

ZERO WASTE TIPS FOR FOOD VENDORS



PRE-EVENT:

- **Best Zero Waste practice** is to use **real** plates, bowls, cups, mugs, and utensils if dishwashing is offered at the event. Free dishes, utensils and a mobile dishwashing trailer are available through the qathet Regional District by contacting administration@qathet.ca.
- Best single-use to-go options are:
 - **Paper** napkins (unbleached is best).
 - **Paper plates & bowls** (unlined and unbleached is best). No compostable or biodegradable plastics including PLA lined bowls*
 - **Paper cups** (unlined is best, alternatively, use lined with plastic) No compostable or biodegradable plastics including PLA lined cups.*
 - Avoid lids. Where needed, use **plastic lids**. No compostable PLA lids.*
 - Avoid straws. Where needed, use **reusable, paper or hay straws**.
 - Utensils: **wooden or bamboo** chopsticks / cutlery, or supply metal cutlery and paint the end of the handle, asking customers to bring them back after use. Plastic utensils are not recyclable in our local system.
 - **NO Styrofoam** plates, bowls, or cups.
 - **NO compostable or biodegradable plastic of any kind.***
*No, we don't love plastic, but PLA (*plant-based plastic*) lined containers are not accepted at our compost facility. *Compostable and biodegradable plastics can lead to plastic contamination in both composting and recycling streams. Regular plastic lined bowls and cups, if clean, can be placed into the recycling stream.*



DURING THE EVENT

- Instruct customers to dispose of:
 - **soiled paper plates / bowls / napkins / paper straws, toothpicks, skewers, wooden cutlery, and leftover food** in **Compost** collection bins.
 - **Paper cups** and **plastic lids** can be put into the **Containers** recycling stream.
 - Glass, Plastic & Metal **beverage bottles & cans** go in the **Refundables** stream.

POST-EVENT

- Eat, Donate or **Compost** all remaining food.
- Take home all **garbage & recycling** you have generated.

