



Zero Waste Event Exhibitor & Food Vendor Guidelines

This event's organizers are working with Zero Waste Washtenaw to reduce the event's environmental footprint. **A Zero Waste Event aims to reduce waste and only distribute materials that are locally recyclable, compostable, or reusable** (no materials that must be landfilled). As a vendor, you play a critical role in helping the event reach its goal!

Reusable products are encouraged whenever possible to minimize single-use products, even those that are compostable or recyclable. When single-use products must be used, follow these guidelines for the types of single-use containers and packaging that are acceptable at the event. *Please note that you may be coached on alternatives for any non-compliant materials and/or asked to remove them in certain situations.*

All food containers and utensils must be certified compostable by Biodegradable Products Institute (BPI) or Compost Manufacturers Alliance (CMA) depending on your event's guidelines.

- The certification you must follow depends on which compost facility the products are going to after the event. Check with the event organizer if you are unsure of which certification to follow.
- Look for "BPI-Certified Compostable" or "CMA" when selecting food service items.
- These products can be purchased locally at Bgreen Today in Ann Arbor or through other online retailers.

If you have any questions about zero waste, communicate with the event organizers for further assistance.

Guidelines for Single-Use Items at Zero Waste Events:

AIM TO USE	AVOID USING
Paper-only products including plates, napkins, paper towels, and bags.	Plastic-coated paper products (most paper cups are lined with plastic).
Compostable cups, containers, lids, clamshells, utensils (spoons, forks, knives), and straws. *Must be BPI or CMA certified compostable.*	Styrofoam cups, containers, and clamshells. Plastic containers, lids, utensils, and straws.
Wooden stir-sticks, chopsticks, toothpicks, and skewers. No plastic decorated tops.	Plastic stir sticks, chopsticks, toothpicks, or skewers.
Bulk self-serve condiments and bulk foods packaged in compostable containers or bags.	Prepackaged single-serve condiments and foods (ex: chips) in non-recyclable packages.
Aluminum cans, paper milk cartons and drink boxes, and plastic and glass bottles.	Plastic and 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. Post-consumer or recycled content is preferred.	Metallic, laminated, or non-paper materials.



More information about Washtenaw County's Zero Waste Events Program can be found at **ZeroWasteWashtenaw.com**.