

Austin Marathon trying to recycle, compost all waste from Sunday's event



CBS 42 Reporter: [Gregg Watson](#)

Email: gewatson@keyetv.com

Last Update: 2/16 5:57 pm

The city is trying to make major events go green, and the Austin Marathon says it's doing its part. This weekend thousands of runners left thousands of pounds of trash and that garbage has to go somewhere.

You don't get the title of the "Greenest Race in North America" without earning it. 14,000 runners left an estimated 30,000 cups and containers, and now the Austin Marathon wants to recycle them all, and turn all the biodegradable trash into compost.

"We're just making a bigger effort we tried to cover up as many trash cans as we could along Congress so people wouldn't throw they're recyclables in there," Stacey Conley with the Austin Marathon said.

Workers lug up ladders to make the rubbish recyclable. The waste is churned and turned and left to burn in its own energy.

"Right now they are still in there as whole cups. But after about 48 hours with the heat and the moisture, they will break down and after we turn those about three times that's with wind row turner, they will start bio degrading and composting," Jim Gregory with Texas Disposal Systems said.

The pile will become compost, something they say is good for growing.

"It makes stuff grow better and longer and without any type of pesticides or anything like that." Gregory said.

The marathon wants to keep its title as the greenest race – and keep Austin trash free. They're also recycling 13-thousand plastic water bottles and ten thousand pounds of cardboard boxes.

Besides the recycling, some of the cars used during the race were fueled with bio diesel and were used in no idling zones, saving about 18 gallons of gas on race day.

Copyright 2009, Four Points Media Group LLC. All Rights Reserved.

