



Zero Waste Special Event Exhibitor & Food Vendor Guidelines

Thank you for participating in a **Zero Waste Special Event!** We have worked closely with the event committee to ensure that this event will allow it to have the smallest environmental footprint possible- **and that starts with you!**

The goal of a Zero Waste event is to plan ahead and only **distribute materials that are locally recyclable, compostable, or reusable** (minimal materials that have to be landfilled). These guidelines include which types of containers and packaging are acceptable. *Please note that you will be coached on alternatives for any non-compliant materials and/or asked to remove them in certain situations.*

Throughout the event, it is important that you sort your waste at the event’s Zero Waste Stations into the appropriate bins for compostables, recyclables, or trash. Recycle Ann Arbor staff and Zero Waste volunteers will be available to help sort and answer any questions you have.

All food containers and utensils must be certified compostable by Biodegradable Products Institute (BPI). You can purchase these products at Bgreen, located at 2111 Packard Rd., 734-214-3000. Please contact Christine Chessler-Stull at Recycle Ann Arbor at 734-662-6288 x 119 or christine@recycleannarbor.org for help in distinguishing and obtaining Zero Waste materials.

Guidelines for Materials to Use (& Avoid) to Achieve a Successful Zero Waste Event:

| Aim For | Avoid |
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| All paper containers including plates, napkins, paper towels, cups, and bags. | Plastic coated paper products are not acceptable. <i>Many paper products (including frozen food paper packages) are coated with plastic liners.</i> |
| Waxed paper products are great. <i>If you cannot easily scratch the coating off with your fingernail, it is a plastic lining and is not acceptable.</i> | Styrofoam is not recyclable locally if it has food waste on it. Since contamination is very likely, we ask you not use Styrofoam. |
| Compostable potato, corn starch, or sugarcane tubs, cups, containers, lids, clamshells, utensils (spoons, forks, knives). <i>BPI certified.</i> | Plastic lids, utensils, or plastic straws. Prepackaged foods in non-recyclable material, such as chip bags & condiment packs. |
| Wooden stir-sticks, chopsticks, toothpicks, and skewers. Must be plain wood without plastic decorated tops. | Plastic stir sticks, chopsticks, toothpicks, or skewers. |
| Aluminum foil and cans, paper milk cartons and drink boxes, plastic and glass bottles. | Foil drink pouches. |
| Paper bags and reusable bags. | Plastic bags or plastic wrap. |
| Unpackaged promotional materials that are reusable (pens, key chains, etc.). | One-time use decorations, such as plastic tablecloths, stickers, balloons, confetti, etc. |
| Office paper, including flyers, brochures, etc. <i>Post-consumer or recycled content preferred.</i> | Metallic, laminated, or non-paper materials. |