

SSET CASE STUDY CITY OF RICHMOND **MOBILE WATER FILL STATIONS**



SUSTAINABLE SPORT AND EVENT TOOLKIT CASE STUDY

MOBILE WATER FILL STATIONS

BACKGROUND

In late 2013, the City of Richmond was invited to become a development partner with the International Academy of Sport Science Technology/Académie Internationale des Sciences et Techniques du Sport (AISTS) in Lausanne, Switzerland for the development and implementation of the Sustainable Sport and Event Toolkit (SSET). In 2014, a three-year partnership with AISTS was approved to promote the City of Richmond as a leader in sport, sustainability, event management and economic development.

A cross-functioning planning team comprised of staff from the City of Richmond and the Richmond Olympic Oval was established to incorporate a Sustainable Sport and Event Toolkit into the Richmond community. In the summer of 2014, the team introduced the AISTS Quick Start Guide to local event planners and organizers for use during the event planning process. After reviewing the feedback provided by event organizers, the team condensed and focused the information provided in the AISTS Quick Start Guide into seven main areas and developed materials tailored specific to community events and environments.

The City of Richmond's Water Services Department recognized the negative environmental impacts that result from the production and use of plastic water bottles and as a result has developed and purchase portable water stations for use at various community events in Richmond. The five mobile water dispensing stations are made available for event organizers to encourage smart water choices while also providing a free sustainable alternative to single-use disposable water bottles.

APPROACH

Presently, the City of Richmond's Water Services Department operates and maintains the five portable dispensing systems. Three of these stations are larger units with 4 - 6 faucets capable of dispensing water into both water bottles as well as traditional drinking fountain taps. The two remaining smaller stations are single faucets that provide flexibility for smaller events. All of the water stations have built-in filtering systems to ensure safe drinking water for end users.

- 1** CREATE A COMMITMENT STATEMENT
- 2** REDUCE WASTE AND RECYCLE
- 3** MAKE SMART WATER CHOICES
- 4** ESTABLISH A POSITIVE LOCAL IMPACT
- 5** PROMOTE PUBLIC AND CLEAN TRANSPORTATION
- 6** MAKE SMART FOOD CHOICES
- 7** SUPPORT SUSTAINABLE ACCOMMODATION



SITUATION ANALYSIS

All of the mobile water dispensing stations is managed by the City's Water Services Department. The larger fill stations are stored in a dedicated mobile trailer, making transportation of the stations easy for staff. The smaller station's podium-like structure can fit in the back of a standard truck for easy deployment when needed. The newest mobile fill station is designed to provide users with water that has been chilled by an internal cooling system that is hooked into an adjacent power source. The cooled water has increases the appeal of the water to event participants.

Each mobile fill station requires a 5-meter proximity to a water source; often this is in the form of either a fire hydrant or another potable water source. The Water Services Department provides technical expertise in ensuring the supply of water is properly connected to City water services, as well as sample testing upon each installation to ensure a safe water supply for the public to enjoy.

City staff work with various event organizers throughout the year to assess the size and scope of events as it relates to number and size of mobile fill stations required., Use of the mobile water station is provided free of charge to event organizers on an availability basis with City of Richmond events having priority over the fountains.

Event organizer are requested to submit an application for the fountains at least one week in advance.

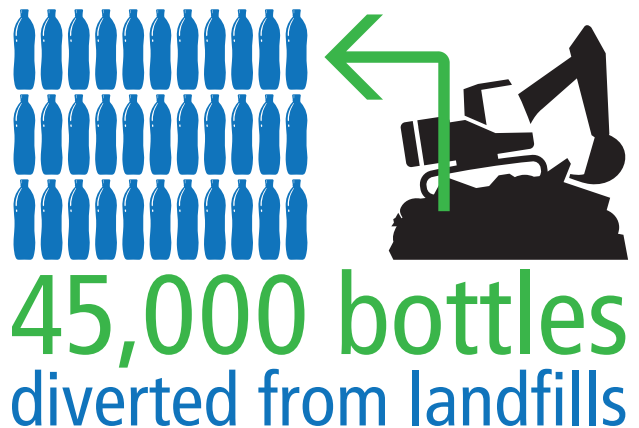


PROGRAM OUTCOMES

Since the roll out of the mobile fill stations in 2015, the public reception of the devices has been positive. This is reflected in event attendees' feedback of the fill stations, as well as the increase in rental applications by event organizers.

Feedback on the fill stations is that they are convenient, free and easy to use. The implementation and continued high use of the water stations not only contributes to reducing the use of single-use water bottles, but it also makes events more friendly for to attendees that choose to carry their own re-usable water bottles.

In 2019, the mobile water stations were deployed to 51 events, dispensing over 22.5 cubic meters of water, which is the equivalent of 45,000 500ml single-use water bottles.



CONCLUSION

The fill stations' presence at various Richmond events has encouraged Richmond residents to bring their own re-suable water bottle instead of purchasing single-use water bottles. The mobile water fill stations at public events achieve measurable results in the plastic waste diversion as well as sustainable event planning practices. The support of the Water Services Department in conjunction with City event hosting staff highlights Richmond's commitment to supporting sustainable event hosting practices.

