

Over the years, the Kings Mountain Art Fair has worked to reduce its environmental impact and has recently taken it to a new level. For the past two years, the Kings Mountain Art Fair has focused on a goal of “Zero Waste,” sending as little refuse to a landfill as possible, with a goal of sending nothing.

Zero Waste is a fair-wide effort. All food sold at the fair is served in compostable or recyclable products and the map to the Fair is printed on recycled paper. All fair volunteers are encouraged to work towards the goal by helping fairgoers divert most of their refuse into composting or recycling bins.

Kings Mountain Art Fair is one of the most proactive compost/recycling fairs in the state. “We live in a beautiful redwood forest which reminds us daily of this beautiful, fragile earth. We use our fair to help encourage people to think about being more active in their recycling and compost activities at home. And we want Kings Mountain Art Fair to make as little environmental impact as possible,” said Zero Waste coordinators, Ken McIntire and Linda Hennessey Roth.

Additionally, we have a number of juried and mountain artists who “upcycle” used materials to make new pieces of art. It’s one more way to make something beautiful out of something that is old or would have been thrown away.

Our “upcycle” artists include Silvio Modena who makes bells out of old helium tanks (www.imakebells.com); Richard Curtner who creates collages from other materials (www.curtnerart.com); Andy Byrne who turns scrap metal into sculptures (<http://www.andybyrne.com>); and wood sculptors Vicki Banks (www.vulturesculpture.com) and Rodi Ludlum (www.etsy.com/shop/rollingblackout). All of these efforts come together to create a one-of-a-kind experience.

We are transforming our fair into a zero waste event. Last year, out of 3.21 tons of collected trash, we successfully composted 1.19 tons and recycled 1.46 tons, leaving only a half ton of trash leftover from the three day event.