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The Taste of Tacoma® Goes Green

For the past 25 years, Emerald Queen Casino's Taste of Tacoma has been a successful and popular event. The culinary delights, first-class musical and comedic entertainment and other fun attractions have played a large part in the festival's success. For 25 years, the Taste has been a good steward of Point Defiance Park. This year's Taste, June 25-27 also promises to please festival-goers' palates in an eco-friendly way.

In celebration of its 25th birthday, ECQ Taste of Tacoma has partnered with Tacoma Solid Waste Management and the YMCA to expand the festival's green initiative. With the growing concern regarding the issues of sustainability and the desire of the public to support environmentally-friendly businesses, those involved in the production of the EQC Taste of Tacoma have taken several steps to increase the ways in which the festival can stay current with this trend.

All vendors participating in the 2010 festival are required to dispose of food waste and compostable material in receptacles provided by event management. A similar program was put in place for the 2009 festival but was optional for merchants. Despite the noncompulsory recycling guidelines, TSWM collected over one ton of waste that was then composted. "We hope to double that number in 2010 with the help of the YMCA by educating vendors and closely monitoring decontamination," said Bjorn Estlund, Director of Operations for the Taste of Tacoma.

Producers of the June 2010 event are working together to increase food waste composting and recycling programs. One of the collaborative efforts being made to aid in these programs is increasing the number of plastic recycling bins. In partnership with TSWM and the Tacoma Dome, the EQC Taste of Tacoma will provide 20 additional recycling bins, Estlund said.

For more information about the Taste of Tacoma®, please click on <http://www.tasteoftacoma.com> or call (425)295-3262.

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