

Tent Recovery Program



Each year tens of thousands of tents and other camping items are discarded by festival goers across the country. The wastefulness of single-use camping equipment is not tolerable and in response *Festival Republic* ensured the *Pack it Down & Hand It In* message was heard loud and clear at this year's *Carling Weekend: Reading & Leeds Festivals*.

Give Me Shelter is a campaign to collect reusable tents and other items, directing them for reuse, in association with international charity **Global Hand**.

The project aims to reduce the number of tents going to landfill through encouraging festival goers to take them home or packing down tents & donating them. It also hopes to shift attitudes away from viewing festival camping gear as disposable single use items.

The idea was promoted at the festivals by 200 dedicated volunteer 'Green Messengers'.

Tents packed up and handed in were taken by Global Hand to a central warehouse and distributed to charities who request this type of aid. Items go to charities such as Crossroads Central Asia, Blythwood Care, Mission Without Borders UK, Union Rescue Mission & Rotary UK, Huruma Rehabilitation Programme, and Ora International.



In addition to tents packed down and handed in, there are still thousands of salvageable tents and other items left in the campgrounds. To cope with this likely scenario, **Scouting Groups** and other community organisations from Berkshire and Yorkshire were invited to come to the campgrounds on Bank Holiday Monday to salvage as many useful items as possible. The Give Me Shelter concept was trialled in 2006 at Carling Weekend: Reading & Leeds Festival, when organisers contacted Global Hand to work on a project to encourage tent donation. 300 tents were donated.

In 2007, there was a **ten-fold increase** on items packed down and donated. A resounding success, collected were: 3000 tents, 2000 Camping Mats/Airbeds, 1800 Sleeping Bags, 1800 Chairs, 1000 Soft items. Many other items such as cookers, coolers, cutlery/crockery kits, pots and pans, gas bottles, clothes and unopened food were also recovered.



Notes to Editors

Information supplied by Meegan Jones, Sustainability Co-Ordinator, Festival Republic.

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