

## Helpful Tips and Resources for Your Zero Waste Events

If you love the idea of planning an eco-friendly event that minimizes waste and maximizes recycling and/or composting, but aren't sure where to begin, EAS+Y can help you! Whether the event is small or large, EAS+Y offers **free** consultations to assist you in planning how to reduce the amount of landfill waste generated. An experienced volunteer will take you through the steps of making all the necessary arrangements for a successful Zero Waste Event. Topics for discussion cover everything from pre-planning to clean-up. To arrange for a consultation with a ZW mentor, contact [EASY2sustain@gmail.com](mailto:EASY2sustain@gmail.com).

Following are some helpful tips to get you started in thinking about a Zero Waste Event:

### Food & Drink/Catering

- Use water dispensers with paper cups, or pitchers of water, instead of plastic water bottles.
- Whenever possible, serve dishes "family style" such as sandwich platters, salad or chips bowls, etc. to avoid individually packaged products.
- Whenever possible, use bulk containers for condiments instead of individually wrapped items (such as: ketchup, mayo, mustard, salt, pepper, or sugar).
- Serve finger foods (such as veggies and dip, cheese, crackers, skewers of fruit or grilled meat, etc.). These items don't require utensils, and trash isn't created from individual wrappers.
- Provide cocktail napkins, straws, and stirrers only upon request.
- Make arrangements to donate any usable leftovers to a food bank or shelter.

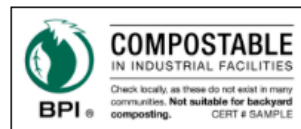
### Recycling, Composting, and Trash Bins

- Recycling bins are for empty glass bottles, aluminum cans, plastic bottles, plastic cups, bowls, and plates (#1 through 7); and **clean** paper products and cardboard. Plastic bags cannot be recycled with the previously mentioned products and belong in the trash unless a separate receptacle is provided for them.
- Composting bins are for food waste, **BPI certified\*** compostable serviceware such as plates, cups, bowls, and cutlery, and food-soiled paper products such as napkins, paper towels, and paper bags.
- Trash bins are for all food-soiled plastic or plastic-coated serviceware such as plates, cups, bowls, utensils; Starbucks coffee cups or similar, Styrofoam products; plastic bags and film unless a separate receptacle is provided for them; plastic straws; and bags used for single-serve chips, cookies, etc. ***If not composting, all food-soiled paper products also belong in the trash.***
- Recycling and trash bins **must** be arranged in pairs, and **must** touch each other so choices cannot be confused. If composting, then a composting bin must be placed with each pair of recycling and trash bins and must touch them. ***There should be no separate bins in sight to confuse attendees!***
- A pail for disposal of liquids, to be emptied later, should be placed next to the bins to help with clean-up.

- When a bar is set up to serve drinks, supply bartender(s) with a recycling bin(s) for **empty** bottles and aluminum cans. Bins are for bartenders' use only and should be placed behind their tables and not where the public will use them for trash. If there is no sink, provide a pail(s) in which to toss liquids from bottles/cans before recycling. Bartenders should fold cardboard boxes and set them aside for later recycling.
- Where there is a kitchen, place a pair(s) of trash/recycle bins touching each other for use by kitchen personnel. If composting, a composting bin should be placed alongside the trash/recycle bins.

For more detailed instructions on planning a Zero Waste event, see EAS+Y's Guidelines for a Successful Zero Waste Event <http://easy4you.org/wp-content/uploads/2017/10/GUIDELINES-for-ZW-Events-Easy-RevOct192017-.pdf>.

\*The Biodegradable Products Institute (BPI), a not-for-profit professional association, is the current standard in the U.S. for composting. BPI and the U.S. Composting Council use the American Society for Testing and Materials (ASTM) specifications to certify products as compostable. The BPI compostable logo can only be used on certified products. Because of that, it helps you know which products have been scientifically tested to meet the rigorous ASTM standards.



**BPI LOGO**

### **BPI-CERTIFIED COMPOSTABLE PRODUCTS**

Following are some BPI certified products that can readily be found. For a complete listing of BPI certified products or if you have questions about whether a product is BPI certified, you can always check their product catalog at <http://products.bpiworld.org>.

#### **Eco-Products, Boulder**

A variety of Eco-products are BPI certified. A full list can be found on their website at: [https://www.ecoproductsstore.com/bpi\\_certified\\_items.html](https://www.ecoproductsstore.com/bpi_certified_items.html)

#### **Eco Kloud Products**

A variety of Eco Kloud food service products including plates, bowls, cutlery and hot cups are BPI certified. The Eco Kloud compostable party pack includes plates, cups, and cutlery for 50 guests. Costco carries some of their products-check for BPI certification.

<http://www.ecokloud.com/biodegradable/compostable/products.html>

#### **Greenware by Fabri-Kal Corp**

The company manufactures a variety of "Greenware" compostable cold cups, lids and containers. They are available through Amazon and restaurant suppliers.

<http://www.fabri-kal.com/product-solutions/greenware/>

### Solo Bare Products

Selected Solo Bare products are BPI certified and include hot cups, bowls, food containers, and plates. Some Solo Bare plates/bowls are for sale at Costco-check for BPI certification.

<http://products.bpiworld.org/companies/dart-container-corporation-solo-cup>

### Staples' Sustainable Earth Products

Sustainable Earth is Staples' exclusive line of eco-conscious disposable items that include compostable hot cups, lids, cutlery, napkins, plates, and bowls. Check for BPI certification.

<http://products.bpiworld.org/companies/staples>

### World Centric Products

Company sells compostable clamshells, cutlery, deli containers, souffle cups, straws, cold drink cups and lids and PLA coated hot cups and bowls. Whole Foods, Cost Plus World Market and other natural grocery and health food stores across the nation sell their products.

<http://worldcentric.org/biocompostables/bpi>

## COST COMPARISON

This information is just a sampling of prices for compostable versus non-compostable serviceware. Prices are apt to change and will depend on where products are purchased.

	PLATES	BOWLS	FORKS	HOT CUPS
Staples Sustainable Earth (compostable)	9"-250 for \$46.99 (.18 pp)	12 oz-125 for \$17.99 (.14 pp)	300 med-duty for \$17.79 (.05 pp)	12 oz- 500 for \$50.49 (.10 pp)
Eco-Products (compostable)	9"- 500 for \$80.03 (.16 pp)	12 oz-1000 for \$106. (.10 pp)	1000 7" for \$67.85 (.06 pp)	12 oz- 500 for \$75.91 (.15 pp)
Dixie (disposable)	8.5" -300 heavy duty for \$18.48 (.16 pp)	12 oz- 500 heavy duty for \$44.36 (.08 pp)	1,000 plastic 7" heavyweight for \$24.76 (.02 pp)	12 oz-500 Dixie To-Go for \$62.99 (.12 pp)

## ZERO WASTE-FRIENDLY CATERERS/FOOD TRUCKS

Below is a list of caterers in the area known to be experienced with zero waste events. If composting is part of your ZW event, be sure to remind the vendor that **ONLY BPI Certified** products should be used. It's always a good idea to check in with each vendor at an event to ensure products bear the BPI logo or ask to see packaging.

- 1. Barefoot Barbecue, Lakewood: Food Truck/Catering 303-519-9518
- 2. Bistro Colorado, Evergreen: Food Truck/Catering 303-670-3229
- 3. Footer's Catering, Denver: 303-762-1410
- 4. Fresh Tracks Catering, Evergreen: 303-526-0511

- 5. Tilfords Pizza, Lakewood: Food Truck 720-504-8822

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