RMLA: Draft Sustainability Parameters

Set out in the table below are some suggested draft sustainability parameters. The main focus of these parameters is to be able to measure and quantify RMLA's impact starting with its Annual Conference. The parameters in the table target waste, which apart from carbon emissions associated with travel would be the most likely effect associated with its conference.

Parameter	Total Parameter	Net Parameter	Purpose	How it could be measured
Solid waste	Total Solid waste produced (MT, Kgs) – for landfill	Solid waste produced per guest (kg/person)	Tracks the total solid waste being produced from an event that will end up in a landfill. (total waste – recycled amount)	This is most likely an estimate. If we could track the number of trash bags /bins used we can assume a standard weight for these and create a total volume. If we had to it can also be done off some assumptions based on purchasing orders
Paper usage	Paper produced per conference	Paper produced per attendee	Tracks the quantity of paper being produced for conference attendees (pamphlets, conference booklets etc)	Provided by Conference Innovators who will be producing these materials.
Electricity Consumption	kWh per conference	kWh per floor area per day	Track the electricity consumption of conferences	Estimated in conjunction with venue staff. This will be facilitated by choosing venues that are aware of their electricity consumption
Food waste	Total Food waste produced (kg)	Food waste per guest (kg per person)	Tracks food waste	As above, will need to liaise with event staff how this can be tracked /estimated.
Plastic used	Total Plastic used (No of items / weight)	Plastic per person (no items, weight / per person)	Specifically tracks plastic used.	We can most likely estimate this from purchase orders
Plastic avoided	Total plastic avoided by adopting sustainable purchasing practices (Total)	Plastic avoided per person (kg or items per person)	This quantifies what is the impact of implementing	Set a business as usual baseline (i.e. assume will purchase as used to with

			more responsible purchasing practices	single use plastic items such as water bottles), and from this minus the actual plastic used – remaining amount is the avoided plastic.
Waste recycled	Total waste recycled (kg)	Waste recycled per person (kg / person)	Tracks waste recycled	Will need to understand the event centers recycling practices and estimate based on what they actually recycle (types of waste) for our quantities produced
Number of products locally sourced	Number of products sourced[1]: 1. From New Zealand 2. Regionally	Not necessary.	Quantifies how many items are locally sourced. This could also be expressed as a dollar amount fairly easily to demonstrate benefits on local economy	From purchasing orders, just need source product, quantity, and price.

Note for each parameter, there is a total amount, and a "net" measurement, which measures the quantity per person. This is very useful to track as it becomes very easy to compare relatively how well you are doing between years, when the numbers of people attending might vary. So for example if you actually improve in 2021, however the number of guests double, then overall the total amounts might increase, however the per person measurements will still show the improvements being made which are otherwise masked. This is a simple calculation, we just take the total for each parameter, and divide it by the number of guests who are in attendance.

Carbon Emissions

The other major impact will be carbon emissions based on travel to and from the venue (particularly for those out of region attendees). If we had a form which collected where people traveled from and their method of travel, from this we could produce some total carbon estimates for travel related carbon emissions. I can do the calculations fairly easily provided I could get this data. If this is too much getting this data, then we can leave this for the next conference.

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[1] Later we could look at expressing this as a percentage of all products that you specifically make purchasing decisions if its feasible.

As discussed, we can also recommend some local offset projects for people who are minded to offset their travel emissions, or RMLA could itself offset the total travel emissions itself based on the calculation above, to make the event "carbon neutral" in relation to travel related emissions.

These projects either sell offsets (mostly forest carbon offsets for NZ projects), or alternatively RMLA can choose projects that plant trees (such as native restoration projects) – It could also have a mixture of the two.