MARIN COUNTY

Reusable Foodware Ordinance Resident Meeting

presented by:
County of Marin &
R3 Consulting Group
Project began

FALL 2019

Project paused, due to COVID-19

SPRING 2021

Project restarted

FALL 2021

Outreach & Technical Assistance to businesses

WINTER / SPRING 2022

We want to hear from you and work together to roll out a successful program!
What is Disposable Foodware?

- Bowls, plates, clamshells, and other to-go containers
- Cups
- Straws
- Utensils
- Accessories:
  - Napkins, cup sleeves, lids, condiment packets, cup spill plugs, stirrers, tooth/cocktail picks, etc.
Why Replace Disposables?

- **Improves environment:**
  - Reduces litter, chemicals in foodware, and amount of waste being sent to landfill;
- **Less GHGs and use of resources in production, transportation, and disposal;**
- **Help meet Municipal Regional Stormwater Permit (MRP) trash reduction requirement;** and
- **Switching to reusables saves money.**
Regulates the type of packaging that can be used to contain food and beverages for take-out and dine-in;

Addresses:
- Reusability, compostability, recyclability, toxicity, and collection receptacles for containers; and
- Packaging used for dine-in, take-out, and temporary events;

Includes penalties for non-compliance; and

Builds on polystyrene packaging ban.
Ordinance enforced 1 year after adoption

Takeout foodware must be:
- Fiber-based, BPI-certified compostable (no bio-plastic)
- Aluminum allowed

Dine-in foodware must be:
- Reusable
- Exceptions allowed for specified items, such as paper napkins, paper straws, and foil wrappers
- Plastic stirrers, cocktail sticks, plugs and toothpicks banned
Key Ordinance Features

- **Takeout “accessories”:**
  - Only upon request or at take-out station; and
  - Must be fiber-based compostable when available;

- **Disposable Cup itemized charge (25 cents with exceptions), retained by food vendor; and**

- **Front and back of house 3-stream collection containers.**
Entities selling prepared food to the public *(health permit required)* in the County and in participating cities/towns including:
- Restaurants;
- Grocery stores and delis;
- Bakeries;
- Carry-out, quick-service, full-service;
- Farmers markets; and
- Food trucks.
What Messaging Could Look Like

- Bring Your Own
  - Reusable is BEST

- Compostable or
  - Aluminum is OK

- Plastic & Plastic-Lined
  - Paper are BANNED

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

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

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.
Who Has a Reusable Foodware Ordinance?

- Fairfax
- San Anselmo
- Sausalito
- Alameda
- Berkeley
- San Francisco
- Watsonville
- Santa Cruz County
- Santa Monica
- Manhattan Beach
- San Mateo County
- Imperial Beach
- Monterey
- Palo Alto
- Arcata
- Stakeholder Feedback from October 2020 - August 2021
- Public Draft comment period through July 2021
- Bring to County Board of Supervisors no earlier than Fall 2021
- Interested cities to follow soon after County adoption (6 months)
- Enforced one year after adoption

To view the draft ordinance, please visit: www.marincounty.org/ehs
MARIN COUNTY
Reusable Foodware Ordinance

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