

## UFI releases findings around Waste Management in the Exhibitions Industry

- Report highlights many successful initiatives around the world
- Best practices conducted in a heterogeneous regulatory landscape
- Two dedicated UFI connects sessions to discuss those findings on 25 Sept. and 8 Oct.

Paris – 17 September 2020: UFI, the Global Association of the Exhibition Industry is today releasing a report to address the issue of waste in the Exhibitions Industry.

This report derives from several UFI actions, including the set-up of dedicated regional task forces around the world and the selection of best practices through the 2020 award competition on “Best Waste Management”. Contributions from 40 companies covering 22 countries led to these consolidated report of findings.

Compiled by Greenview, Member of the UFI Sustainable Development Working Group, the report successively covers conclusions that emerged from the regulatory landscape; common challenges in waste management and solutions; as well as examples of best practices from around the world.

“Waste generation and diversion is a major challenge in the exhibition industry, due to the nature of the business. While many events organising companies and venues are tackling it seriously, we need to go further collectively, and this report will serve as a basis for future action from the UFI Sustainable Development Working Group” indicates Philippe Echivard, Chief of Environment and Security at Palexpo (Switzerland) and Chair of the Working Group.

In terms of regulatory frameworks, waste management regulations do not relate specifically to the exhibitions industry. And they vary hugely depending on the region, country and even city where the venue where the event is located. The report includes a detailed insight into the European Union legislation aspects relating to Waste Management, prepared by the European Exhibition Industry Alliance.

In terms of common challenges, the most pressing one relates to the exhibition stands, with issues going from materials used, responsibilities and costs.

Another big challenge is based on the need to engage with a large number of stakeholder groups, and more specifically with the Exhibitors and Visitors, where often there is a lack of awareness and communication on these issues.

The report also highlights the strong achievements from several companies from the exhibitions industry. Identified through the UFI award competition those initiatives cover the following areas: embedding waste management throughout the event planning cycle, engaging with delegates to reduce waste, using technology and innovation to develop new solutions to waste management challenges, and disposal of waste in a sustainable way via composting, donation or wider community benefit programmes for instance.

“Sustainability is key in today’s world and UFI is continuously positioning the exhibitions industry in this area, where progress can be made. This report provides key insights into the current challenges, and also draws the next steps our industry needs to embrace. Let’s use the current momentum to realign our processes, whenever possible,” says Mary Larkin, UFI President and President of Diversified Communications USA.

In line with UFI’s mission to develop the industry worldwide, the report “Waste Management in the Exhibitions Industry” is available free of charge. It can be downloaded at [ufi.org/research](https://ufi.org/research) on the [Special Industry Topics section](#).

UFI will organise two UFI Connects online sessions to present and discuss the findings of the report. The timing of those sessions is set-up in order to cover all time zone:

- **on 24 September with a focus on Asia/Pacific and Middle-East:** at 9am London, 10am Paris, 12am Dubai, 4pm HK, 6pm Sydney
- **on 8 October with a focus on Europe and Americas** at 5pm Paris, 8am Los Angeles, 10am Bogota, 11am New York, 4pm London

Detailed programs and registration are available at [www.ufi.org/uficonnects](http://www.ufi.org/uficonnects).

For more information about UFI initiatives around sustainability, go to [www.ufi.org/susdev](http://www.ufi.org/susdev) or contact [chris@ufi.org](mailto:chris@ufi.org). This report is a UFI Sustainable Development driven activity.

Attachments:

- [UFI Sustainable Development logo](#)
- [Cover of the “Waste Management in the Exhibitions Industry” report](#)

***About UFI – The Global Association of the Exhibition Industry:** UFI is the global trade association of the world’s tradeshow organisers and exhibition centre operators, as well as the major national and international exhibition associations, and selected partners of the exhibition industry. UFI’s main goal is to represent, promote and support the business interests of its members and the exhibition industry. UFI directly represents more than 50,000 exhibition industry employees globally, and also works closely with its 60 national and regional association members. More than 800 member organisations in 88 countries around the world are presently signed up as members. Around 1,000 international trade fairs proudly bear the UFI approved label, a quality guarantee for visitors and exhibitors alike. UFI members continue to provide the international business community with a unique marketing media aimed at developing outstanding face-to-face business opportunities.*

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