



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.



FOOD SERVICE WARE ALTERNATIVES

FIBER COMPOSTABLE IS GREAT



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/ 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.



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

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

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



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

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)



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.



SUPPLIER LIST FOOD SERVICE WARE ALTERNATIVES

COMPANY NAME	CONTACT INFO	RECYCLABLE PRODUCTS	LOCALLY COMPOSTABLE PRODUCTS	REUSABLE PRODUCTS	WEBSITE/CATALOGUE
Area Distributors SAN JOSE	Kim Taylor ktaylor@areadistributing.com 408-975-7733	X	X		www.aredistributing.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.



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

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