



The Daily Gleaner

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Green Your Harvest

The school year begins, summer ends, and often this time of year brings with it some feelings of melancholy. But fortunately for all of us, this time of year also means that the Harvest Jazz and Blues Festival is right around the corner! For six days, beginning this Tuesday, the city comes alive with great musical acts, lively days and evenings, and people bustling from tent to tent to catch as much music as possible. And whether you are an avid patron, a hard working volunteer, a dedicated organizer or a talented musician, you can do your part to 'Green Your Harvest'.

'Green Your Harvest' is based on the same principles as the City of Fredericton's Green Matters campaign, where individuals are encouraged to make small changes that collectively make a big difference. This is evidenced most fluently in Harvest's waste reduction strategy - which can only be achieved with your help! As an example, to help support the printing of fewer programs each year, we ask that you leave your program at any Harvest Admissions table, located at the entrance of all tents, for the next person to use.

Although Harvest's carbon footprint is not astronomical, at 32 tonnes of greenhouse gas emissions, the goal is to reduce this tonnage year after year. If everyone works together, it can easily be achieved. The amount of tickets that are printed is equal to 5,000 pieces of paper. Similarly, 6,000 plastic bracelets are equivalent to thirteen pounds of plastic. To an individual, having a ticket and a bracelet may not seem like a big deal, but together this amounts to a lot of recyclable items sitting in the landfill if they end up in the garbage can. So don't go home and throw out your bracelet and tickets! Harvest Green Volunteers will be collecting unwanted ticket stubs and cutting off plastic bracelets at the end of the night to ensure they are recycled.

This year there are fewer parking spaces downtown than usual due to construction of the new convention center next to the Playhouse, so the NB Liquor Harvest Park & Ride system was created to help Festival patrons get downtown easier and with fewer carbon emissions. Get your friends together, and if you can't walk, bike or take the bus downtown, carpool to the FREX parking lot and a shuttle will pick you up and drop you off in a central downtown **location every 15 minutes from 3pm to 3am on Thursday, Friday and Saturday**. The goal is to have minimal traffic congestion and idling in the downtown core - for public safety, enjoyment and air quality. As well, to add to the welcoming atmosphere and to create a walk-able festival, many streets downtown will be closed so it will be much easier to park outside the downtown core and walk or shuttle the rest of the way.

Jacques Whitford is proud to have served Fredericton for 30 years, and to celebrate they are hosting a carbon neutral event at the Aliant Mojo tent on Saturday night. Jacques Whitford has graciously purchased carbon credits to offset the flights of each musician performing in the Aliant Mojo tent that

night. And Harvest is pleased to offer beverages that evening in the Aliant Mojo tent in biodegradable cups (which will be composted!), and on top of that the tent house lights will be solar powered!

Organizers have been working hard to green their operations as well. Volunteer registration is a paperless process, and our volunteers will enjoy wearing 100% organic t-shirts! Energy efficient printers were purchased for the Festival office, and an LCD projector is being used to replace printing numerous agendas and reports at meetings. And if you are coming to the store to purchase some awesome Festival merchandise, don't forget to bring your own reusable bag! Otherwise plastic bags have been replaced with paper bags. And don't forget to bring your family to Congo Square to see how they are going green too!

The biggest thing to look out for this year are the Cupsuckers, long tubes attached to garbage bins. With stacked cups, more cups fit into garbage bags and thus less garbage bags are used to recycle the cups! So reuse your cup, and when you are done with it find a Cupsucker to help recycle it!

Remember, if we all do our part, together we can significantly reduce the environmental impact of our Harvest this year! Use less, reuse what you can, and find a recycle bin – they will be everywhere! So as you enjoy the sweet notes of this year's Harvest, we thank you for supporting 'Green Your Harvest' and continuing to make Fredericton a green leader.

Jessica Scott is on the City of Fredericton's Climate Change Team and is the Chair of 'Green Your Harvest' for the Harvest Jazz & Blues Festival.