Viking Tour 2026: A Near-0 Waste Rotary Event

Poulsbo Rotary Club completed its annual Viking Tour and Brew Fest in June. It featured hundreds of bike riders and gallons of craft brews, all served up from a leafy park on the edge of Liberty Bay. What was missing? A whole lotta trash!

Here are some of the things the Club did to reduce waste:

- Stainless Steel Cups and Water Dispensers eliminated the need for plastic bottles. Stainless steel cups are machine washable, stack efficiently and don't break.
- Cool looking souvenir pint glasses included in the price eliminated solo cups and provided an additional revenue stream for the Club.
- Volunteer college students staffed Waste Stations, which eliminated contamination of recycling and confusion by participants. Each Waste Station had bins for landfill, food waste, recycling, liquids and cup returns. All bins were at every station so participants didn't have to go looking, (or be tempted blindly dump).
- Ice bags used by brewers were collected in a separate bin and recycled in the NextTrex plastic film program.
- Table clothes were borrowed from a nearby Tableware Lending Library.
- Thoughtful snacks replaced plastic-wrapped processed foods at biker Rest Stops. Banana halves, quartered sandwiches and other finger foods were provided to riders at rest stops, eliminating snack wrappers.

Poulsbo Rotary has a Trashy Taskforce that eliminates the burden of planning and arranging sustainable events. This prevents unsustainable choices being made by over-worked and over-whelmed event volunteers, and also provides the community with an example of ways to make their own events more sustainable!

For more information: How to Run Sustainable Rotary Events