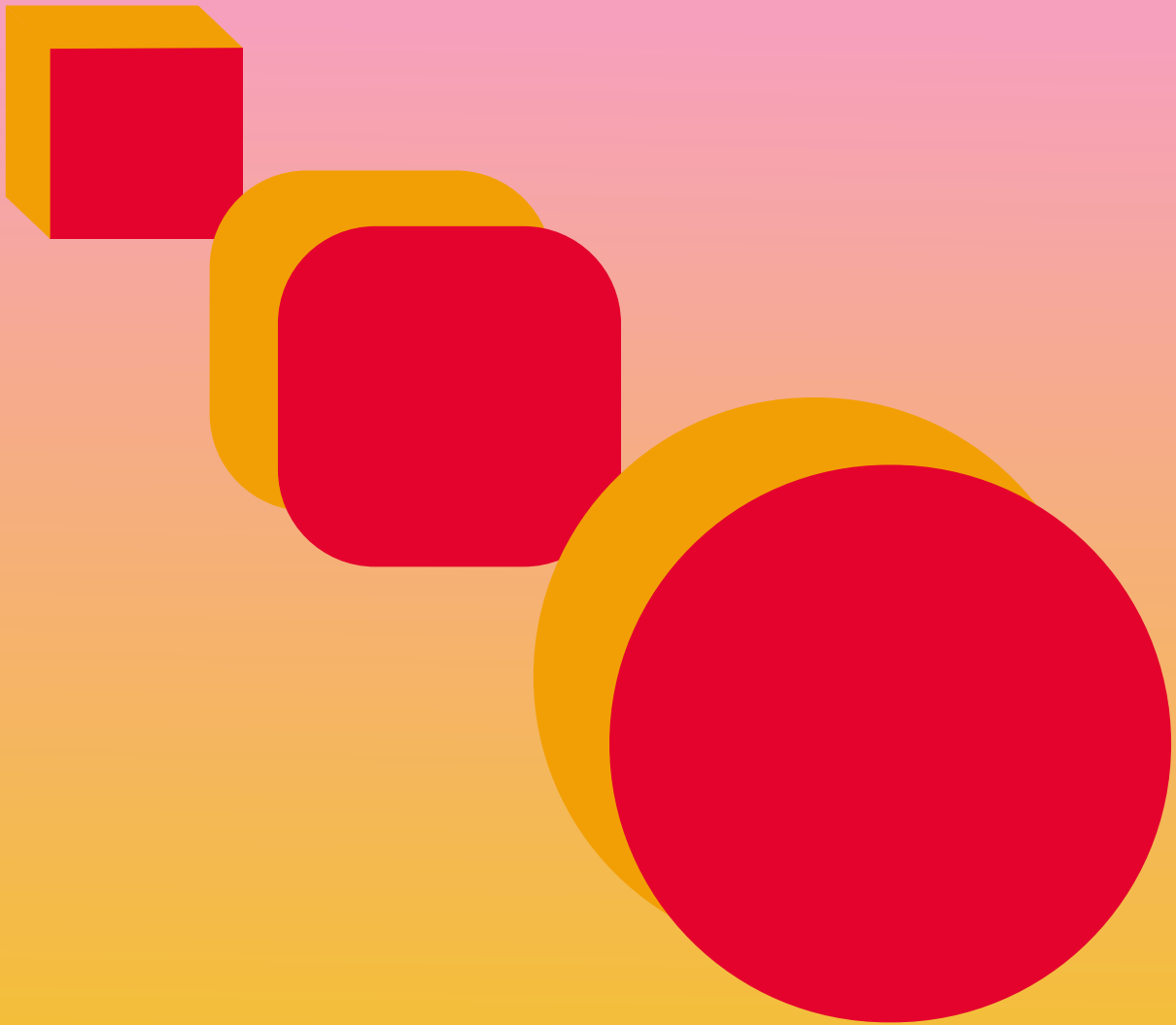


# A guide towards circular festivals



**FMA**

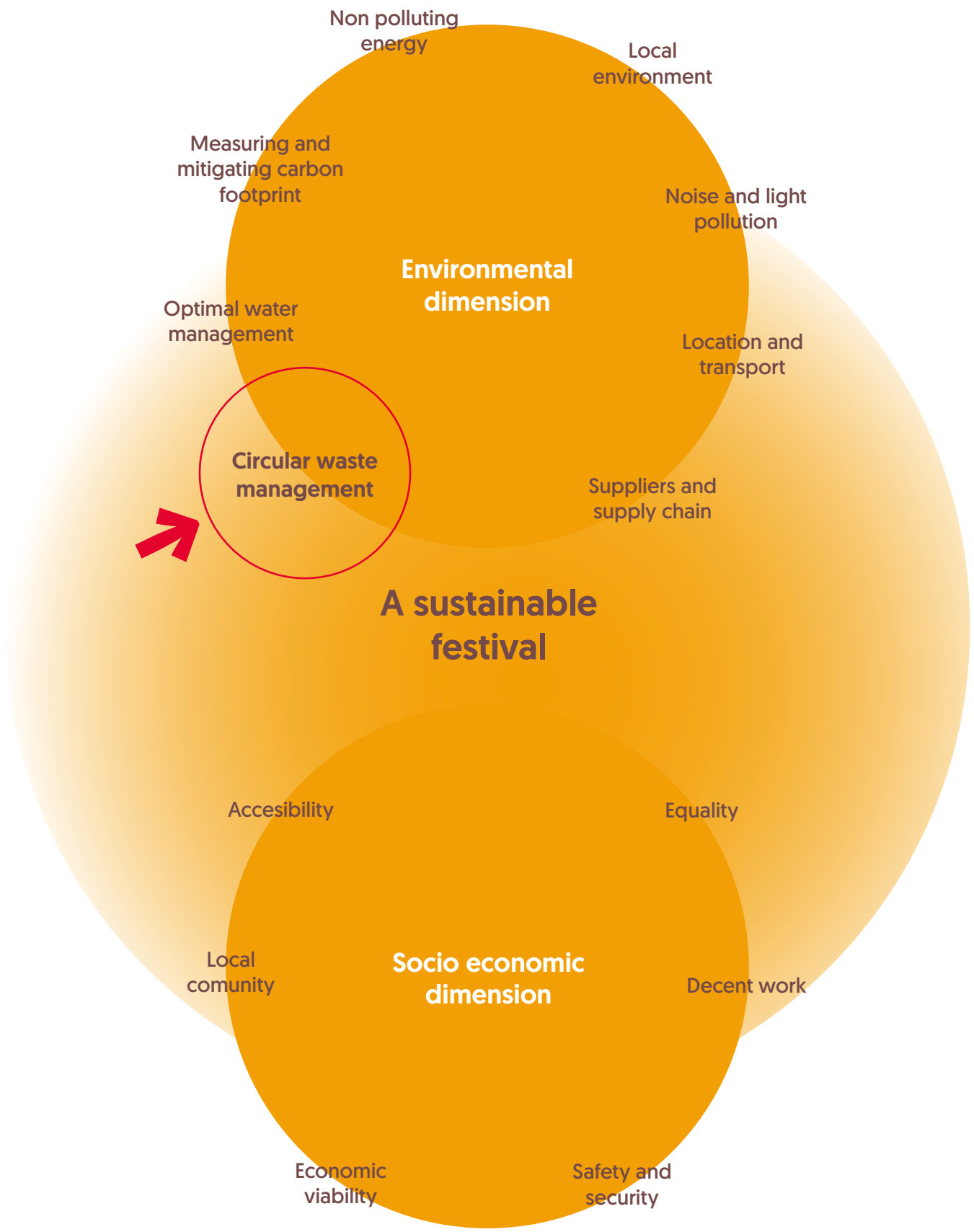


# Introduction

## **Festivals and circularity**

In a few years, music festivals have become very relevant actors in the cultural sphere, bringing together a massive audience in a limited time and space frame. This means, on the one hand that (as we all know) they can generate important environmental impacts in the surroundings they take place in. But on the other, this means that they can act as effective social labs for implementing best practices at different levels.

One of the focuses of the FMA is on waste management and circularity. The decision to focus on this is due to different reasons. First and foremost, because, in the context of sustainable festivals, it is important. Circularity is one of the basic pillars of sustainability. Let's recall that Sustainability comprises different areas: environmental one, social and economic, and circularity.



Graph 1. Circularity and waste on the map of sustainable festivals.

Secondly, because there has been a large proliferation of norms on circularity and waste management both at European and, in our case, at Spanish level. Waste has traditionally been a topic which politicians have avoided to talk about, because it generates rejection, people don't like talking about garbage, it is something which has been better to «sweep it under the rug». But, it seems as though politicians have started to realise that in order to comply with the 2030 objectives, in order to solve pressing issues such as climate change, and even to address other social issues –because as we all know, how waste is managed at has large social implications– waste management has to be talked about. It has therefore gained prominence in the political agenda.

Given the growth in norms and regulations on circularity, we have identified a need to create guidance on how these norms should be materialized, in particular within the cultural sector and, within it, in music festivals.

So, while framing circularity within the broader framework of sustainability, this guide offers practical tools for festivals to implement the new legal requirements which Spain (as a result of EU regulation) has established, as well as useful recommendations in best practices regarding circular waste management.

# Some data on waste production and waste management

At Spanish level, in 2020 the amount of total generated waste was of **2230 kilos per person**; at EU level, the number is **4813kg** per person.

[Eurostat, 2021]

Regarding **municipal waste**, (because the later includes all waste – construction...etc), numbers were **472 kilos** per person in Spain, and 530 kg at EU level in 2021 [Eurostat, 2021].

[Fuente: Eurostat 2021]

At EU level, **39% of total waste** was recycled in 2020.

[Fuente: Eurostat 2021]

**Spain has not complied** with the EU objective of **recycling 55%** of generated municipal waste.

[MITECO, Memoria Anual de Gestión de Residuos]

# On the path towards circularity

Directive 2018/851 of the Parliament and of the Council of 30 May 2018 amending Directive 2008/98/EC on waste establishes the following objectives:

By 2025, the preparing for re-use and the recycling of municipal waste shall be increased to a minimum of **55 % by weight**; by 2030 to a minimum of **60 % by weight**; by 2035, by a **minimum of 65%**.

[Article 11 of Waste Framework Directive, as amended by Directive 2018/851]

In line with this, the new Spanish legislation on waste sets the following aims:

To reduce generated waste by **13% in 2025**, with respect to the levels in 2010 and by **15% in 2030**.

# New provisions on waste management in Spain

In Spain, waste is a 'shared competence'; the state establishes the basic regulation and autonomous communities can develop these basic norms; local levels can also develop rules within their competences.

Two basic rules have been recently approved at national level:

- *Ley 7/2022, de 8 de abril, de residuos y suelos contaminados para una economía circular, que sienta las bases reguladoras en materia de residuos en el estado español.*
- *Real Decreto 1055/2022, de 27 de diciembre, de envases y residuos de envases.*

These are some of the **key elements** of the new legislation which festivals must pay attention to:



## Festivals as waste producers

The new regulation is guided by the polluter pays principle (as so is the EU 2018 Directive): in this sense, promoters of cultural events, including music festivals, are, as defined in Article 2 of the regulation, legal entities who produce waste with their activity. As such, they must take responsibility for the waste that is generated in their events, according to waste hierarchy.

Among the responsibilities they must acquire:

- To separate waste at source as established by municipal regulations.
- To carry out adequate waste management and document it accordingly. They can choose to do this by either:
  - Carrying out the treatment by themselves (given that they have the appropriate authorisation).
  - Ordering the treatment to a registered dealer entity.
  - Delivering the waste to a public or private entity for its treatment.

- To facilitate waste management, identify waste before its delivery and provide waste managers with all the necessary information needed for waste management.
- There are particular responsibilities regarding hazardous waste: in a festival, waste classified as hazardous by this new laws might be waste coming from oil and fuels for generators, waste from paint or sprays, or electronic equipment. In the case of this hazardous waste being generated promoters are obliged to determine its specific characteristics and to store, package and label them accordingly. They will also have to acquire a financial guarantee for them in case anything happens.
- Provide local entities with information regarding waste that is handed in.
- Maintain the waste that is collected in adequate conditions of hygiene and security.
- In case the autonomous community in question requires other necessary information to be reported, comply with these particular requirements.
- The responsibility of the promoter finishes when the treatment of the generated waste is complete and duly recorded.



## Sanctions

- Should festival promoters not comply with their responsibilities as waste producers, the new waste legislation has established sanctions up to 3.500.000 € and possible disqualifications for carrying out professional activities to up to 10 years.
- Other new sanctions have been established for littering – if scattered garbage is found around the festival, with sanctions up to 600.000 € and to 3.500.000 € in the case of hazardous waste or contaminated soils.



## Other responsibilities established by the norms to reduce generation of packaging waste

- The obligation to offer free and non-packaged water sources at cultural, festive, and sports events.
- When reusable cups are used and a deposit is asked for, the appropriate mechanisms should be implemented to enable its devolution.



# Managing waste in music festivals



## Planning for waste generation: an integrated approach

As with every area of sustainability, circular waste management requires an integrated and comprehensive approach.



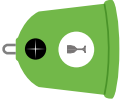
In the event, a large variety of waste will be generated, with different characteristics and in very different areas.

The first step should therefore be to complete an inventory of all the waste which will be generated in the festival, which can help promoters to foresee how much waste will be generated, what kind of waste will be generated and where it will be produced. The type and amount of waste produced varies from area to area, and from phase to phase of the festival.

In order to make it easier for promoters, the circular guide provides an easy to use template to fill in. The table enables promoters to anticipate the waste they will generate in their festivals and therefore plan for it accordingly.

### Steps on how to use the table:

1. Go over the phases/areas at the right-hand corner of the table, and make sure that those that apply to your festival are reflected (perhaps you have to add or delete an area)
2. Check the boxes that apply to you. You can specify in each case if you consider that the level of generated waste of that particular type is low, medium or high.
3. According to the boxes you have checked, you will be able to identify the type of containers you will need.
4. According to the number of boxes you have checked for each container and to the intensity reflected in them (low – medium – high), you can make an estimation of the number of containers of each type that you will need.

Type of waste	Container	Description	Areas inside the festival						Other areas	
			Production	Celebration				Dismantling		
				Camping area	Bar area	Backstage	Audience area			
Plastics	Yellow container 	Metallic packaging (such as aluminum and steel cans for food and drinks)								
		Brik cartoons								
		Plastic bottles								
		Plastic bags								
		Plastic trays and tappers								
		Plastic film and bubble wrap								
		Shrink-wrapped plastic								
		Plastic cup								
Paper and cardboard	Blue container 	Paper and cardboard packaging (boxes, trays, wrapping paper)								
		Paper posters (unplasticised)								
		Printed paper (flyers, programmes, setlist...)								
		Clean paper packaging (with no food or oil leftovers)								
Glass	Igloo 	Glass jars and bottles								









## Specific problems which have been identified and solutions provided

- **Specific training:** Different campaigns are being carried out regarding recycling, waste separation...but clearly managing waste generated in a festival has nothing to do with managing our waste at home. Counting on a team that is trained on the topic is the best guarantee for an adequate, circular waste management to be conducted at a festival. Therefore, both at public and private level, more information and training is needed (our guide responds to this identified need).
- **Specialised staff:** Similarly, being able to count on a specialised agent to coordinate and supervise the waste management in the festival is important. But it is a common practice to have the person that needs to do this job to also have to do many other jobs, especially in the production area, and the job regarding waste management supervision is many times pushed into the background. Also, many times, people who carry out functions related to waste management have temporary contracts and quite precarious working conditions, and this not only of course a problem per se, but is also an obstacle for proper specialization of the staff regarding the circular management of waste at festivals. Information and acquired skills are lost from one edition to the next.
- **Collaboration among different actors:** for a holistic approach, collaboration between all the team involved in the festival is important, at all stages, and of course.
- **Promoter's compromise** with carrying out a circular festival.



## The environmental impact of generated waste attending to the place where it is generated

We are all aware that waste has different impacts regarding where it is deposited in the natural environment, and we have wanted to provide, with the present guide, a comprehensive table which reflects these, which may also be useful for festivals in their communication campaigns. One of the examples provided is the following:

Bad practice	Impact on rural/ natural environment	Impact on urban area	Impact on maritime area	Good practice
Throwing cigarette ends to the floor	Environmental pollution (can take up to 12 years to degrade).	Pollution and dirt accumulation (can take up to 12 years to degrade).	Risk of ending up in the sea polluting the environment (can take up to 12 years to degrade).	Using ashtrays available at the festival.
	Fire Hazard.	Risk of ending up in the sewage system, green areas, rivers and polluting the environment.	Risk of ingestion by an animal i[+ travels up the food chain).	Using portable ashtrays.
	Risk of ingestion by an animal.	Risk of small children picking them up.	Change in animal behaviour due to waste accumulation.	Making sure the cigarette is fully unit and putting it into the municipal waste bin.
	Risk of small children picking them up.			Always avoid throwing cigarette ends to the floor, even if they are «biodegradable».



## A set of recommendations to progress towards circular festivals

The Guide provides a final set of recommendations to progress in the making of circular festivals, which are aimed at festivals, but also at public administrations and other relevant agents.

**These are some of the recommendations provided in the Guide towards circular festivals, grouped in the following specific areas:**

### Training

- Conduct trainings regarding circular waste management aimed at all workers in the festival.
- Carry out communication campaigns, both external and internal, to ensure workers and festival attendants are aware of how to separate waste, with particular emphasis on relatively new materials such as bioplastics or multilayer materials such as tetra bricks.
- Suppliers and materials.
- Draw a Code of Conduct for sustainable purchasing; taking into account the reusable potential of purchased materials when taking purchase decisions.
- Include sustainability clauses in contracts with suppliers, including clauses regarding collaboration in waste reduction and management.
- Prioritise renting over purchasing.
- Assess the viability of sharing resources between festivals which occur in nearby places and encourage the donation of leftover materials.
- Clarify the sustainability of materials used for regarding sets and merchandising: avoid the use of polystyrene; avoid having merchandising which contains multi-layered materials such as pvc which are difficult to recycle.
- As the new legislation requires, implement a system of preferably returnable reusable cups and ban the use of disposable plastic material.



- Try to avoid artificial grass and substances such as confetti, glitter, firework, plastic balloons...
- Selective waste collection
- Carry out a previous analysis of the waste that will be generated.
- Use only the necessary containers that, during the previous analysis, have been determined (and not more, as it could lead to confusion among assistants).
- Make sure that clear information is provided in the areas for waste collection and, if possible, that there are people there supervising the process and providing guidance.
- Provide ashtrays and specific bins for increasingly common disposable cigarettes.

## Water

- Prioritise water fountains and non-packaged water.
- Monitor water consumption in the festival and use recycled water for toilets.

## Energy efficiency

- Monitor energy consumption in the festival.
- Implement protocols which encourage turning off any equipment which may cause unnecessary energy consumption.