

## **McMinnville Downtown Association Zero Waste Policy**

Americans produce enough landfill waste to fill **86,000 football fields of 6-foot-deep compacted trash annually**. To help combat this, the McMinnville Downtown Association is committed to promoting Zero Waste events. Being zero waste means choosing environmentally friendly products for product packaging, food vending, or bagging and diverting at least 90% of single-use materials from landfills and incinerators to recycling or composting.

**All vendors in McMinnville Downtown Association Events are required to provide environmentally responsible product packaging and ancillary materials wherever possible.**

All materials provided to customers should be sustainable, recyclable or compostable as much as possible. Food vendors especially must be aware of the tableware provided to customers. Our goals are to **maximize the use of compostable tableware**, utensils, takeout containers, and product packaging/bags to **minimize the amount of plastic waste**. Note that little to none of the single-use tableware and utensil items are recyclable: they are either compostable or they go to the landfill.

### **Approved Recyclable / Compostable Products**

- Reusable shopping bags
- Checkerboard food trays
- Paper or cardboard takeout containers
- Paper napkins
- Paper plates / bowls
  - Chinet
  - AJM packaging
  - Any **all-paper** plates can be composted by Recology's process.
  - Sugarcane fiber products
  - \*\* Corn or Potato starch "compostable" products such as Taterware™ are great, but unfortunately not compostable by Recology's process.
- Paper Straws
- Wood/Bamboo utensils (i.e. forks, spoons, knives)
- Wooden toothpicks or skewers
- Checkerboard wrapping paper, or other paper that **does not contain plastic**.
- Unlined paper cups
  - "Bare" cup by SOLO
  - Primeware products
  - Equal Exchange cups
    - These all-paper cups are lined with an Ingeo bio-plastic that is fully compostable in this small amount.

### **Borderline Products**

These are products that we would prefer not be used if possible, as they are not locally recyclable. Either they can be recycled or composted at a different facility or there is simply no viable alternative as yet. **Use of any materials essential to your business operations that are not locally recyclable or compostable and must be transported to outside recycling facilities will incur a nominal disposal fee of \$5.00 per market.**

- Clear plastic cups marked with #1, #2 Plastic-cup lids
  - There is no viable alternative for the plastic-cup lids at this time.
- Cups made from Ingeo bio-plastic are compostable, but not by Recology, so they are not recommended.
- Paper bags
  - Paper bags are preferable to plastic in that they are compostable, however the amount of trees and fresh water used in their manufacture make them unsustainable for single-use consumption.

### **Prohibited Products**

- Anything made from Styrofoam.
- Fold-Pak or BioPak food containers due to the shiny plastic lining that is not compostable.
- Plastic Utensils
- Plastic bags
- Plastic Straws
- Non-recyclable plastic cups
- Plastic stir-sticks and sample-cups: There are wood & paper alternatives available.
- Individual garbage cans for public use.
  - All waste at the MFM must be separated into recyclable, compostable and landfill categories. If you have waste disposal containers at your booth, you must ensure these materials are separated and bring them to the Zero Waste booth at the end of the market for proper disposal.