FOOD SERVICE WARE ALTERNATIVES

REUSABLE IS BEST

Single-use plates, cups, and cutlery may seem economical and convenient, but replacing these items with reusable alternatives can reduce product and disposal costs, minimize waste, and attract new customers.

Use this calculator to determine your break-even point for the cost of reusable items. The break-even point is the number of uses required to recover your investment. As soon as you exceed the break-even point for a particular item, you’ll be saving money. Restaurants report a minimal increase in water costs needed to run dishwashers.

Cost of reusable (each) = $___ ÷ Cost of disposable item (each) = $___ , so break-even point = ___ uses

Example: Reusable cup = $1.00 each ÷ Disposable cup = $0.05 each, so break-even point = 20 uses

Limited funding is available through the Zero Waste Sonoma Reusable Foodware Grant

- Food & beverage providers may receive up to a $250 reimbursement for eligible reusable foodware expenditures.
- Purchases made through this grant are to be used by the entity at the place of business/service within Sonoma County.
- A W-9 and receipt(s) are required, and entities must provide a description of how the reusable foodware items will be used.
- Visit www.zerowastesonoma.gov/reusable-foodware-grant to learn more and apply.
Products made entirely from uncoated paper or plant fibers are accepted in the residential and commercial green container within Sonoma County as they break down easily in a commercial composting facility or in a backyard compost pile. Note that compostable plastics such as those made from polylactic acid (PLA) are not accepted in the green container for a variety of reasons.

Please refer to the Supplier List below to purchase uncoated paper products for your food/beverage establishment.

**Fiber compostable**

- Uncoated white / natural plant fiber paper plates, boats, clamshells, cups, utensils, straws
- Uncoated white / natural deli wrap and parchment paper
- Paper napkins
- 100% wood, bamboo or palm leaf utensils, plates, boats, bowls
- [Biodegradable Products Institute (BPI) www.bpiworld.org/](http://www.bpiworld.org/) is America’s leading certifier of compostable products and packaging. Only unlined and uncoated fiber products certified by BPI should be used. This certification ensures no intentionally added PFAS chemicals.

**BPI certified unlined and uncoated fiber or other third party certified products or are preferred.**

**Products with intentionally added fluorinated chemicals (PFAS) are prohibited.**

MORE INFO: ZEROWASTESONOMA.GOV/DISPOSABLE  
ZWS-FOODWARE@SONOMA-COUNTY.ORG  
UPDATED NOVEMBER 2021
FOOD SERVICE WARE ALTERNATIVES

RECYCLABLE IS GREAT

Recyclables  The following items should be clean and empty:
- Plastic drinking cups and containers larger than 4” in diameter
- Plastic clamshells or other to-go containers
- Aluminum trays and to-go containers

*Postconsumer recycled content products support manufacturers using recyclables collected through curbside or commercial pickup and require less virgin plastic to produce.

PET #1* and HDPE #2* plastic items are preferred over #3- #6 plastics, as they are the easiest to recycle

NOT ACCEPTED

Compostable plant/bio-plastic products  (Not accepted by the local composting facilities.)
- Coated paper or fiber food containers  (If it has a shiny surface, it is likely coated in plastic or PLA, which is marketed as "compostable")
- Plastic or "compostable" bioplastic utensils

Selected plastics  (these items are not recycled by haulers in Sonoma County.)
- Polystyrene foam (Styrofoam)
- Utensils
- Plastic wrap
- Straws  (may be provided only upon request to consumers with medical needs)

Products with intentionally added fluorinated chemicals (PFAS) are prohibited.

If an item is not recyclable or compostable at local facilities, it must be sent to the landfill.

Exemptions will be allowed for disposable hot beverage cups, as there are no truly compostable or recyclable products available at this time.

MORE INFO: ZEROWASTESONOMA.GOV/DISPOSABLE
ZWS-FOODWARE@SONOMA-COUNTY.ORG
UPDATED NOVEMBER 2021
# Supplier List

**Food Service Ware Alternatives**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Company Name</th>
<th>Contact Info</th>
<th>Recyclable Products</th>
<th>Locally Compostable Products</th>
<th>Reusable Products</th>
<th>Website/Catalogue</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>
| Area Distributors     | Kim Taylor  
kim@areadistributing.com  
408-975-7733 | X                   | X                | X                | www.areadistributing.com |
| Armstrong Paper Group | SANTA ROSA  
707-546-6300 | X                   |                   |                   |                   |
| Cogent Solutions & Supplies | RICHMOND  
510-307-4242 | X                   | X                |                   | www.cogentsupplies.com |
| Cotati Food Service   | COTATI  
707-795-4489  
info@cotatifoodservice.com | X                   | X                | X                | www.cotatifoodservice.com |
| Excellent Packaging & Supply | RICHMOND  
510-243-9501  
info@excellentpackaging.com | X                   |                   |                   | www.excellentpackaging.com |
| Fishman Supply        | PETALUMA  
707-763-8161  
info@fishmansupply.com | X                   | X                |                   | www.fishmansupply.com |
| Mike Hudson Distributing | PETALUMA  
Jamie Kensett  
jkensett@mikehudsondist.com  
800-654-3636 | X                   | X                |                   | www.mikehudsondist.com |
| Moresco Distributing  | PETALUMA  
707-773-2500 | X                   | X                |                   | www.moresco.biz |

**More Info:** ZEROWASTESONOMA.GOV/DISPOSABLE  
ZWS-FOODWARE@SONOMA-COUNTY.ORG  
Updated November 2021

This document, Food Service Ware Alternatives, in no way implies or conveys that Zero Waste Sonoma endorses these suppliers, nor the quality or compliance of their products with respect to the Disposable Food Service Ware and Polystyrene Foam Product Waste Reduction Ordinance. The list is provided as a courtesy, for informational purposes only, and is not a complete list of suppliers. It is the responsibility of anyone who uses this list to verify the qualifications and compliance of each product prior to purchase from the supplier. The agency is not responsible for any expenses that may be associated with using the list of suppliers. *Denotes a vendor who has created a product list reflecting compliant products verified by Zero Waste Sonoma.
**SUPPLIER LIST FOOD SERVICE WARE ALTERNATIVES**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>COMPANY NAME</th>
<th>CONTACT INFO</th>
<th>RECYCLABLE PRODUCTS</th>
<th>LOCALLY COMPOSTABLE PRODUCTS</th>
<th>REUSABLE PRODUCTS</th>
<th>WEBSITE</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>
| Palo Alto Foods, Inc.            | sales@paloaltofoods.com
SAN JOSE                          | 510-456-2420                       | X                            | X                             | www.paloaltofoods.com                        |
| PFG Northern California          | 800-233-6211                          | X                            |                              | X                             | www.performancefoodservice.com                |
| LIVERMORE                        |                                        |                                |                              |                                |                                              |
| R3 Papercraft Inc. LLC National  | Jim.merfeld@r3distribution.com
National                       | 866-987-7373                       | X                            |                              | www.r3distribution.com                      |
| SF Supply Master                 | 415-642-0700                         | X                            |                              | X                             | www.sfsupplymaster.com                       |
| SAN FRANCISCO                    |                                        |                                |                              |                                |                                              |
| Ukiah Paper                      | 707-463-2203
UKIAH                              | ukiahpaper@sbglobal.net
866-987-7373                         | X                            | X                            | X                             | www.ukiahpapersupplyinc.com                  |
| US Foods Chef's Store            | 707-543-5844                         | X                            |                              | X                             | www.smartfoodservice.com                     |
| SANTA ROSA                       |                                        |                                |                              |                                |                                              |
| Vicor Restaurant Supply          | Craig Hamilton
SONOMA                                | Craig@vicorsupply.com
707-266-1268                         | X                            |                              | X                             |                                              |

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