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PICK Sustainable Music Festivals | Earth911.com

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Gemma Alexander October 15, 2018



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It's no secret that music festivals are big business these days, and big business often means big waste. Nationwide, festivals are beginning to pay closer attention to waste management, but most festivals have a long way to go.

Pickathon, a small, eclectic festival in the Pacific Northwest, may be North America's first sustainable festival. If bigger festivals learn to scale up Pickathon's sustainable practices, your music-focused travel could be as good for the planet as it is for your soul.

The Problem

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The Bonnaroo Music and Arts Festival in Tennessee produces more than 679 tons of waste over four days. That's 15 pounds of waste per attendee — nearly twice what the average American disposes at home.

Thinking ahead, choosing events with sustainability goals and waste reduction commitments is better for the planet. You may not hear the difference in the music, but you'll feel the results after the show.

Baby Steps

A few sustainability measures have become common on the festival circuit. Most festivals now encourage recycling,