



Horse Show Management Guide

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Here are some initiatives to make your local horse show more environmentally sustainable!

This piece was designed for to help horse show managers reduce the impact of their event

Participate in our Refuse to Use campaign!

Rethink the three R's: Reduce, Reuse, and Recycle. The terms are in this exact order for a good reason. It is important to reduce your consumption of single-use materials as often as you can. You can do this by re-using materials. And if you cannot avoid using these materials for some reason, recycle everything you can!

Although some product packaging is recyclable, only a small of plastic consumed is actually recycled. According to National Geographic, a mere 9% of plastic waste has been recycled, the rest accumulating in landfills or within the natural environment as litter.

How can you help?

- Install touch-free water refill stations, COVID-19 depending
- Offer alternatives to the single-use plastics, such as Boxed Water Is Better™
- Minimize plastic and use compostable alternatives for food packaging
- Include friendly reminders around the facility to recycle in the appropriate bins

Develop a Ribbon Recycling Program!

For many competitors, horse show ribbons are prized possessions that represent distinct moments and achievements. However, this is not always the case. Ribbons are often collected at the ring to display in a barn's setup, only to be discarded at the end of the show. To combat this waste, show organizers may place Ribbon Recycle bins around the show grounds for an easy return at the end of the show. Returned ribbons will be steamed and awarded at future competitions until they find forever homes with riders who will cherish the memories they represent. If you already have a large collection of ribbons you no longer want, consider donating to a therapeutic riding program or summer camp.



Photos 1 & 2: Split Rock Jumping Tour
Photo 3: GNB

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Conserve water use when possible!

With a limited water supply and environmental conditions such as drought, natural disasters such as wildfires may become increasingly common. The availability of water is not only an environmental problem, but a social issue as well. Access to clean water is necessary for horse and human health, hygiene, and to grow the crops that feed us.



Photo: Split Rock Jumping Tour

How can you help?

- Use a nozzle to control water flow and improve bathing efficiency
- Ensure all hoses and pipes are correctly attached with no leaks
- Include friendly reminders in the wash racks to turn off water completely when not in use



Support Biodiversity in landscape and course design!

Biodiversity describes the overall variety of living things in the ecosystem -- from microorganisms to plants to horses and their riders -- and is important because it provides vital resources such as food, water, shelter, medicine, and fuel. A biodiverse environment is also more resilient in the face of disaster. When equestrians source native plants within the course design and farm landscaping processes, they help to sustain the local environments that, in turn, sustain human life.

To build a "Living Jump", source native plants from a local nursery or research appropriate species to grow through the National Wildlife Federation's Native Plant Finder. Include species that support pollinators and other insects, such as lady bugs. To add to sustainability, many plant species in your jump can be replanted for use in the following years. Other places to include biodiversity include farm landscaping and the awards presentation area.



Photo: A&S Photography



Photo: Split Rock Jumping Tour