



TIPS & TRICKS  
FOR  
GREENING YOUR BURN



# WELCOME HOME!

We all love get-togethers, especially our beloved Modifyre.

But aren't there warnings about global warming?

Concerns about consumption and waste?

Desecration of natural environments?

This is where your friendly Earth Guardians come into the picture.



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## WHO ARE THE EARTH GUARDIANS?

The Modifyre Earth Guardians are a group of participants who volunteer their time to inspire, inform and encourage our fellow burners to consider the environmental impact of our activities. We stimulate the Modifyre community to appreciate our surroundings, to embrace Leave no Trace principles and green practices in new and creative ways.

By focussing the tremendous artistic and technical energy, we can go beyond 'Leave No Trace' and instead leave positive traces, both on the land and on society. The tips below apply equally well to Theme Camps, art pieces, performances, or individual campers.

## AT THE EVENT

We run an information and greeting booth called the Earth Guardian Den, undertake daily MOOP (Matter Out Of Place) patrols, provide recycling of cans and collection of compost generated at the event. We work hard to make our little shindig as sustainable as possible and prevent damage to the beautiful environment that we have secured to celebrate this vibrant and creative community.

If you would like to join us then make contact through our Facebook page at <http://www.facebook.com/groups/modifyreEarthGuardians> or better still add your name to be a Modifyre volunteer, email [volunteer@modifyre.org](mailto:volunteer@modifyre.org)



# LEAVE NO TRACE

“Leave No Trace” (LNT) refers to a set of ethics promoting conservation of the outdoors. It is also one of the key tenets of Burning Man and its Regional Events.

Leave No Trace is built on seven concepts:

1. Plan ahead and prepare
2. Travel and camp on durable surfaces or reduce compaction
3. Dispose of waste properly
4. Leave what you find
5. Minimise campfire impacts
6. Respect plants and wildlife
7. Be considerate of other visitors

In the context of Modifyre, which is hosted on grazing land and adjacent to a National Park, and which is also in close proximity to ecologically sensitive areas, these concepts may be interpreted as follows:

1. Plan ahead and prepare: poorly prepared people, when confronted with unexpected situations, often resort to high impact solutions that degrade the outdoors. Make only the purchases that you really need to make, and whatever you do purchase, do it conscientiously. Proper planning leads to less impact.
2. Reduce compaction: travel and camp only on the designated roads as directed by the crew, park your vehicle and leave it in place until you leave. There should be no need to return to town. Soil compacted by the weight of a vehicle takes a long time to recover.
3. Dispose of waste properly:
  - Use only the toilets provided (peeing on the ground is a no-no). Only human waste and the 2-ply toilet paper provided goes into the toilets. That means no baby wipes, no tampons, no food scraps, nothing. Bring lots of zip lock bags! Educate your fellow burners about this.
  - Pack out EVERYTHING you packed in! There is no collection service to clean up after you. Remove all unnecessary packaging before arriving on site and don't dump your waste in the first, second or third town or roadside stop on the way out. It will overwhelm their services and tarnish the friendly relationship we have built in the surrounding area. The Warwick tip is open 8am to 5pm, 7 days a week. It is located at 190 Old Stanthorpe Rd Warwick.
  - Waste water needs careful handling. Environmentally biodegradable detergent should be used for washing yourselves and when cleaning up after cooking. The amount of water should be the absolute minimum. Waste water needs to be filtered through a cloth (not just a sieve) before scattering it evenly across a largish area as extra water in the environment encourages weed growth at the expense of native drought tolerant plants.

4. Leave what you find: minimise site alterations, such as digging tent trenches, hammering nails into trees, permanently clearing an area of twigs and rocks, and removing items. Aside from being a place of great natural beauty, this is part of a working farm and our host's home so treat it the same as you would expect visitors to your home.
5. Minimise campfire impacts: a fixed number of burn barrels will be provided throughout Modifyre. These will be administered and supervised by our fire safety team, with the help of theme camps who nominate themselves to take control of a barrel. If you are interested in having a burn barrel in your camp, please let us know during your theme camp registration. Under our contract we are only permitted to have burn scars at the spots where the burn barrels are located. Firewood will be provided for these burn barrels by the site crew (DIC) and the burning of wood or other material in them is strictly forbidden. Plastic in particular burns with toxic fumes and fills the bottom of the barrels with a melted mess, organic material likewise leaves an unhygienic residue. Glass shatters in fire and shards have to be hand picked out by crew which is obviously a safety risk.
6. Respect plants and animal life: Don't pull out plants or feed animals, also don't throw food scraps on the ground (bag them and take them out or better still, participate in the composting program run by the friendly Earth Guardians).
7. Be considerate of your neighbours: think about your impact on them, radical self expression doesn't mean harming the burn for others. Talk to them, get to know them, share resources, offer a hand, suggest ways they can green their burn, and take suggestions from them - in other words, help one another to have the best burn possible.



## MOOP

MOOP is short for Matter Out Of Place. It is more than just litter, it is anything that ends up in the environment as a result of our visit, from food scraps in the grass, peeing on the ground, even the tiniest piece of glitter or a sequin.

For this reason we ask you not to bring polystyrene eskies, feather boas, sequins, or glitter. If you are likely to make a mess on the ground (such as in your kitchen area or if painting), put a tarp down first. If you smoke, bring a butt bin (a mint tin works well). Pets are also not allowed for this reason. Coffee grounds and tea leaves need to be collected in a filter, bagged and taken off site. Check your car for leaks and place down a tray if needed.

If any MOOP is thought to be Lost and Found it will be taken to a tub in the Heart.

We are collectively responsible for reducing the MOOP to zero. That means if we see some, we don't walk past it. We take responsibility to clean it up. Similarly if we see someone creating MOOP we approach them, have a friendly chat and teach them a little bit about our shared commitment to keeping our surroundings MOOP free.

You will see patrols of Earth Guardians breezing through the site during the event, going above and beyond to keep Modifyre MOOP free. We have a lot of fun doing this and meeting campers, and we would love you to volunteer to help with this essential part of the Modifyre experience.

As you are all responsible for keeping your camping site and immediate area around MOOP free, you are expected to self audit your site after everything is packed in your vehicle and you are ready to go. When ready, find an Earth Guardian (their Den is near The Heart) and they will also audit your site too. When it has zero MOOP you will be given a handmade gift called a Green Tag which allows you to exit Modifyre. It is our way to thank you for your help in looking after our environment and ensuring that we can return to our lovely site next year. Save yourself the embarrassment of being sent back by Gate because not everyone in your vehicle has a Green Tag.



# PLANNING FOR THE EVENT

There are loads of ways you can design and plan your theme camps to minimise environmental impacts and maximise creativity. Here are just a few:

## DESIGN

Keep it simple:

1. Compact elements by building in folding, expanding or flexible materials
2. Build off site in sections and transport as a flat-pack
3. Regular shapes travel better than odd shaped, easily broken pieces
4. Include lighting around tents or structures as they can be a hazard at night. It is very, very dark away from city lights. Make sure you design lights for your outfits too.
5. Often a hint or an illusion can replace an actual structure
  - Netting, string, lights or fabric can hint at walls or barriers
  - Markers or small decorative pieces can delineate a space or a dance floor
6. Avoid using materials that will disintegrate to create MOOP
  - Feathers
  - Glitter / Sequins
  - Glass
  - Beanbags / Foam stuffing
  - Polystyrene
  - Cardboard / Stickers / Paper handouts
7. Ensure your project has a positive interaction with the environment
  - Lay tarps when you are doing messy work, cooking or painting
  - Place padding around attachments to trees
  - Create burn pads under burnable Art pieces (Fire Dept will help with information)
  - Lay carpet / mats around high traffic areas especially around your camp
  - Learn how to tie down loads correctly so MOOP is not left roadside





# Transport

This has been shown to be the biggest contribution to emissions at Burning Man in the US and it is the area where we can do the most to make Modifyre carbon light.

1. Car Pooling
  - If you have a spare seat, try to fill it!
  - If you need a lift, put out a call.
  - There is no public transport to Inglewood, the nearest town, so use the Facebook pages to match empty seats with seat-less backsides.
  - Combine with other artists / theme camps to get bigger vehicles with fewer trips
2. Help out your fellow burners
  - Offer seats to those flying in, maybe even help them out with tents, sleeping bags etc
  - Share transport needs with your camp, ask early about carpooling prospects
  - Chip in for a minibus with trailer combo for whole camp
3. Materials
  - Look for ways to reduce weight. Can you use bamboo instead of wood? If appropriate, use 3ply instead of 5ply?
  - Use the dimensions of any transport vehicles available to you to shape your design. Use it as a positive constraint.

## **CAR CLEANING**

In accordance with our permit, all vehicles entering the State Forest need to pass a vehicle inspection to ensure the vehicle is free from any foreign matter (this includes soil, plant material, seeds etc.)

We want to call this land home for years to come so please take note of what you can do to help ensure we can come back time and time again.

### **What you need to do before arriving onsite:**

1. Clean and vacuum the inside of your vehicle, particularly the foot wells (where the pedals are) as that's usually the place where dirt/seeds etc gather
2. Clean the outside of your car, particular attention to the wheels and the areas around and behind the wheel, as these are usually where dirt collects.
3. Have a look under your car for any dirt etc.
4. Visit a car wash and use the high-pressure hose to clean under your car. You can do this at either Warwick or Toowoomba on your way to the event and a great way to break up the long drive.

Vehicle inspections and wash down facilities are available also available through the Inglewood Rangers Mon-Fri from 9am to 3pm at the council depot, which you will pass on the way to the event.

# Reduce, Re-use, Recycle

There are loads of ways we can reduce our overall consumption and be less wasteful. After all, Decommodify is one of our important Burning Man principles.

1. When burning art:
  - Avoid buying brand new milled timber just to burn - fish around for scrap materials
  - Re-route burnable materials that would otherwise be sent to landfill
  - Make sure reused timber is not painted or treated so it will not give off fumes when burnt
2. Borrow / up-cycle / repurpose materials for your creations rather than buying new stuff. Some suggested sources are:
  - Reverse Garbage
  - Tip shops and op-shops
  - Council kerbside collections
  - Businesses disposing of materials (remember the Burning Man principle Decommodification means no advertising or mention of sponsorship for this help)
  - Use your networks and social media, ask neighbours and make this a community effort
3. Think about possible future use:
  - Can it be added to or repurposed for next year?
  - Where will it live after the event?
  - Can the creation or the materials it is made of be donated or recycled for another project?
  - Plan for transport and storage of materials post event



## Kitchens

1. Think about sharing the cooking of meals with your neighbours to save water and fuel
2. Use one pot meals and avoid foods that will take a long time to cook, to use less fuel
3. Plan for meals that are served into hands to save washing up, examples, wraps, burgers, sandwiches, or serve in lettuce cups
4. Eat your evening meal and clean up before sunset so to use less batteries when working in the dark

## Waste management

## PACK DOWN

Leave No Trace does not mean just doing a little bit of cleaning up at the end. It means managing the waste throughout the event, so when it comes time to leave, and you are tired and sad to be leaving, your job is EASY.

Have a LNT Plan whether you are a single tent, a group of friends or a theme camp:

1. Have a set up so all waste water is automatically filtered before being scattered
2. Everybody helps to do a MOOP sweep every morning - wind can't blow mess out of your camp and it isn't a big job at the end
3. Create 3 separate containers, or bags, one for each of the following: recycling of cans (can be donated at The Heart), compost (Earth Guardians will take this potentially smelly waste off site for you if it has only the correct compostable material in it) and lastly general rubbish.
4. Imagine sifting through this mess at the end! Also this will reduce the amount of stuff you will have to take away in your already overflowing vehicle.
5. Where there is more than one vehicle in a camp, agreement will need to be made about how many bags of rubbish each will have to take. Early leavers have often left an impossible amount of stuff for those doing packdown to take.

Theme camps should have a LNT lead to ensure the above good practices occur.

FINALLY,

THANK YOU FOR ALL THE WONDERFUL WAYS YOU HAVE CARED FOR OUR MODIFYRE SITE IN PAST YEARS. YOUR EARTH GUARDIANS LOOK FORWARD TO WORKING WITH YOU TO MAKE THIS THE CLEANEST AND GREENEST BURN YET.

BURN BRIGHT AND SEE YOU ON THE PADDOCK