



How to Prepare for Zero Waste Events

Compostable – Items are considered compostable when they can be placed into a composition of decaying biodegradable materials, and eventually turn into a nutrient-rich material without releasing harmful toxins. **Items must say COMPOSTABLE on the packaging. This is NOT the same as “biodegradable”, “degradable” or “earth friendly” – Beware: these words do NOT mean they are compostable. These words are meaningless. This is called “greenwashing.”**

To minimize landfill waste:

Plates and bowls: Plates and bowls must be compostable in a commercial facility OR you can use inexpensive options such as uncoated paper plates, Chinnet brand paper plates (Walmart & BJ's), and uncoated red & white checked French Fry boats – see <https://www.webrestaurantstore.com/>. Do NOT bring paper plates or bowls coated with shiny polyethylene plastic - these can't be composted or recycled. **Note: currently molded fiber plates, bowls and containers, such as those made from paper or bagasse, are known to contain PFAs chemicals which are a known carcinogen. Our farms will not accept these products for composting until the PFAs is removed. This is supposed to happen around January 2020.**

Cups: Use recyclable plastic or commercially compostable cups (must say “compostable” on the packaging. The “compostable plastic” cups are not accepted at our farms for composting as they take too long to break down and they may contain PFAs as well. These “bioplastics” cannot be recycled either, so best not to buy them. Waxed cups are not acceptable for composting, but small paper “bathroom” cups and cones that are not lined with plastic polyethylene are okay. All Styrofoam cups or cups lined with plastic polyethylene cannot be recycled or composted.

Utensils: Plastic utensils (forks, spoons, knives) are never recyclable or compostable. Just biodegradable or “made from corn starch” are not good enough either! Even utensils that say “compostable in a commercial composting facility” are not accepted by local farms because they take a long time to break down. These would need to be brought to a high heat commercial composting facility.

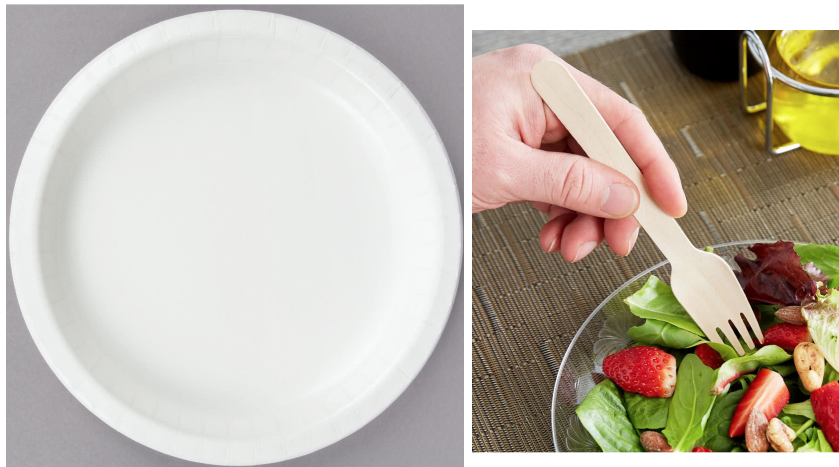
The best alternative is to provide leftover metal utensils and wash the used ones in a dishwasher after the event. For larger events: 1) encourage people to bring their own utensils, plate & cup – announce this in all PR, 2) purchase wooden utensils or sporks (.50 each) to give out. Some inexpensive items are wooden ice cream paddles and wooden coffee stirrers.

Straws: Plastic straws cannot be recycled or composted. Please use only paper or commercially compostable straws.

Napkins and Paper Towels: soiled or clean, these are acceptable in any composting facility (commercial or otherwise).

Food scraps generated at booths: Please place your compost in collection buckets, which volunteers will periodically empty for you. Compost includes vegetable scraps, meat, fish, bones and soiled paper napkins and paper towels. We cannot accept cooking oil.

Ideal Products: Uncoated paper plates and Chinet brand plates and bowls. Paper hot cups lined with compostable plant material instead of plastic polyethylene.



Not Acceptable at this time due to PFAs contamination: Sugarcane “paper” plates and bowls, plus bagasse, molded paper and fiberboard.

A collection of compostable products including plates, bowls, cups, and napkins. The products are arranged in a row, with a focus on sugarcane-based items. The products are labeled with 'COMPOSTABLE' and 'RENEWABLE RESOURCES'.

Sugarcane Plates

Made from 100% renewable and reclaimed resources

Grease and cut resistant

Square Sugarcane Plates

Upscale design and appearance

Perfect for catering

Sugarcane Bowls

Made with sugarcane, a rapidly renewable resource

Meets ASTM standards for

Plantware cutlery and waxed cups: only acceptable in high heat commercial composting facilities. Instead, we recommend selling/giving out bamboo sporks or wooden utensils, ice cream paddles, and stirrers.

Plantware® Cutlery

1.  

Renewable & Compostable Plantware® Cutlery is the only choice for compostable cutlery with a high-heat tolerance. New formulation offers strength and heat tolerance up to 200° F without relying on unsustainable virgin plastic resources. 100% renewable, BPI certified compostable and ASTM compliant.

[Details](#) [Benefits](#) [Video](#) [Carbon Footprint](#)

Made from 100% renewable resources
Made with PLA, a plant-based plastic
Meets ASTM standards for compostability
Crystalized formulation adds strength and heat tolerance
Handles are now 95% stronger and fork tines are 20% stronger
Heat tolerance of 200° F



<http://www.ecoproducts.com/products.html> **ALL PRODUCTS CAN BE PURCHASED HERE.**

2.

<https://www.webstaurantstore.com/599/biodegradable-plates-and-compostable-plates-platters-bowls-trays-and-servingware.html>

3. <https://www.webstaurantstore.com/579/eco-friendly-biodegradable-paper-hot-cups-and-lids.html>

4. <http://www.lollicupstore.com/ke-k512w>

5. https://www.staples.com/sustainable-earth-by-staples-compostable-cutlery/product_SS1056871



1. <https://www.webstaurantstore.com/dart-solo-r7bb-jd110-bare-eco-forward-7-oz-wax-treated-printed-paper-cold-cup-case/760R7BARE.html>
 2. <https://www.webstaurantstore.com/creative-converting-47000b-9-white-paper-plate-240-case/286PP9WH.html>
 3. <https://www.webstaurantstore.com/eco-gecko-heavy-weight-disposable-wooden-fork-pack/999GWP201.html>
- Smaller quantities: <https://brandless.com/bundles/holiday-party-essentials>

Smaller Quantities can be bought on Brandless.com

<https://brandless.com/bundles/holiday-party-essentials>

Unacceptable Materials

Styrofoam aka Polystyrene

Polystyrene takes at least five hundred years to decompose and it is the primary source of urban litter. Styrofoam is the main pollutant of oceans, bays, and other United States water sources. <https://sustainability.wustl.edu/wp-content/uploads/2013/02/Impacts-of-Styrofoam.pdf>

Vendors must be prohibited from the use of polystyrene foam containers, plates, cups, or bowls. Also known as “Styrofoam”, these items are usually marked with the following symbol:



Plastic straws are not acceptable. Please use paper or compostable alternatives (offered online by Eco-Products and the [Webstaurant Store](#)).

Poly-Coated Paper Plates – are coated with polyethylene plastic and not compostable. Cups that have been coated in any sort of plastic are not compostable.