

## City of Ferndale Special Events: Food Vendor Guidelines

**All food containers and utensils must be certified compostable** by Biodegradable Products Institute (BPI). Any product that has been designated “Certified Compostable” by the Biodegradable Products Institute (BPI) is accepted. To find out if a specific product meets these criteria, please refer to the Biodegradable Products Institute’s (BPI) searchable [Certified Compostable Products page](#).

### Guidelines for Materials to Use & Avoid:

The chart below shows general product types and whether they are acceptable at City of Ferndale Special Events.

Acceptable	Unacceptable
Aluminum cans, plastic bottles (returnable), paper milk cartons and drink boxes.	Plastic and foil drink pouches.
Compostable cups, containers, lids, clamshells, utensils (spoons, forks, knives), and straws.	Styrofoam cups, containers, and clamshells. Plastic containers, lids, utensils, and straws.
Paper-only products including plates, napkins, paper towels, and bags.	Plastic coated paper products (most paper cups are lined with plastic). Many paper products are coated with plastic liners.

Please contact the City’s Zero Waste Program Coordinator at 248-336-4160 or [zerowaste@ferndalemi.gov](mailto:zerowaste@ferndalemi.gov) for help in distinguishing and obtaining Zero Waste materials.

## Background

To meet the City of Ferndale’s Climate Action Plan goals, the City is incorporating new guidelines to maximize the amount of material diverted from landfills. We are acting as stewards of the environment and want to reduce our impact in every way we can. The City’s goal is to recycle and compost all items possible and to do that, we need your help in providing compostable materials.

Many food-service products meet our requirements. However, because of the amount of misinformation and misleading labeling around compostable products, it can be difficult to determine exactly what a product is made of, or what you can do with it. This document was created to help food vendors of all sizes make informed decisions regarding the purchasing of compostable food-related products.

## What Are Compostable Products

These products come in the shape of liner bags, hot and cold beverage cups, bowls, plates, food-service trays, to-go clamshells, straws, utensils, and more. They are made from renewable resources such as corn, sugar cane, grasses, palm leaves, and wood instead of oil-derived plastic. When processed in a commercial composting facility, certified compostable items will always break down completely in the soil.

## Specifications for Compostable Products

For City of Ferndale Special Events, our requirement for compostability is that the product is **either**:

- Certified compostable by BPI\* (see logo), or
- Third-party tested to meet **ASTM D6400** or **ASTM D6868** standards for compostability.



\*BPI is short for Biodegradable Products Institute. It is an organization that provides third-party testing to meet compostable standards. Visit [www.bpiworld.org](http://www.bpiworld.org) for more information.

\*To help find products that are acceptable, the City of Ferndale has generated a [list of certified compostable foodware vendors](#) as a resource to support this requirement.