



# IT'S TIME TO SAY GOODBYE TO SINGLE-USE PLASTIC FOODWARE

Replacing single-use disposable products with reusable containers can decrease litter, lessen harm to marine life, and lower the greenhouse gas emissions associated with producing disposables in the first place.

Our local organic compost facility cannot accept synthetic materials. Bio-plastic foodware, commonly labeled as "compostable," is not always compostable or degradable and may contain toxic chemicals. Such items are screened out by Marin County composting facilities and sent to landfill. Likewise, many plastics and plastic-lined papers are no longer marketable to recyclers and must be landfilled.

Community members are calling for a better solution.

## REUSABLE FOODWARE ORDINANCE: HOW IT WORKS



Bring Your Own Reusable is **BEST**



When dining-in at a restaurant, **reusable foodware and utensils must be provided.** Customers are allowed to bring their own clean containers for take-out.



Compostable or Aluminum is **OK**



All take-out foodware (plates, containers, cups, utensils, straws) must be **natural-fiber compostable or all-aluminum, and only available upon request.** An itemized charge of \$0.25 will be added for disposable cups.



Plastic & Plastic-Lined Paper are **BANNED**



**Plastic and plastic-lined paper containers are banned.** Many paper containers are lined with thin plastic film and cannot be recycled or composted. Bio-plastics labeled as "compostable" are NOT allowed.

## WHAT TO EXPECT

The Ordinance was adopted by the County of Marin in May, 2022 and is in effect.

It is expected to also be adopted by some or all Marin County cities and towns. Enforcement begins November 2023, 18 months after Ordinance adoption. Outreach will continue until then to ensure that our communities are equipped and ready to comply with the ordinance in November 2023, and to give businesses time to use up their existing supplies and obtain compliant products.

For more information, including a copy of the draft ordinance, please visit:

[www.marincounty.org/foodware](http://www.marincounty.org/foodware)

