

# SUSTAINABILITY AND EVENTS

**Wednesday 26 September 2018**

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## **Event Location: MEA Webinar**

CINZ recently participated in a webinar on Sustainability and Events. Sustainability is a hot issue in Australia at the moment. Some of the issues making news recently include coral bleaching on the Great Barrier Reef, the current drought, a popular TV Show called “War on Waste,” and the largest supermarket chains saying NO to plastic bags. As a result, overall awareness has grown, and expectations have risen.

Some of you can expect to be questioned on your sustainability policy from time to time as some established events these days have strict sustainability policies, and hence need to work with organisations willing to adhere. We were given an example of Gold Coast Commonwealth Games where they had 9 pillars to work with, including a “sustainable procurement” pillar which they outsourced to Edge Environment, an Australian based organisation who is a leader in advising events on best practice.

What we thought valuable for you are some examples where meetings can be more sustainable:

- Venue choice and public transport access
- Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander (ATSI) catering suppliers: [supplynation.org.au](http://supplynation.org.au)
- Vegetarian and locally sourced food
- Teleconferencing solutions / options
- Eliminating use of disposable crockery / cutlery
- Online registration – ensure space/catering for final numbers
- Electronic sharing of meeting materials
- Appropriate waste disposal options.

You will notice these points cross over between social, environmental and economic impact, as this is the sweet spot of sustainability. For some organisations and companies this will also be a consideration when selecting a destination, products and activities within programmes.

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