



Achieving zero waste together

www.cityofpaloalto.org/zerowaste

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(650) 496-5910

Compostable Food Service Ware Vendor List

Palo Alto has a community-wide goal of sending zero waste to landfills. One way organizations can help eliminate waste going to landfills is to stock their lunch and break rooms with reusable and washable dishes, cups, and silverware. With a little planning, special events can be serviced with reusable products as well.

If the use of reusable dishes and cutlery is not possible, consider purchasing compostable service ware instead. While not as environmentally friendly, because compostable dishes, cups and cutlery are still meant to be used once and then disposed, composting them does reduce their impact. Instead of being landfilled and releasing methane, a powerful greenhouse gas, compostable service ware is turned into a soil amendment for landscaping purposes.

The information in this document is meant to assist you in selecting compostable service ware for your organization or event.

Types of products available:

Containers may be made from paper, sugarcane fiber, potato or corn starch, and other plant-based fibers.

- Hinged clamshell
- Folded to-go container
- Plates and bowls
- Cutlery
- Straws
- Bags and liners
- Cold cups/lids
- Hot cups/lids
- Trays

Consider products:

- Made from recycled content
- Labeled as compostable
- Certified by the Biodegradable Products Institute (www.bpiworld.org)
- Meeting the ASTM standards for compostability. ASTM D6400 covers plastic films and bags. ASTM D6868 covers packaging that is designed to be composted, including plastic coated paper and paper board.

Please note that starch-based compostable plastics (e.g., cutlery, clear cups) are designed to be composted in a large-scale commercial composting facility. Composting these items in a backyard system is slow and success varies depending on the conditions.

Compostables Collection Service:

Please visit www.greenwaste.com/paloalto for a detailed list of accepted compostable materials. Contact GreenWaste Customer Service, at (650) 493-4894, for collection of compostables from your business, multi-unit residential complex, or special event.

Vendors*

Palo Alto			
Whole Foods	774 Emerson St.		650-326-8676
Country Sun	440 S. California Ave.		650-324-9190
Piazza's Fine Foods	3922 Middlefield Rd		650-494-1629
WorldCentric Store	2121 Staunton Court	www.worldcentric.org	650-283-3797
Beyond Palo Alto			
American Paper and Plastic, Inc	El Monte, CA	www.appinc.com	626-444-0000
Biodegradable Food Service	Bend, OR	www.bdfs.net	541-593-2191
BiRite	Brisbane, CA	www.BiRite.com	415-656-0187
California Recycles	Los Angeles, CA	www.californiarecycles.com	877-478-3001
Eco-Products	Boulder, CO	www.ecoproducts.com	303-449-1876
Excellent Packaging and Supply	Richmond, CA	www.excellentpackaging.com	510-243-9501
Good To Go Ware	Mountain View, CA	www.goodtogoware.com	650-961-5130
Green Earth Office Supply	Redwood Estates, CA	greenearthofficesupply.stores.yahoo.net	800-327-8449
Green Home	San Francisco, CA	www.greenhome.com	877-282-6400
Green is Green, Inc	San Francisco, CA	www.greenisgreeninc.com	415-215-8553
Green Tooth	San Mateo, CA	http://www.green-tooth.com/	800-775-5193
S.F. Supply Master	San Francisco, CA	www.sfsupplymaster.com	415-642-0700
Simply Biodegradable	Moses Lake, WA	www.simplybiodegradable.com	509-764-0233
Sysco Food Services	South San Francisco, CA	www.sysco.com	281-584-1390
US Foodservice	Livermore, CA	www.sanfrancisco.usfoodservice.com	800-682-1228

* The above list contains examples of compostable food ware vendors and is not a comprehensive list, nor does it imply endorsement by the City of Palo Alto.