour rather than insisting on immediate availability. These efforts can foster collaboration with other organizations and reduce overall consumption. Artists can be encouraged to support the ecological agenda by participating in the event through sustainable practices, such as traveling by train, and creating online content to share their commitment.

By focusing on shared transportation services for participants and adopting sustainable practices for artists, event organizers actively contribute to the reduction of transportation emissions.

These initiatives not only align with eco-friendly principles but also foster a sense of community and shared responsibility in creating environmentally conscious events. Through these practices, sustainable events become not just a celebration but also a positive contribution to the planet.

1 A Greener Festival, AGF Festival Carbon Footprint Report 2022-2023. See more : www.agreenerfuture.com/carbonimpactsassessment





Themes

Accommodation and hygiene

Sustainable events prioritize socially and environmentally responsible options for hygiene and accommodation. Here are key guidelines for promoting sustainable accommodation and camping during events.

To support the local fabric and prevent the creation of new, underutilized structures, organizers should leverage existing resources – this involves widespread residency, house rentals, and collaboration with local property owners and entrepreneurs in the accommodation sector. The goal is to establish a symbiotic relationship that benefits both the event and the community. To achieve this, it is essential to map out the various actors involved in the local accommodation sector. Building a strong connection with the community ensures that the event contributes positively to the local environment. Establishing rental guidelines and standards for sustainable practices is crucial, as is inviting and sharing benefits with local economies to encourage community engagement.

Creating a shared camping experience with a low environmental impact is also an important aspect of sustainable multi-day events. This involves collaborating with local experts on dry toilet systems and low-impact shower solutions. Inviting a local market stall to the camping grounds can also contribute to the overall eco-friendliness of the event, encouraging campers to buy local products instead of driving to the supermarket. Additionally, establishing a shared kitchen for campers not only fosters a sense of community but also encourages responsible consumption.

By adhering to these sustainable practices, event organizers can contribute to the well-being of both the environment and local communities. Through conscious choices in accommodation and camping, events can set an example for responsible event management. This, in turn, encourages participants to adopt sustainable habits and promotes a positive impact on the local environment.





Local spread accommodation

Accommodation

Ingredients :

- Access to floor plans and city cadastre (availability from the municipal administration)
- Availability of a legal consultant for contracts and administrative support
- Facilitation skills for participatory citizen meetings
- Knowledge of economic and social flows related to the context where the distributed accommodation system is intended to be implemented

Steps :

1. Map all premises in the inhabited centre where the festival takes place.
2. Contact the owners of the premises.
3. Involve existing accommodation facilities (B&Bs, guesthouses...)
4. Organize awareness-raising meetings, highlighting the positive aspects of providing premises.

5. Establish sustainable, standardized guidelines, and create an incentive system for entrusting premises to the organization and participants.
6. Establish regulations for the functioning of the accommodation system.
7. Create a clear communication campaign to access accommodations.
8. Create a facilitating platform for matching demand and supply of premises and booking.

Brief commentary

A mixed local accommodation involving private citizens and the local economic fabric allows for the enhancement of the existing social fabric, avoiding the creation of isolated models that may overlap with others potentially available. It also enables significant economies of scale for both the festival and the local community. A distributed accommodation system helps retain participants in an area, contributing to the vitality of local economic activities (supermarkets, restaurants, bars, personal services, etc.). At the same time, it creates a dynamic exchange ecosystem between participants and the citizens of the area, making everyone a fundamental part of the festival, transforming it into a model of community relationship before being a successful and sustainable cultural event.



Compost toilets

Hygiene

Places and spaces

Ingredients :

- Shovels and pickaxe
- Wooden material, stone, clay
- Jigsaw, saw, different screws, screwdriver
- Pipe and funnel
- Varnish, brush and solvent
- Biodegradable toilet paper
- Sawdust
- Spray bottle with alcohol
- Trash bin

Steps :

1. Dig at least 1m deep hole 1m by 1m
2. Construct the floor (leaving a hole), the walls, the roof and a door for the cabin. You can make it out of wood, stone or clay, it's up to you. Usually the wood is the easiest.

3. To minimize the smell, divide the liquids from the solid waste. Put a funnel with a pipe going outside of the toilet, somewhere where it won't bother anyone. The liquid goes to the funnel, the solid waste in the pit.

4. Varnish all the wooden part to protect them from rooting

5. Put a place for the toilet paper. Ideally for 2 rolls at least. The easiest is a long screw in the wall. If you put unscented biodegradable toilet paper it can go directly to the pit and minimize the trash.

6. Put a bag of sawdust with a scoop/cup. It's important to cover the manure with sawdust not only to minimize the smell by absorbing the liquid, but also stop the spread of infections through the flies. The flies tend to go to the manure then land on the food.

7. Put a spray bottle with alcohol to disinfect the funnel.

8. All the other waste (wet napkins, tampons, pads etc) should go in the bin.

9. Put clear instructions on how to use it in a visible place.

Brief commentary

The door can be just a curtain. You can miss making a roof if you're going to use it only in good weather. Make as many toilets as you'll need depending on how many people you expect. You can make them deeper if you'll use them longer. Once it's full you can either empty it and use it again or just cover it with soil and dig a new one.



Biodegradable soaps

Accommodation

Hygiene

Communication

Ingredients :

- 870g virgin olive oil
- 160g coconut oil
- 330g water
- 141g caustic soda (NaOH)

Equipment :

- A pot : a stainless steel stewpot or saucepan (no aluminum, as the lye would puncture the container) that will hold the fatty substances.
- A graduated glass bowl or measuring jug to hold the water and make the soda lye.
- A small bowl for weighing the lye.
- A plastic spatula
- A stainless steel or composite whisk to stir the lye into the water.
- A blender, with plastic or stainless steel foot.
- A household scale for weighing ingredients.
- Two thermometers to check temperature throughout the manufacturing process. You can use an electronic kitchen thermometer.

• One or more silicone or plastic molds. If you make your own molds, it's possible to customize them and have the soap size most suited to your taste. For convenience, many people use milk cartons or round potato chip boxes (which is also effective, very economical and part of an ecological recycling approach).

• A large metal spatula to cut the soaps when unmolding.

Steps :

1. Carry out all the weighings, starting with the fats, then the water and, last but not least, the caustic soda. Prepare your mold.

• *Fat is weighed in the Dutch oven.*

• *Water is weighed in the thick, graduated glass jug, always cold or at room temperature.*

• *Soda is weighed in the small bowl*

2. Melt butters (if any) in a Dutch oven. You can saponify at room temperature if your recipe consists solely of oils.

3. Pour the caustic soda into the water all at once, and stir with a whisk until the soda is completely melted. The mixture will rise sharply in temperature (around 80°C) and then begin to cool. At this point, the mixture is called lye.

4. Check the temperature of the lye and fats regularly, until they reach the temperature indicated on the recipe.

5. Pour the soda lye into the stewpot and blend until the mixture changes texture and a trace appears in your preparation, a little like mayonnaise, as it passes from a liquid phase to a slightly more homogenous texture, without yet being firm.

6. Pour the mixture into the mold and decorate. Cover with a thick cloth (make sure it doesn't soak in the soap). This will allow the soap to undergo its exothermic reaction and harden. In addition, limiting contact between residual lye and oxygen in the air will prevent lye

snow (a small white film on the surface of the soap). Leave to stand for at least 24 hours.

7. Cut the soap to your liking and arrange in a box, without the pieces touching, to facilitate drying. Leave in a dry place for 21 days.

Brief commentary

These are perfect to hand out to festival-goers during the event ! They can be included in kits, and be given out as goodies... Caution ! Making your own soap, while fun, can be toxic. So take the necessary precautions : During saponification, make sure there are no animals or children around.. The equipment used is dedicated solely to soap-making (it must never be used simultaneously in the kitchen and in the soap factory). You must wear safety equipment right from the start of the saponification operation (gloves, goggles, thick apron).



Themes

Communication

In the quest for more sustainable festivals, a thoughtful approach to communication practices seems inevitable. Before embarking on any communication strategy, festival organizers should pose critical questions to refine their approach. Understanding the target group, considering factors like age and preferred information sources, lays the foundation for effective and tailored communication.

When it comes to paper communication, a judicious evaluation of its necessity is the first step. If deemed essential, consider adopting responsible printing practices: this involves considerations for ecological ink, paper origin, and printing methods. For smaller-scale communication needs, cost-effective options like linocutting and serigraphy can be explored. As festivals distribute physical materials such as posters, flyers and/or print large banners, a conscientious effort to minimize environmental impact is necessary.

For example, volunteers can play a pivotal role in the communication



process. Leveraging their daily routes for the dissemination of paper communication ensures efficiency and broader reach within the community. Strategically, reusable banners can replace individual flyers, creating a visual communication strategy that is both impactful and sustainable, if

positioned in interesting points of passage. In the digital realm, a similar scrutiny should be applied to online communication. Evaluating the need for an online presence is followed by a strategic selection of social media platforms, considering not only reach but also ethical aspects like servers and

confidentiality. For internal communication and organizational needs, OpenSource tools offer sustainable alternatives to consumeristic digital use.

When it comes to festival goodies, a thorough assessment of necessity and value is essential. Encouraging participant involvement through workshops fosters a sense of ownership, with attendees creating their own items. Prioritizing useful goodies, such as portable ashtrays, shirts, and homemade soap for multi-day events, ensures that these items contribute positively to the festival experience, and stay useful after it ends.

By weaving these considerations together, festivals can redefine their communication habits, creating a holistic strategy that not only engages attendees effectively but also aligns with sustainability principles, contributing to a more responsible and eco-friendly event.



Themes

Line up, scenography and technical points

To seamlessly weave sustainability into both the technical infrastructure and the event lineup, consider several ideas. Picking and organizing your event's line-up is always an important choice; your event's identity is partly impacted by it. Use that as a tool to raise awareness amongst festival-goers! A significant element involves actively engaging local artists who share a deep commitment to sustainability. This not only strengthens the local art community but also significantly reduces the carbon footprint associated with artist travel. The involvement of artists and participants who align with the festival's vision for sustainability

further solidifies a collective dedication to eco-friendly practices. Enriching the festival program with diverse activities, such as workshops, conferences, and games, all centered around ecological and environmental sustainability, serves a dual purpose. Participants not only gain valuable insights but also develop a profound connection to eco-friendly practices.

Opting for recyclable materials across various festival components, including infrastructure, signage, and promotional items, stands as a conscious choice that minimizes waste and aligns with broader recycling initiatives.



Regarding scenography, but resource-use in general, collaborating with local organizations for material sharing and resource mutualisation fosters a collaborative approach, reducing the need for new purchases and promoting a circular economy. This supports local businesses but also forges stronger community ties, concurrently reducing transportation-related emissions. Furthermore, designing the festival's scenography and materials for easy removal and reuse not only minimizes waste but also promotes a more sustainable event infrastructure.

Regarding general energy-greedy aspects of the event, consider implementing rationalization strategies, including reducing points of energy distribution and prioritizing LED lights and energy-efficient lighting. Crafting a schedule that emphasizes daytime activities, utilizing natural light whenever possible, not only reduces overall energy consumption but also aligns with sustainable energy practices. Generally, preferring smaller, more intimate events tailored to the unique characteristics of the festival's location ensures a harmonious integration with the environment.





Recycled pennant garlands

Decoration

Scenography

Places and spaces

Ingredients :

- Paper
- Pen
- Scissors
- Any fabric scraps and bias tape / ribbon
- A sewing machine (or determined hands)

Steps :

1. Create your pennant template by measuring out and drawing the face of a pennant, adding seam allowance to each side (1.5cm).
2. Place and trace the triangle template on your fabric as many times as necessary.
 - *To calculate how many faces you will need, keep in mind you will need two faces to create one pennant.*
 - *5 pennants = approximately 1,5 meters of garland.*
3. Cut out the triangles you have traced on your fabric.
4. Position two faces on top of each other, wrong sides together.

3. Sew along two of the edges, at approximately 1.5cm from the edge.
4. Turn your creation inside out - here, you can use a chopstick or something similar to push out and neaten the corners.
5. Sew the remaining opening into the bias tape, starting out around 50cm from the end of the tape.
6. Renew steps 4-7 as many times as necessary, leaving approximately 25cm between each pennant.

Brief commentary

These garlands are a lot of work ! But they're also a great opportunity to create workshops, spend time together and reinforce cohesion within the volunteer groups. They're ecological as they're based on upcycling fabric scraps, and can be put away and reused for any event. Similar concepts can be used for different purposes : don't want to cover your event with plastic rubaliser ? Knot together long pieces of scrapped fabric to separate out spaces.

The game of pots

Places and spaces

Ingredients :

- Pots and pans
- A wall or a partition or other supports of your choice

Steps :

1. Obtain pots of various shapes and sizes.
2. Get ping pong balls (at least 4).
3. Install pots of different shapes and sizes on the chosen support.
4. Assign a score to each pot.
5. Take a shot and try to keep the ball inside the pot.

Brief commentary

The aim of the game is to keep ball inside the targeted pot. To score, the ball must not exit the pot after the shot. The higher the difficulty in keeping the ball inside the pot, the higher the score awarded. Players are free to choose the target score and the number of rounds to play. Moreover with this game you will offer a new life and opportunity to your old pots.





Themes

Food and drinks

Providing food and drinks for all festival-goers is often a challenge, and can lead to cost-effective, sometimes wasteful and/or non-eco-friendly decisions. According to AGF, food and drinks make up the 2nd biggest carbon-emitting category of festival activities (up to 35%). Redefining priorities in this sector emerges as a fundamental step towards sustainable event organization.

Firstly, establishing ties with local producers, fostering a direct connection to source fresh, locally sourced produce for festival-goers, seems necessary. Leading up to the event, organize a collaborative effort, such as workshops and volunteering days in local farms, to participate in creating a symbiotic relationship with these producers. In a general sense, be it with local producers or other organizations, organizers are encouraged to collaborate with other local structures. This shared responsibility ensures a more efficient allocation of resources, allowing each organization to focus on its strengths. For instance, some organizations may

manage specific times of the day, like breakfast, while others handle different aspects of the festival.

Motivating festival-goers to actively participate in sourcing and preparing their own food is a cost-effective and resource-efficient strategy. This not only reduces the burden on the organizing team but also fosters a sense of community engagement and self-sufficiency among attendees.

Also consider diversifying your menu, offering vegetarian and/or vegan options. If you're feeling brave, fully opt-out of meat dishes! Shifting towards a plant-centered menu aligns with environmental sustainability goals and encourages healthier eating habits.

Waste related to the food and beverage aspect of the event cannot be ignored. The use of reusable plates, cups, and cutlery can be complemented by the establishment of an efficient self-wash system. The emphasis is not solely on the eco-friendly nature of these utensils but also on their

functionality, cost-effectiveness, and adherence to eco-conscious design principles. Festival-goers can also be encouraged to bring their own cups, reinforcing the commitment to minimizing waste. Reduce bottled beverages by installing fresh water taps in strategic places. Also consider composting all food waste, and collaborating with a local composting business/association to manage it after the event!

By weaving these strategies into the fabric of festival planning, organizers can not only deliver a memorable culinary experience but also contribute to a more sustainable and community-driven event. This integrated approach ensures that each aspect of food and drink provision aligns cohesively with the overarching goal of environmental responsibility.





Dishwashing station

Hygiene

Places and spaces

Ingredients :

- Wooden material
- Jigsaw
- Screws and screwdriver
- 3 basins
- Dish strainer (optional)
- A bucket for food scraps
- Organic dishwashing soap
- Sponges
- Towel (optional)

Steps :

1. Build a table with 3 or 4 holes to fit the basins and the strainer. You can put the legs on the sides and leave one of them longer to be a hanger for the towel.
2. On the ground to the side of the washing station put the bucket for food scraps. Then in the compost.

The first basin will be with soapy water. The second and third one just water to rinse the dishes. When the first one gets dirty, empty only it in a large area away from the campsite and water. Move the other basins with one position. Fill the empty one with clean water and put it in the last position before the strainer.

4. Provide organic dishwashing soap and sponges.
5. Put clear instructions on how to use it in a visible place.

Brief commentary

You can experiment also with only 2 basins, depending on how conscious the people using it will be. If it's for smaller events you can also provide the towel and strainer, but for big events people are usually using their own towel and won't leave the dishes on the strainer. If you accidentally made the holes for the basins too big or if they're different sizes you can put a wooden bar under the holes as a base to hold the basins.



Create your bar

Food and drinks

Places and spaces

Ingredients :

- A4 Sheets
- Ruler
- Nine Plywood Boards, 2 cm thick
- Jigsaw

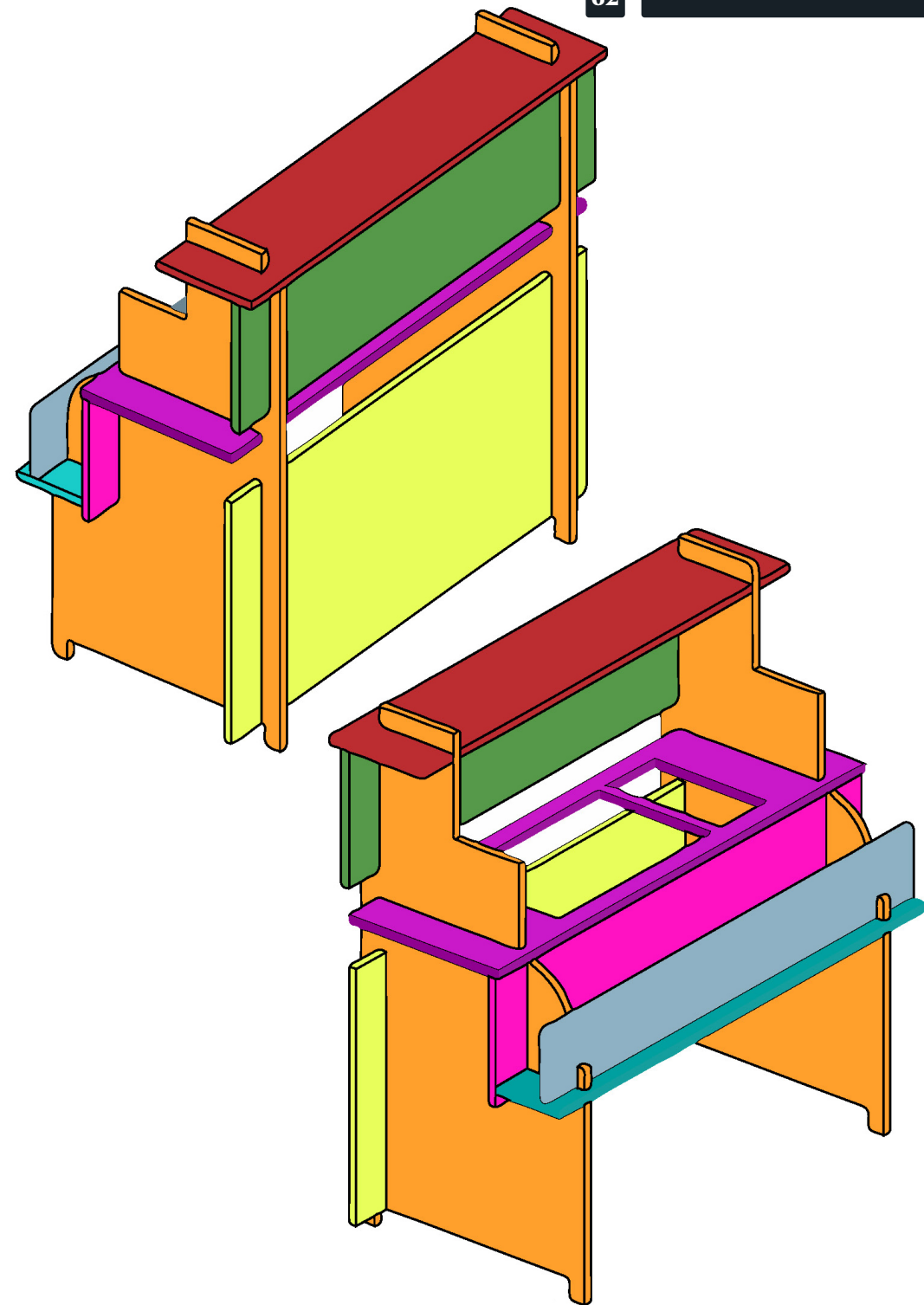
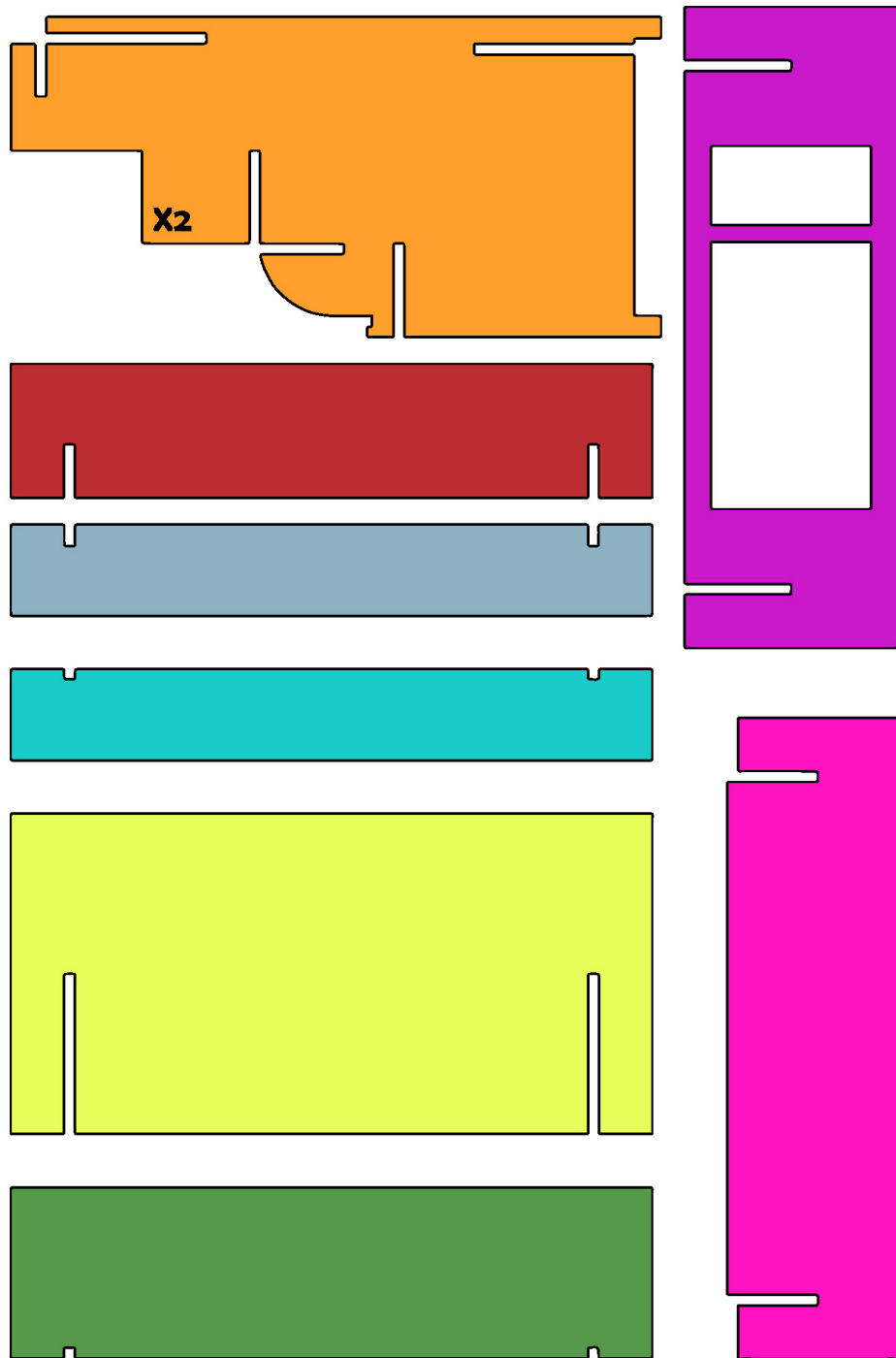
Steps :

1. Print the project image on two A4 sheets.
2. Take measurements with a ruler and multiply by 10.
3. Cut the plywood boards to size.
4. Assemble following the images.

Brief commentary

The image below will guide you in building your own bar by following the assembly instructions. Pay attention to a purple panel with two holes. Fill them with two containers containing ice and lemon.







The eco-event toolkit