



# ZERO WASTE SPECIAL EVENT EXHIBITOR & FOOD VENDOR GUIDELINES

Thank you for agreeing to participate in a **Zero Waste Special Event!** We have worked closely with the event organizers to reduce the event’s environmental footprint. As a vendor passing out materials, **you play a critical role in helping the event reach its Zero Waste goal!**

The goal of a Zero Waste event is to plan ahead to reduce waste and only **distribute materials that are locally recyclable, compostable, or reusable** (no materials that have to be landfilled). These guidelines include the types of containers and packaging that are acceptable at the event. ***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 Team volunteers will be available to help you sort and answer any questions.

**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 Angela Porta at Recycle Ann Arbor at 734-662-6288 x 119 or [angela@recycleannarbor.org](mailto:angela@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 TO USE   | AVOID USING   |
|--|---|
| <b>Paper-only products including plates, napkins, paper towels, and bags.</b>  | <b>Plastic coated paper products (most paper cups are lined with plastic).</b> <i>Many paper products are coated with plastic liners.</i> |
| <b>Compostable cups, containers, lids, clamshells, utensils (spoons, forks, knives), and straws.</b><br><i>*Must be BPI certified compostable.*</i><br> | <b>Styrofoam cups, containers, and clamshells. Plastic containers, lids, utensils, and straws.</b>  |
| <b>Wooden stir-sticks, chopsticks, toothpicks, and skewers.</b> <i>No plastic decorated tops.</i>  | <b>Plastic stir sticks, chopsticks, toothpicks, or skewers.</b>   |
| <b>Bulk self-serve condiments and bulk foods that you package yourself</b> ( <i>parchment paper bags are great for serving chips and other finger foods</i> ).   | <b>Prepackaged single-serve condiments and foods (Ex: chips) in non-recyclable packages.</b>  |
| <b>Aluminum foil and cans, paper milk cartons and drink boxes, plastic and glass bottles.</b>  | <b>Plastic and foil drink pouches.</b>  |
| <b>Paper bags and reusable bags.</b>   | <b>Plastic bags or plastic wrap.</b>  |
| <b>Unpackaged promotional materials that are reusable</b> (pens, key chains, etc.).  | <b>One-time use decorations, such as plastic tablecloths, stickers, balloons, confetti, etc.</b>  |
| <b>Office paper, including flyers, brochures, etc.</b><br><i>Post-consumer or recycled content preferred.</i>  | <b>Metallic, laminated, or non-paper materials.</b>   |