



# Tips for Staff and Volunteers on Sorting Garbage, Recyclables and Compostables at Events



## Seattle's Recycling and Composting Laws

- All food service businesses in Seattle, including event food vendors such as food trucks, 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 recycling and compost collection bins in areas including public, vendor, and staff areas to collect appropriate materials for recycling and composting unless permanent bins are already in the venue or event area. Events must submit a solid waste plan, including bin placement and vendors, for review and approval with their special event application.



## Food+ Compostables

- Compost all food, food-soiled paper, and approved compostable packaging.
- Paper plates, food trays, etc. that are SHINY have a plastic coating—they are NOT COMPOSTABLE.
- "Sustainable", "Biodegradable", and "Green" do not mean compostable. Only compost packaging clearly labeled compostable.



## Recycling

- Recycle EMPTY aluminum cans, plastic and glass bottles, paper and plastic cups, and lids >3 inches.
- Clean plastic containers and dump liquid into the compost if drink containers are not empty.
- Caps (<3 inches) are only recyclable if on the bottle.
- Plastic containers cannot contain food or excessive food residue—if they do, they are garbage.



## Garbage

- Throw away loose caps, snack bags and plastic wrap, non-compostable straws and utensils, portion cups, and food soiled containers.



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