



Zero Waste Program Standards - Effective April 1st, 2019

Summary of Standards for all NCGA Members

As NCGA members, we take pride in responsible stewardship of our natural resources. All NCGA farmers' markets are a part of a Zero Waste campaign. NCGA members are required to comply with the following set of Zero Waste standards. These standards were created by NCGA member committees and the board of directors.

Compostable is defined for the NCGA as items that can be composted with services available in Humboldt County. Currently, items labeled as "commercially compostable" will enter our landfill and do not qualify as compostable with NCGA's standards. These standards allow NCGA to have the maximum amount of control over our waste stream and the environmental impact of our markets. In addition to the standards below, all members must responsibly dispose of "behind the booth" compost, recyclables and trash and must take these items off site with you. Do not dispose of these items in cans or buckets on the Plaza. Please also refer to the "Zero Waste Guide for Non-Agricultural Members" (updated 2/2019 - available on our website or by request) for helpful information and further guidance..

Non Ag Members:

Plastic servingware is not allowed. All food in non-agricultural sections must be served with fully compostable containers and silverware (not including those labeled "commercially compostable"). Giving customers incentives for making good choices is encouraged, such as discounts for bringing their own cups or containers. These incentives can help shape customer habits.

<u>Examples of Allowable Items</u>	<u>Examples of Items Not Allowed</u>
<p>Fully compostable paper and bamboo products such as:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Serving boats ● To-go boxes (not lined with plastic) ● Plates ● Silverware (wooden) ● Paper cups for cold drinks (not lined with plastic) ● Paper condiment containers ● Paper straws ● Paper bags ● "Plastic" bags that are fully compostable without commercial facilities 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Plastic silverware (including commercially compostable plastic silverware) ● Plastic cups for cold drinks (including commercially compostable plastic) ● Plastic condiment cups (including commercially compostable plastic) ● Plastic straws (including commercially compostable plastic) ● Serving items in tin foil (local facilities do not recycle food-contaminated tin foil)

Ag Members:

- Paper bags must be used for all "dry produce" (such as fruit, root vegetables, and mushrooms). Plastic (or commercially compostable plastic) bags for wet or leafy produce are allowed in 2019 as long as paper bags are also provided to customers as an option. If using plastic baskets such as are used for strawberries, encourage customers to return baskets to the same vendor for future reuse. If selling eggs, use only paper cartons (plastic cartons are not allowed). Reusing paper egg cartons is encouraged. If bouquets are wrapped, a paper-based wrap must be used. If available, use an unlined paper or paper lined with a compostable material.

Exceptions: Please contact NCGA staff if you would like to request a reasonable additional exception.

- **If you have purchased non-allowable items before receiving this notice you may enjoy a grace period that allows you to use up your items at market in 2019. We just ask that your next order be compliant.**
- Plastic-lined cups or bowls used for hot beverages or soup are allowed. These items must be otherwise labeled as compostable even though the plastic will not decompose and these items will enter the landfill. Alternatives to plastic lined bowls and cups are recommended as available and if appropriate.
- Pre-packaged items that require plastic (ex. olives). These plastics must be rated recyclable or commercially compostable.
- When a material is required by a health code.