Event & Food Vendor Requirements

- All food service businesses in Seattle, including event food vendors, must use compostable packaging for food items. Beverages may be served in recyclable cups, cans, or bottles.
- The City of Seattle prohibits all businesses, including event producers and vendors from disposing of recyclable or compostable materials in the garbage.
- Events in Seattle MUST provide recycle and compost collection bins in areas including public, vendor and staff areas to collect appropriate materials for recycling and composting.

Food Packaging Ordinance: Seattle Municipal Code (21.36.086)
Requires food service businesses selling or providing food for consumption on or off premises in one-time use service ware or packaging to use compostable or recyclable packaging.

Recyclables Not Allowed in Garbage: Seattle Municipal Code (21.36.083)
Requires all businesses to separate paper, cardboard, glass bottles and jars, plastic and paper cups, plastic bottles and jars, aluminum and tin cans, and yard waste from the garbage. These items are not allowed in the garbage (Effective July 1, 2014).

Food Not Allowed in Garbage: Seattle Municipal Code (21.36.082)
Requires all businesses to separate all food and food-soiled uncoated paper, such as paper napkins, paper towels and pizza boxes, from the garbage. These items are not allowed in the garbage (Effective January 1, 2015).

Event Beverage Container Recycling Program: Washington State Code (RCW 70.93.093)
A recycling program must be provided at every official gathering and at every sports facility by the vendors who sell beverages. A recycling program includes provisions to transport and recycle the collected materials. The recycling receptacles must be clearly marked for beverage containers.

Contact the Seattle Public Utilities Green Business Program for free assistance and resources for complying with these ordinances.
Use approved compostable food packaging at special events and festivals. For food service packaging options, check with your local supplier. For a full list of approved compostable packaging products, visit: www.cedar-grove.com/commercial/accepted-items/.

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