



Disposable Food Service Ware
To-go containers

Frequently Asked Questions

Greenware Ordinance

STARTS JANUARY 1, 2007
Oakland Municipal Code Section 8.07

Who has to follow the Ordinance?

All Oakland food vendors selling prepared food including **restaurants, delis, fast-food establishments, vendors at fairs, and food trucks**. All **City Facilities**.

What are alternatives to polystyrene foam?

Uncoated paper, coated paper, cardboard, other plastics, aluminum foil food service ware, and “bio-plastics” are all permitted by this ordinance.

What are biodegradable and compostable food ware products?

Uncoated paper products, coated paper products, and some “bio-plastics” (made from corn, potato, and other plant materials).

What is wrong with polystyrene foam?

Made from crude oil, it is non-renewable, non-biodegradable, and virtually non-recyclable. It ends up in landfills, waterways or the ocean. It breaks down into smaller and smaller pieces which are often mistaken for food and ingested by marine mammals, birds, and fish. Medical evidence also suggests that chemicals in poly-styrene foam are carcinogenic and may leach into food or drink.

Are there exceptions to these requirements?

There is no exception to the prohibition of polystyrene foam. Non-compostable and non-biodegradable products may be used if vendor can show that no alternative exists at the same or lower cost.

What are the penalties for non-compliance?

Violations will result in fines: 1st = warning, 2nd = \$100, 3rd = \$200, 4th = \$500

Enforcement is by the City of Oakland, not the County Health Inspector. Enforcement is complaint-driven, meaning *your customers* may notify the City of violations.

What else can my business do to reduce food service ware waste?

You can allow customers to bring their own mugs to buy drinks. In instances that food vendors wish to use a biodegradable or compostable product that is not the same or less cost than the non biodegradable or compostable alternative, a food vendor may charge a “take out fee” to cover the cost difference. You can use reusable dishes and cups instead of disposable ones for “eat-in” customers. You can use organics recycling service at your business to turn food packaging waste into compost.

How can my business get food scraps recycling?

Call the **City of Oakland Recycling Hotline** at **238-SAVE (7283)** for assistance with any of your business recycling needs.



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WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW

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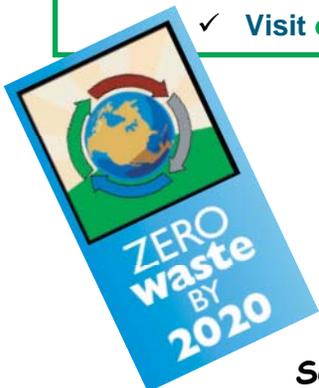
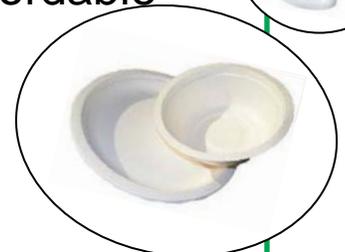
Oakland food vendors/restaurants may no longer use polystyrene foam (Styrofoam®) disposable food service ware. Violations may result in fines. (See back.)

2

Oakland food vendors and restaurants must change to biodegradable/compostable disposable food service ware such as paper or “bio-plastic”, as it becomes affordable (same or less cost).

Resources to Help You Meet City Requirements:

- ✓ Ask your **current supplier** about products that meet the City’s new requirements for food service ware.
- ✓ Call the **City of Oakland Recycling Hotline** at **238-SAVE (7283)** for a list of biodegradable food service ware suppliers, or for any questions related to this ordinance.
- ✓ Visit **oaklandgreenware.com** for more suppliers and information.



Para recibir más información en español llame al 238-6812.
自行車道提案提出寶貴意見。如需獲得更多中文資訊，或有任何建議，請致電：238-6812。

Để biết thêm chi tiết bằng tiếng Việt về đề nhận Xit gip i, xin gọi số 238-6812.

Food service ware is a large contributor to litter, blight and waste throughout Oakland. In addition, many food service ware products made from plastic may be hazardous to our health. To make our city cleaner and healthier and help our community achieve zero waste, Oakland has passed a disposable food packaging ordinance. Similar ordinances are now being adopted across California.

See reverse for exceptions and more information.