



Zero Waste Event Exhibitor & Food Vendor Guidelines


Thank you for agreeing to participate in a **Zero Waste Event!** This event's organizers are working with Zero Waste Washtenaw to reduce the event's environmental footprint. As a vendor passing out materials, you play a critical role in helping the event reach its goal!

The goal of a Zero Waste Event is to reduce waste and only **distribute materials that are locally recyclable, compostable, or reusable** (no materials that must be landfilled). These guidelines include the types of 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). Look for "BPI-Certified Compostable" when selecting food service items. You can purchase these products at Bgreen Today, located at 4095 Stone School Rd. in Ann Arbor., 734-214-3000. Other online retailers carry these products.

If you have any zero waste related questions or are looking for help distinguishing and obtaining zero waste materials, communicate with the event organizers for further assistance.

Guidelines for Materials to Use for a Successful Zero Waste Event:

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). Many paper products are coated with plastic liners.
Compostable cups, containers, lids, clamshells, utensils (spoons, forks, knives), and straws.  *Must be BPI-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 that you package yourself in compostable containers or bags.	Prepackaged single-serve condiments and foods (Ex: chips) in non-recyclable packages.
Aluminum foil and 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. OR even better: Minimize paper distribution by considering a QR code and having minimal copies that patrons may take a photo of.	Metallic, laminated, or non-paper materials.

