



Reusables at events

Global survey

A survey of 70 event industry representatives from around the world was undertaken to analyse existing reusable cups and service ware and systems at events, the hygiene standards adhered to, and confidence in these standards.

Currently Events

Reusable bar cups were the most commonly used reusable item at events with 70% of respondents indicating that they had either supplied or used these items, followed by reusable service ware, coffee cups and bottles.

The three most common forms of washing solutions for reusable items were **manual handwashing onsite** (47%), **utilising existing/built-in infrastructure at their venue** (37%) or **sending these items back** to a reusable supplier purpose-built headquarters (27%).

Confidence

The survey revealed that there is an opportunity to increase pre-event confidence that reusable items arrive to the event site from the supplier, readily hygienic.

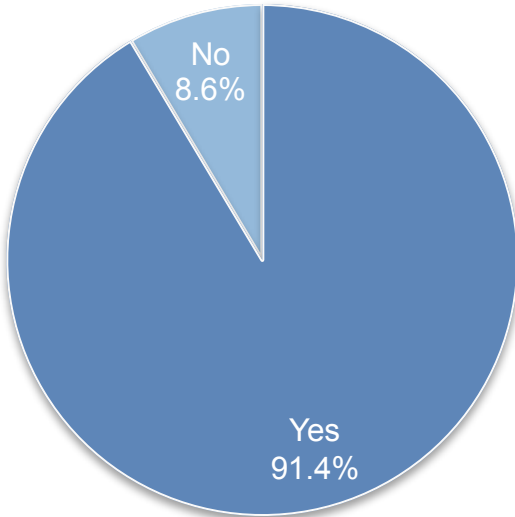
Only 56% of respondents were extremely or very confident of this considering the pre-covid systems. This does not necessarily mean items were not adequately sanitised, but there was not a high confidence in proof that they were.

Compliance with Hygiene Standards

While there are many different methods for monitoring compliance with hygiene standards onsite, this often relies on some form of self-assessment even if it is signed off by another party. The survey indicates a **requirement for more transparency and communication on what hygiene standards are used or should be used**, for consistency, and to increase the overall confidence in reuse particularly while an event is taking place.

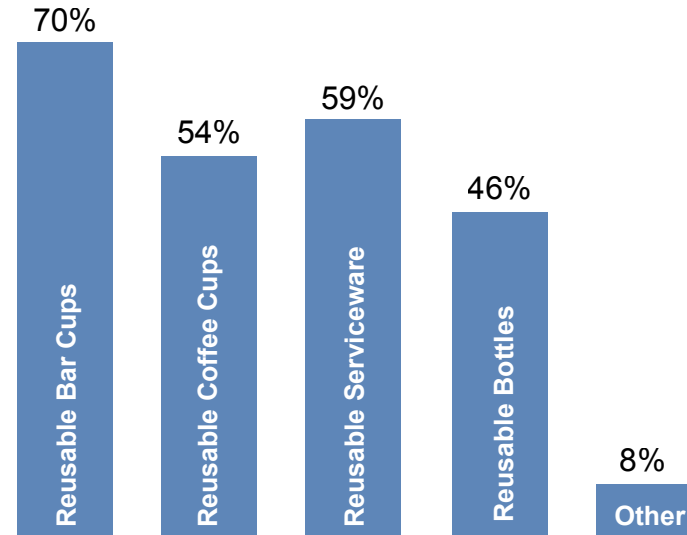
Question 1:

Have you ever implemented or been a part of the planning process of delivering a reusable solution at an event or venue?



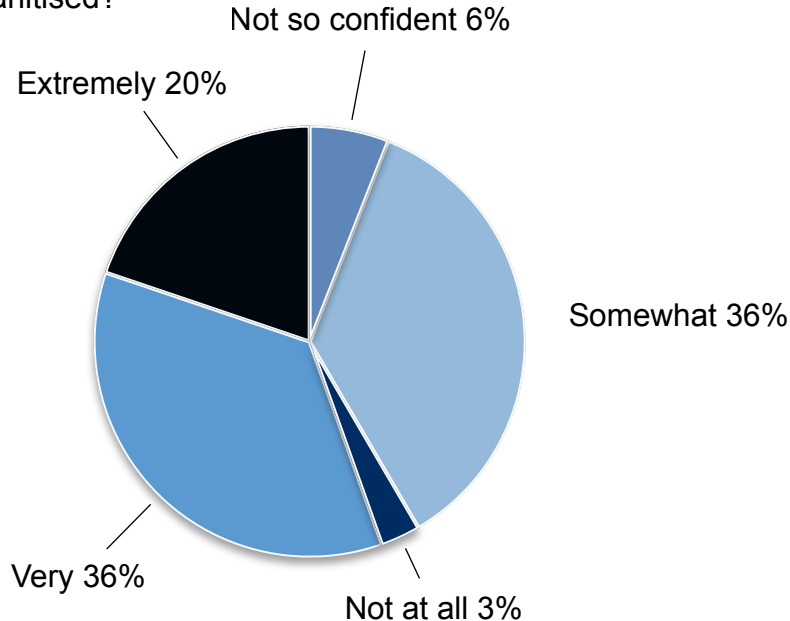
Question 2:

What reusable items for events have you supplied and/or used?



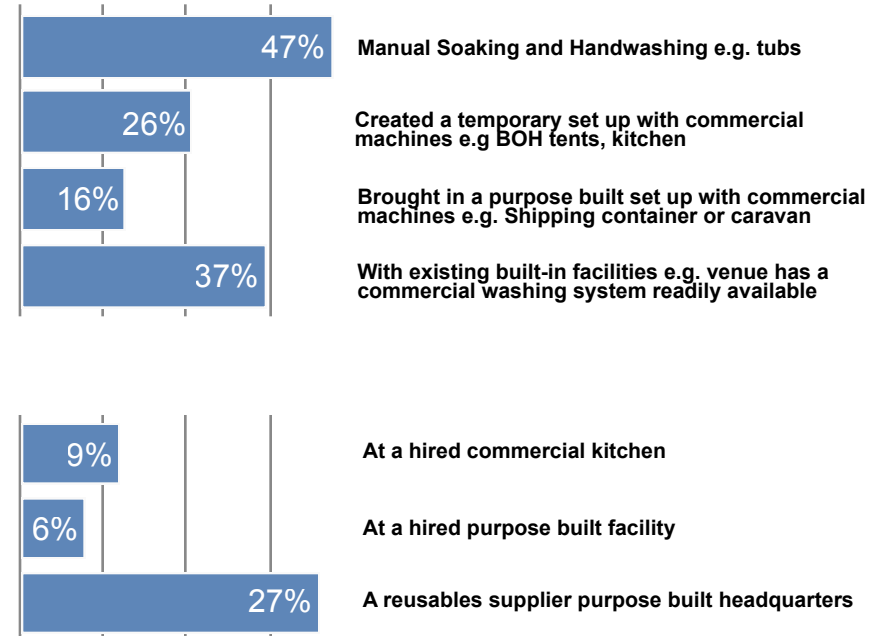
Question 3:

When reusable items arrive onsite at an event or venue, how **confident** are you that the reusable items are readily hygienic and sanitised?



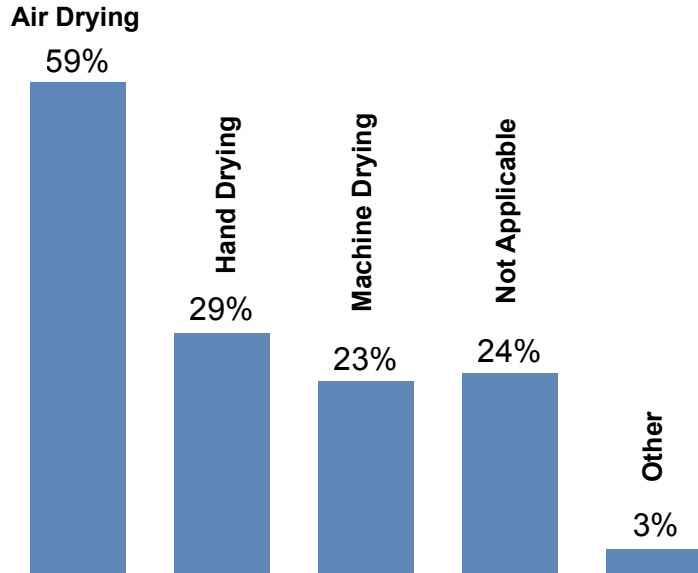
Question 4:

What washing solutions have you used or implemented for an event or venue?



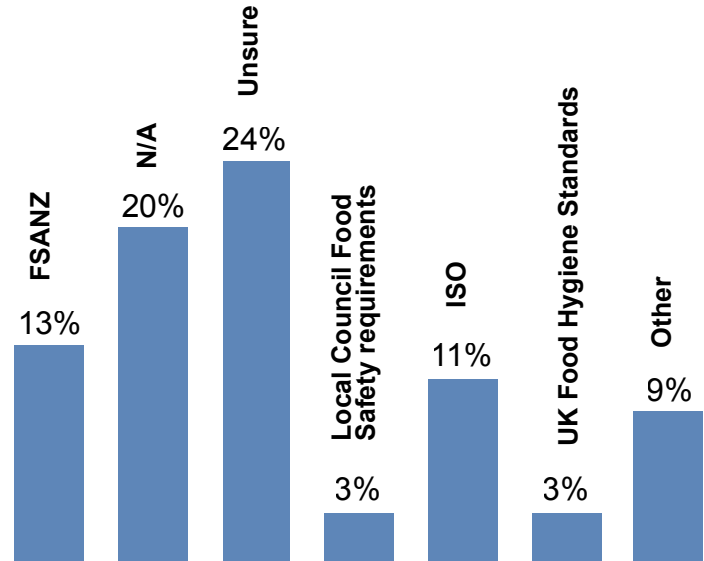
Question 5:

If applicable - what methods of drying have you used onsite at an event or venue?



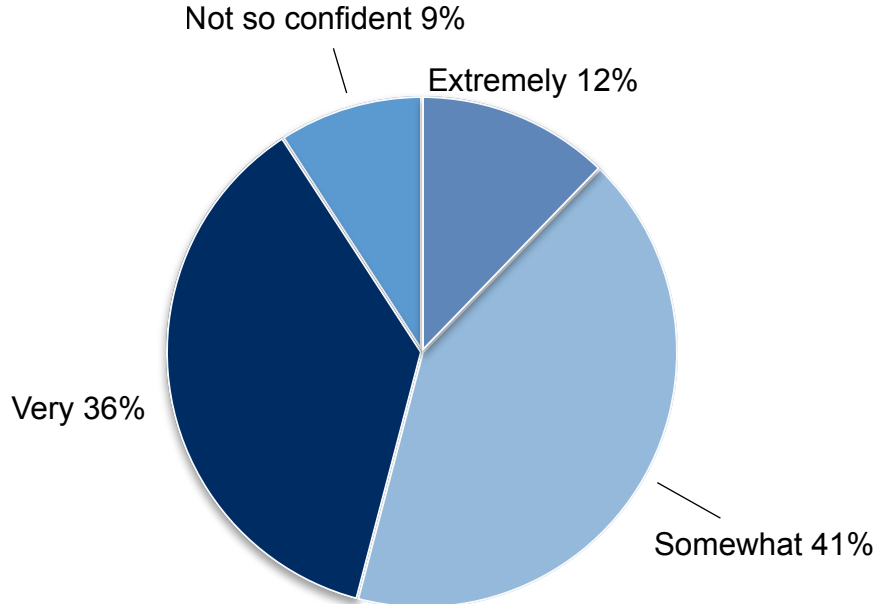
Question 6:

What hygiene standards does your organisation, event or venue currently adhere to for washing reusable items? e.g ISO, FSANZ



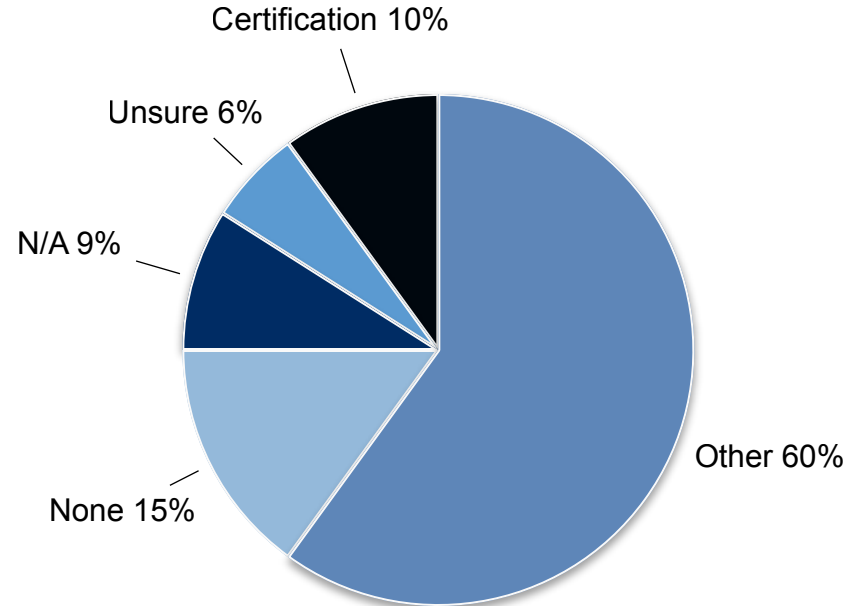
Question 7:

How confident are you that the hygiene standards your organisation, event or venue use are adhered to onsite? (i.e. at the event or venue)



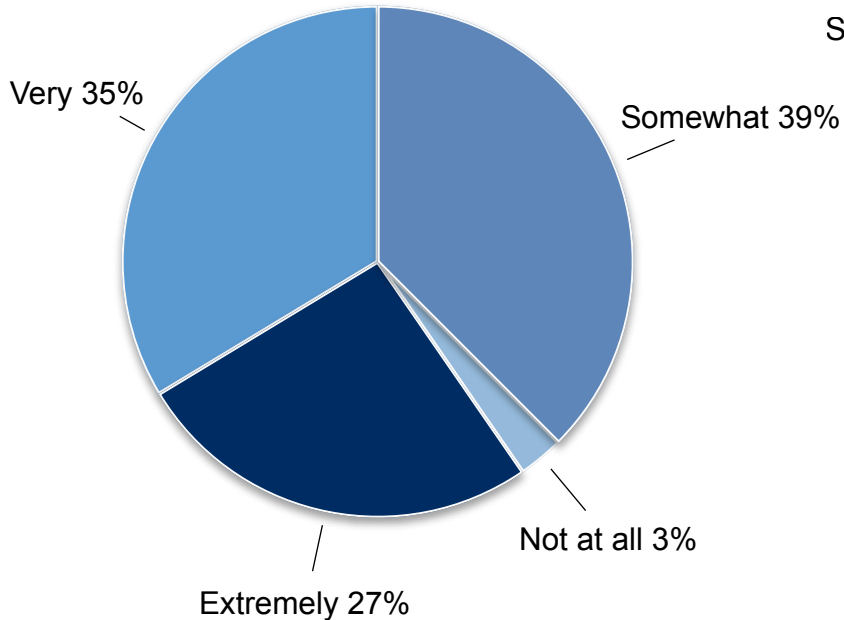
Question 8:

How is compliance to hygiene standards monitored onsite? e.g. Health and Safety Sign Off, Certification



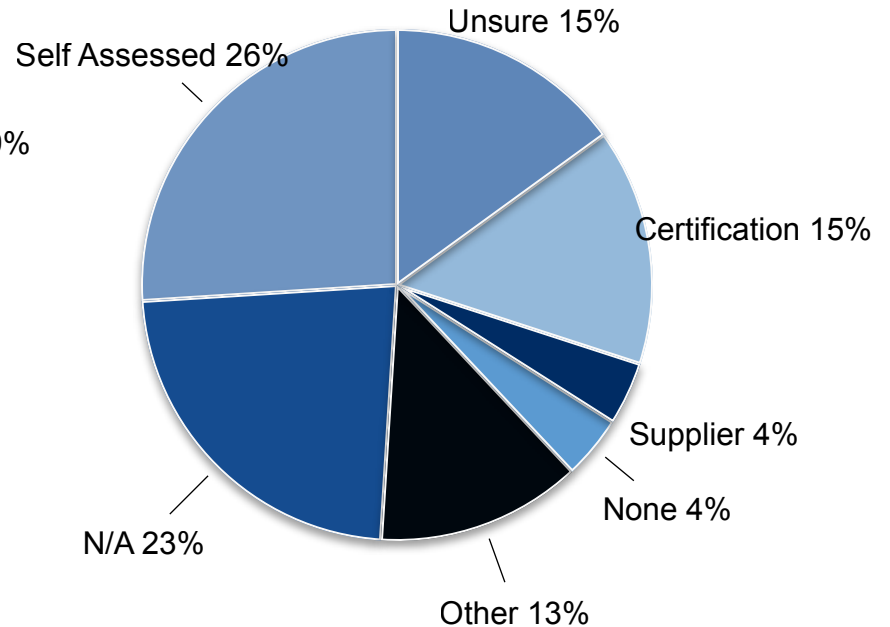
Question 9:

How confident are you that hygiene standards are met offsite? e.g. washed offsite at a suppliers facility



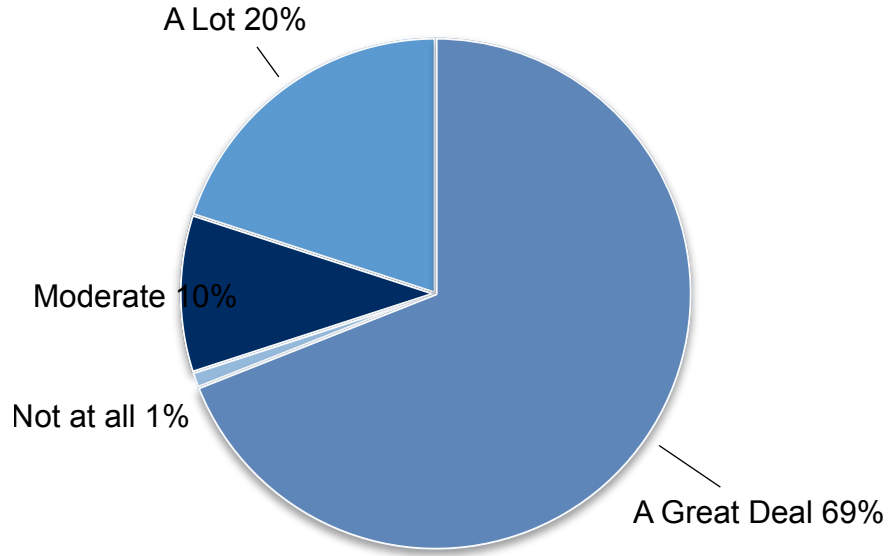
Question 10:

How is compliance to hygiene standards met offsite? e.g. self assessment, certification



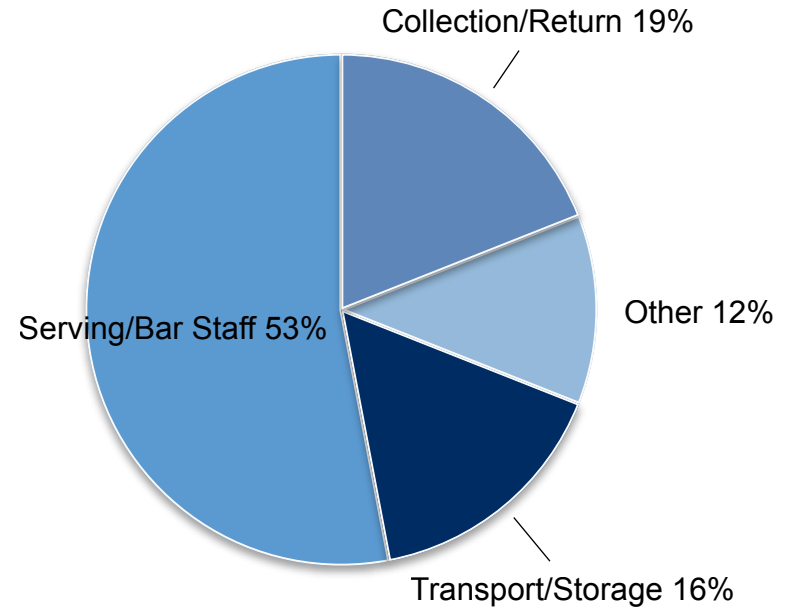
Question 11:

Do you believe the creation of transparent global reusable hygiene standards is beneficial for the event industry?



Question 12:

What other touch points at events have you identified that pose a hygiene handling risk with reusables?



“I think it's important to consult recycling crew. Their experience with collections and clearance can be easily adapted and they have strong networks with motivation to be working on washing rather than litter clearance. I particularly want to see more managers of waste crew involvement at planning meetings. Waste crew need to be diverted to campsite management as well as reusable collection/return crew.”

“It's important take account about the detergents and the methods of washing and drying. More efficient machines (less energy, less water..) and ecological detergents.”

“Another issue is how confident/ comfortable the audience is using reusables.”

“The consumer can only perceive and appreciate the level of care and safety that THE SYSTEM OFFERS”

Respondents

Reusable Items Supplier e.g. Cups	7
Event or Venue Management	28
Government Agency e.g. Council, Health and Safety	1
Sustainability Organisation or Consultant	24
Other	10

Canada	3
USA	12
Australia	17
New Zealand	13
UK	14
Spain	2

Italy	1
Denmark	1
Netherlands	3
Bulgaria	1
Romania	1
Hong Kong	2

About the project

Event industry and sustainability stakeholders from around the world have announced the formation of the Global Reusables at Events Hygiene Project (RH).

The project was born out of the Sustainable Event Alliance's global hackathon that was held in April where 800 event industry representatives gathered to look at risks and opportunities to #buildbackbetter as we emerge from this global crisis.

The COVID-19 pandemic triggered a global discussion of how to ensure the safety of reusable systems in a public health crisis. Based on the best available science and guidance from public health professionals, reusable systems can be used safely by employing basic hygiene.

The RH Project's mission is to support the ongoing implementation of reuse by developing a best practice hygiene operating guideline for reusable containers at events and venues based on existing standards and evidence that will drive assurance, transparency and accountability for consumers, industry and government.

These guidelines will be flexible, adaptable and scalable to meet the varying implementation requirements of an event, venue, supplier or governing bodies, with safety and environmental benefit at its core.

For more information about the RH Project, please reach out to: christie@sustainable-event-alliance.org

The RH Working Group includes representatives from the event industry and supply chain, and the project is supported by The Ocean Race and 11th Hour Racing.

[Find out more](#)

Working Group Members:

Project Lead

Christie Kamphuis - [Bettercup](#) (Australia) and SEA

Principle Organisers

Kim Renshaw - [Beyond the Bin](#) (New Zealand)

Laura Van de Voort - [Green Events International](#) (The Netherlands)

Claire O'Neil - [A Greener Festival](#) (United Kingdom)

Project Advisors

Jill Savery - [11th Hour Racing](#) (USA)

Meegan Jones - [The Ocean Race](#) (International)

Working Group Members

Hugh Scobie - [WOMADelaide](#) (Australia)

Liam Prince - [The Rubbish Trip](#), Takeaway Throwaways (NZ)

Luuk van Dierman - [LCA Centre](#) (The Netherlands)

James Roles - [Stack Cup](#) (United Kingdom)

Keiko Nicollini - [r.cup](#) (USA, West Coast)

Paula Hopkinson - [Green Goblet](#) (United Kingdom)

Julie Duffus - [International Olympic Committee](#) (Switzerland)

Julia Spangler - [Sustainable Events Consultant](#) (USA East Coast)

Merrin Pearse - [Coordinate4U](#) (Hong Kong)

Cassia Patel - [Oceanic Global](#) (USA East Coast)

Emily Ford - [Hope Solutions](#) (United Kingdom)

