

# Guidelines for Materials to Use (& Avoid) to Achieve



## A Successful Zero Waste Event:



Please purchase **Certified Compostable and locally recyclable materials** for food and other distribution needs at this Zero Waste Event.

Aim For	Avoid
All paper containers including plates, napkins, paper towels, cups, and bags.	Plastic coated paper products are not acceptable. Many paper products (including frozen food paper packages) are coated with plastic liners.
Waxed paper products are great. If you cannot easily scratch the coating off with your fingernail, it is a plastic lining and is not acceptable.	Styrofoam is not recyclable locally. Since contamination is very likely, we ask you not use Styrofoam.
Compostable potato, corn starch, or sugarcane tubs, cups, containers, lids, clamshells, utensils (spoons, forks, knives). BPI certified.*	Plastic cups, lids, utensils, or plastic straws. Prepackaged foods in non-recyclable material, such as chip bags & condiment packs.
Wooden stir-sticks, chopsticks, toothpicks, and skewers. Must be plain wood without plastic decorated tops.	Plastic stir sticks, chopsticks, toothpicks, or skewers.
Aluminum foil and cans, paper milk cartons and drink boxes, plastic and glass bottles.	Foil drink pouches.
Paper bags and reusable bags.	Plastic bags or plastic wrap.
Unpackaged promotional materials that are reusable (pens, key chains, etc.).	One-time use decorations, such as plastic tablecloths, stickers, balloons, confetti, etc.
Office paper, including flyers, brochures, etc. Post-consumer or recycled content preferred.	Metallic, laminated, or non-paper materials.

\*To avoid purchasing "Greenwashed" products always look for the "Biodegradable Products Institute (BPI) Certification" right on the box

**WHAT GOES IN THE GREEN CART?**

**PAPER**  
  
CARDBOARD OK  
CLEAN PIZZA BOXES OK

**METAL CANS**  
  
LABELS OK

**GLASS**  
BOTTLES AND JARS  
  
METAL LIDS OK - PLACE IN BIN SEPARATELY  
LABELS OK

**CARTONS**  
  
DISCARD STRAWS AND CAPS

**PLASTIC BOTTLES/JUGS**  
  
EMPTY, CRUSH AND REATTACH CAP/LID  
LABELS OK

**NO BATTERIES  
PLASTIC BAGS  
CLOTHING**  
  
Visit [www.recycling.com](http://www.recycling.com)  
for more info.

**QUESTIONS?**  
(513) 352-3200 OR [cincinnati-recycles.org](http://cincinnati-recycles.org)

city of  
**CINCINNATI**  
RECYCLES

### Recommended Brands & Websites

ECO Products [www.ecoproducts.com](http://www.ecoproducts.com)

Cedar Grove [www.cedar-grove.com](http://www.cedar-grove.com)

Green Paper Products  
[www.greenpaperproducts.com](http://www.greenpaperproducts.com)

Eco Party Time [www.ecopartytime.com](http://www.ecopartytime.com)

For Amazon purchases always ensure the items are either paper, bamboo or plant-based or a BPI certified plastic.

100% Compostable, PLA or Bio Degradable is not sufficient and cannot be accepted.

Questions? Contact Kara Luggen  
Lauren Gottschalk

[Kara@KeepCincinnatiBeautiful.org](mailto:Kara@KeepCincinnatiBeautiful.org)  
[Lauren@KeepCincinnatiBeautiful.org](mailto:Lauren@KeepCincinnatiBeautiful.org)

