



OFFICE OF
SUSTAINABILITY
COUNTY OF SAN MATEO



County of San Mateo Disposable Food Service Ware Ordinance

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Agenda

- Background on Model Ordinance
- Data Usage
- Ordinance Requirements
- Foodware Aware Campaign
- Promotion and Support of Reusable Foodware

Data Driven Ordinance

- 67% of street litter from single-use food and beverage packaging (half from fast food and take-out)
- Plastics are everywhere
 - Marine and wildlife
 - Our food
 - Our air
 - Us



State of the Recycling Market



- Instability in international plastic recycling market
- Long-term solutions currently being explored and implemented

Public Engagement Process

- Mailers and emails to 265 unincorporated area food facilities
- Three events
 - Informational webinar
 - Two informational workshops in Half Moon Bay and Redwood City
- Direct communications with other stakeholders



Disposable Food Service Ware Ordinance Objectives

1. Reduce waste
 - Eliminate **disposable food service ware** that is not reusable or compostable
 - Reduce at source
2. Improve the health and safety of San Mateo County community members
3. Help the County keep our waterways clean and safe



Who?

- Food facilities
 - Any entity that provides prepared food for public consumption



Where?

- Unincorporated areas of San Mateo County
- 15 cities
- County's role in education and enforcement



What?

- Impacted items
 - Specific accessories: Straws, utensils, cocktail/toothpicks, and stirrers
 - Larger items: Plates, bowls, cups, food trays, clamshells, boxes, and other containers



Plastics not allowed



Traditional Plastics



Compostable Plastics

Acceptable Items

- Natural fiber-based (e.g., paper, sugarcane, wheat stalk, wood, bamboo, hay, etc.)
- Compostable plastic lining is ok



- Larger items: Plates, bowls, cups, food trays, clamshells, boxes, and other containers

- Need to be approved by a County-approved entity to ensure compostability



Compostable

- Approved list of disposable food service ware sources and references



Accessories Upon Request

- Integrates AB 1276 requirements (signed on Oct 2021)
- Accessories (e.g., straws, utensils, napkins, condiment packets, etc.) must be:
 - Distributed only upon request; and/or
 - At dispensers that dispense one item at a time
- Open containers/bins no longer allowed
- Refillable condiment dispensers are allowed
- Accessories cannot be bundled



STRAW UPON REQUEST ONLY



Foodware Aware Campaign

- 3-year contract with Environmental Innovations & ReThink Disposable
- Resources
- Outreach & Education
- Technical Assistance



**FOODWARE
AWARE**

REUSE. CHOOSE. REFUSE.

Resources

- **Email:** foodware@smcgov.org
- **Hotline:** 888-442-2666
- **Website:**
<https://www.smcsustainability.org/waste-reduction/foodware>
- Ordinance Summary
- Purchasing Guide
- Implementation Tip Sheets
- Employee Guide
- Consumer/Staff Engagement

UPON REQUEST ONLY



BE FOODWARE AWARE
smcfoodware.org

Outreach & Education

- Mailers
- Webinars
- Social Media
- Radio
- Promo Kit
- CBOs
- Expos
- Tabling Events



Technical Assistance

Environmental Innovations

- Ordinance Requirements
- Help finding and purchasing compliant disposable foodware
- Offers \$300 in financial assistance to food facilities in need

ReThink Disposable

- Specialized assistance to switch to reusable foodware
- Offers \$300 to food facilities in incentives
- Managing County-wide reusable cup pilot with Okapi

Vendor Expo

- August 16, 2022, from 9:00 am – 2:00 pm
- Foster City Community Center
- Attended by 190 guests
- 12 disposable foodware vendors
- 4 reusable foodware service providers



New Data Placeholder

- These data can be used as a baseline to measure the efficacy of Ordinance requirements and Foodware Aware campaign.

Thank you! Questions?



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