

FOOD VENDOR GUIDELINES

FOOD VENDORS ARE THE KEY TO REDUCING WASTE AT EVENTS!

Food vendors often generate large amounts of waste as a result of the single-use disposable items they distribute. The goal of this guide is to assist vendors in reducing this waste and replacing the waste that is generated with more sustainable alternatives. Reduce your single-use plastic waste and help keep Charlottetown and our surrounding coast clean.

FIRST REDUCE

Reduce is the most important of the 3 R's - reduce, reuse, and recycle. As a food vendor, by reducing the quantity of single-use items you're using, you not only help the environment but also your bottom line. Disposable items can be expensive and the less you use, the less it costs. To reduce the amount of waste you are generating, consider:

- Asking customers if they need items such as cutlery, straws, and condiments with their take-out order before including them automatically. This is a simple way to cut-back on how many of these items are distributed.
- Keeping non-essential, single-use items such as straws and drink lids behind the counter and distribute only upon request.
- Offering condiments in bulk dispensers rather than in individual packages.

NEXT REUSE

Promote the use of reusable items, where possible:

- Encourage customers to bring their own reusable water bottles, cups, mugs, cutlery, and straws.
- Incentivize customers to bring their reusable items by implementing a discount or reward for doing so.
- Develop a policy to accommodate requests for refills. **PEI Environmental Health & Safety supports the refilling of reusable beverage containers as long as a such a policy is in place.**
- Ensure staff are properly trained on how to manage requests for refills in reusable containers to avoid confusion.

THEN RECYCLE (OR COMPOST!)

Sometimes single-use packaging can't be avoided. When this is the case, opt for items that are compostable or recyclable. See the reverse of this pamphlet to find out which products can be composted and recycled on PEI. Make sure your establishment is set up with proper sorting stations so that items end up in the correct waste stream.

89% of Islanders surveyed would be more likely to shop at a business that is making an effort to reduce their single-use plastic waste.

Advertise the efforts your business is making to combat the issue of single-use plastic waste; your existing customers will notice and you may even gain a few new ones. At events, display signs informing customers about the sustainable changes you have made and instructing them how to properly dispose of any single-use items you may be providing.

DID YOU KNOW?

As of 2015, the City of Charlottetown Street Vendors Bylaw states that vendors are banned from using Styrofoam packaging.

Styrofoam, a form of plastic, does not biodegrade, is non-recyclable, and often ends up in the environment where it wreaks havoc on marine life. Furthermore, it contains toxins that pose a potential health risk to wildlife and humans.

COMPOSTABLE AND RECYCLABLE PACKAGING

When single-use items can't be avoided, make sure the products you're distributing don't end up in the landfill by choosing those that are compostable or recyclable.



COMPOSTABLE OPTIONS



All paper, pulp, and wood-based products; including those that are wax or plastic coated.



RECYCLABLE OPTIONS



Plastics with symbols     

Aluminum containers



COMPOSTABLE PLASTICS or 'BIOPLASTICS'

Misleadingly named, compostable plastics or 'bioplastics' (often identified as oxodegradable, photodegradable, or biodegradable) can't be composted on PEI nor can they be recycled. As a result, they end up in the landfill where they generate greenhouse gases. These materials are best avoided altogether.



PLASTICS WITH SYMBOLS or

This includes most plastic straws and utensils as well as styrofoam and a number of other miscellaneous plastic products. Always make sure you check the symbol on plastic products before purchasing them to ensure they can be recycled.



FOR MORE INFORMATION:

Check out the 'Information For Businesses' section at: www.charlottetown.ca/bringit
or contact the City of Charlottetown Sustainability or Events/Tourism Department at 902-565-5548