
WASTE DIVERSION & RECYCLING GUIDELINES



@racetozero waste @marincountyfair



YOUR GUIDE TO ZERO WASTE

As we prepare for the 2025 Marin County Fair, please read the updates regarding our sustainability policies and requirements for food vendors.

It is our goal to produce an environmentally friendly, zero waste event. We ask that all vendors comply with our waste reduction policies.

In this packet, you will find information about materials management at the Fair.

Race to Zero Waste is the organization that manages waste diversion for the Marin County Fair. Look for Race to Zero Waste staff in the green vests and at the public Zero Waste Stations!

Please follow the instructions below to help us recover useful materials.

For questions, contact:
Preguntas? Contacta con:
info@racetozerowaste.org



BEST PRACTICES

01 Reduce purchasing single-use products!

All staff, customers, and vendors are encouraged to avoid single-use items, including compostable or recyclable products. If you are unsure if an item is compostable or recyclable, don't use it.

02 Begin setting waste reduction goals!

Set a target to reduce waste and eliminate single-use items. Recycle and compost, donate excess food, and educate staff on waste reduction goals.

03 Donate excess food and compost the rest!

Participate in the food donation program coordinated by the fair to reduce food waste. On the last day, donate excess food to ExtraFood Marin!

04 Questions? Reach out for help!

Reach out to R20W staff for help or questions. We are here to help!



FAIR REQUIREMENTS

Here are the Marin County Fair requirements and the 2025 exemptions to the Reusable Food Ware Ordinance 3763.

- All food vendors are strongly encouraged to use either **aluminum or compostable fiber drink cups**. Aluminum cups may be required as of 2026.
- The county has extended its **exemption for cold and hot cups** to include BPI-certified cups as well as poly-lined paper Pepsi/7UP cups.
- Vendors must use paper or compostable fiber products for plates, cups, straws, boats, and bowls, and use wooden or bamboo cutlery to comply.

To stay in compliance, please see [Marin County's purchasing guide](#) for more compliant products.



FAIR REQUIREMENTS

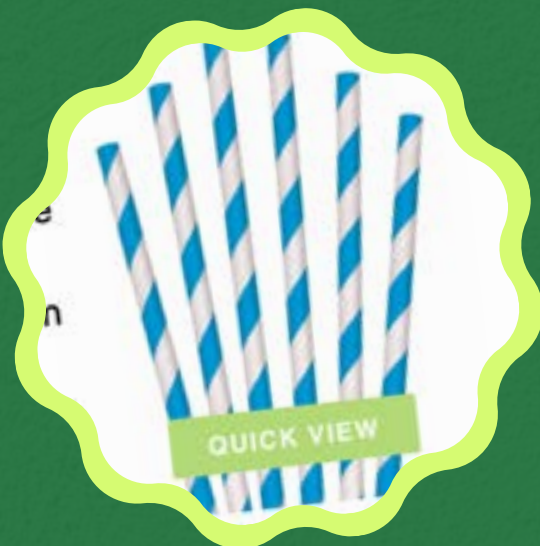
- At the Marin County Fair, plastic plates, cutlery, cups, and lids are banned, along with all styrofoam containers.
- Plastic water and soda bottles, and plastic cups for lemonade, beer, soda, or wine are not allowed to be sold or used at The Marin County Fair. Water refill stations are available throughout the fairgrounds.
- Plastic souvenir cups, such as those for lemonade, are banned at the 2025 Fair, including the "JUMBO size" lemonade jug.
- As always, all condiments must be in bulk containers. Single-use plastic condiment packets are not to be used during the Fair.



APPROVED PRODUCTS

1. Wooden or bamboo cutlery
2. Fiber compostable bowls
3. Uncoated, PFAS-free paper
4. Paper straws
5. Aluminum Cups

Please see [Marin County's purchasing guide](#) for more compliant products.



WHAT GOES WHERE?



Use the app
"Where Does it Go, Joe?"
to see how to sort with
Marin Sanitary Service!



Recycling at the fair:

RECYCLE RIGHT by knowing what is accepted in the blue barrels. Here's a quick list:

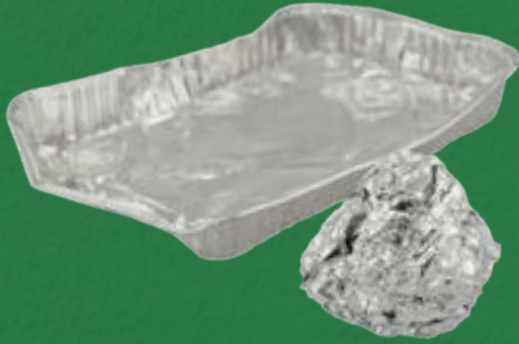
1. Plastic jugs, jars, and tubs - as empty as possible with no liquid.
2. Glass jars and bottles - as empty as possible with no liquid.
3. Steel, aluminum trays, foil, and cans
4. **CARDBOARD** - Flattened clean and dry, non-waxed. Place cardboard next to the blue barrel for collection. **No cardboard is to be placed in the other containers.**



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WHAT IS RECYCLABLE?



Composting at the Fair

Every night place the full food scraps container(s) in front of your booth to be collected. Include:

- All food scraps
- Coffee ground and paper filters, tea bags
- Soiled paper plates, bowls, napkins, and paper wrappings

NOTE: NO products lined with PLA plastic, even if BPI-certified compostable, are accepted in the compost bin and must be put in the landfill bin if used. This includes the paper Pepsi & 7-Up cups as they are poly-lined.



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WHAT IS COMPOST ?



Landfill items at the Fair

Place items in a separate container and leave them in a designated area for collection.

- Soft plastic/meat bags
- Chip bags/candy & granola bar wrappers
- Aseptic containers and milk cartons
- Latex gloves
- Ice and bread bags

NOTE: Trash containers will not be provided.
Do not leave black trash bags next to public waste diversion stations.



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WHAT IS TRASH?



KEY POLICIES

Reusable Foodware Ordinance

The ordinance aims to reduce single-use plastics by using reusables whenever possible and compliant compostable fiber products. The ordinance aims to keep plastics and non-compostable waste out of the waste stream. When selecting food serviceware, reusable products are strongly preferred. If disposables are necessary, fiber-based compostable products clearly labeled BPI-certified are compliant. No plastic foodware or beverage packaging is allowed.

Accepted products:

- Reusable foodware (strongly encouraged)
- BPI-certified compostable fiber-based plates, cups, bowls, etc.
- Wooden or bamboo utensils and stirrers
- Bulk condiment containers

Prohibited products:

- ANY plastic foodware items i.e. straws, bottles, cups, plastic utensils.
- Polystyrene/styrofoam containers or cups
- Bioplastic or BPI-certified compostable plastic items
- Beverages in plastic bottles, juice boxes, pouches



KEY POLICIES

SB 1383

As of January 2022, every home, apartment complex, and business in California is required by law to collect their food waste, yard waste, and paper separately from all other waste. This includes events and fairgrounds. The law ([SB 1383](#)) aims to reduce harmful methane emissions from landfills that contribute to climate change and global warming.

Food Donation Requirements

Set aside any edible fruits, vegetables, bread, dairy, or meats to be picked up after the event for donation. On the last day of the Fair, Race to Zero Waste staff will be collecting food items to be donated.

Race to Zero Waste staff places 55-gallon cooking oil barrels behind groups of food vendors to collect your used cooking oil.

The [Good Samaritan Food Donation Act](#) of 1996 protects you from liability when providing food donations.





FAQS

01

Are vendors allowed to sell water poured from plastic water bottles into compostable cups for customers?

No. That defeats the purpose of banning single-use plastic bottles.

02

Can we sell other soft drinks in plastic bottles?

No. This still creates single-use plastic waste. Remove all single-use plastic bottles and cups from your fair inventory.

03

Whom do we reach out to for help?

Race to Zero Waste staff can assist you with questions regarding waste management. Please look for green vests with the R20W logo. We are here to help!

04

Can we sell beverages in glass bottles?

No. Glass is not allowed for sale at the Fair.

05

Why is the Marin County Fair moving away from compostable plastic products?

- Most bio-plastics are lined with harmful chemicals/poly-fluorinated chemicals (PFAs/PFOs).
- Most users do not know how to differentiate between compostable plastic products and non-compostable plastics, contaminating the compost stream.
- Not all bio-plastics are accepted by commercial composters.
- When bio-plastics end up as litter in our communities and natural environments, they cause the same harm as traditional plastic products.



SIGNATURE PAGE

All vendors are required to acknowledge the rules and regulations that are given by the Marin County Fair. The vendor packet includes necessary information about the fair, your booths, and our materials management policies. Review the packet carefully and sign the acknowledgement below.

"I confirm that I have received, read, and understood the 2025 vendor information packet for the Marin County Fair."

"Confirmando que he recibido, leído y comprendido el paquete de información de 2025 para los vendedores de la Marin County Fair."

NAME/
NOMBRE _____

BUSINESS/
EMPRESA _____

SIGNATURE/
FIRMA _____

