



# Event & Food Vendor Requirements



- All food service businesses in Seattle, including event food vendors such as food trucks, must use compostable packaging for food items. Beverages may be served in recyclable cups, cans, or bottles.
- The City of Seattle prohibits all businesses, including event producers and vendors, from disposing of recyclable or compostable materials in the garbage.
- Events in Seattle **MUST** provide recycling and compost collection bins in areas including public, vendor, and staff areas to collect appropriate materials for recycling and composting unless permanent bins are already in the venue or event area. Events must submit a solid waste plan, including bin placement and vendors, for review and approval with their special event application.

## Food Packaging Ordinance: Seattle Municipal Code (21.36.086)

Requires food service businesses selling or providing food for consumption on or off premises in one-time use service ware or packaging to use compostable or recyclable packaging (Effective January 1, 2010). As of January 1, 2017, all straws and utensils must also be compostable.

## Recyclables Not Allowed in Garbage: Seattle Municipal Code (21.36.083)

Requires all businesses to separate paper, cardboard, glass bottles and jars, plastic and paper cups, plastic bottles and jars, aluminum and tin cans, and yard waste from the garbage. These items are not allowed in the garbage (Effective July 1, 2014).

## Food Not Allowed in Garbage: Seattle Municipal Code (21.36.082)

Requires all businesses to separate all food and food-soiled uncoated paper, such as paper napkins, paper towels, and pizza boxes, from the garbage. These items are not allowed in the garbage (Effective January 1, 2015).



## Event Beverage Container Recycling Program: Washington State Code (RCW 70.93.093)

A recycling program must be provided at every official gathering and at every sports facility by the vendors who sell beverages. A recycling program includes provisions to transport and recycle the collected materials. The recycling receptacles must be clearly marked for beverage containers.

For interpretation services, please call 206-684-3000.

如需要口譯服務, 請撥電話號碼 206-684-3000. Para servicios de interpretación por favor llame al 206-684-3000.

Wixii turjubaan afka ah ku saabsan, Fadlan la soo xariir taleefoonka: 206-684-3000. 통역 서비스를 원하시면 206-684-3000으로 전화하세요.

Về dịch vụ phiên dịch xin gọi 206-684-3000. Para sa serbisyo ng tagapagpaliwanag, tumawag sa 206-684-3000.



**Seattle  
Public  
Utilities**



Contact the Seattle Public Utilities Green Business Program for free assistance and resources for complying with these ordinances.

[GreenBusiness@seattle.gov](mailto:GreenBusiness@seattle.gov)

[seattle.gov/util/GreenYourBusiness](http://seattle.gov/util/GreenYourBusiness)

(206) 343-8505



# Event & Food Vendor Resources



## Frequently Asked Questions

### How do I know if my products are compostable? Where do I find compostable products?

Use approved compostable food packaging at special events and festivals. For food service packaging options, check with your local supplier. For a full list of approved compostable packaging products, visit our [food packaging requirements page](#).



### Who will pick up my garbage, recycling, and compost?

Contact the following waste service providers below to arrange service.



RECOLOGY CLEANSCAPES  
GARBAGE | RECYCLING | COMPOSTING  
206-250-7500  
info@recologycleanscapes.com



WASTE MANAGEMENT  
GARBAGE | RECYCLING | COMPOSTING  
800-592-9995  
recyclenw@wm.com



REPUBLIC SERVICES  
RECYCLING | COMPOSTING  
206-332-7777  
infoseattle@republicservices.com



CEDAR GROVE  
RECYCLING | COMPOSTING  
877-994-4466  
help@cgcompost.com



SEADRUNAR  
RECYCLING  
206-467-7550  
info@seadrunarrecycling.com

### How many sets of bins should I have at my event?

This depends on how many attendees you anticipate and the types of waste generated. Each food vendor should have a set of bins. Bins should be "co-located" meaning all three (garbage, recycle, and compost) should always be grouped together.

### Do I need to line my compost bins with compostable bags?

Most event vendors prefer to line their compost collection bins with compostable bags so it is easy for event staff to remove and replace bags, keep bins clean, and clearly indicate to customers and attendees that is a compost bin. If using plastic bags, then you must properly label them and dump the contents in the compost, but throw the plastic bag in the garbage.



### How do I get proper signage for my bins?

Seattle Public Utilities Green Business Program provides free signage and other tools and resources for your event on [our website](#).



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