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Single-Use Disposable Foodware

Ordinance 1527

This ordinance aims to reduce the use of single-use plastic foodware, which contributes to street litter, marine pollution, harm to wildlife, greenhouse gas emissions, and waste sent to landfills.

Reusable is REQUIRED



Foodware you keep, wash, & reuse saves money and the planet!

Compostable Fiber is COMPLIANT



Paper, wood, & bamboo products break down more readily than any alternatives!

Plastic is PROHIBITED



Single-use plastics & "bioplastics" are polluting our communities and waterways!

Ordinance Provisions:

Food Vendors with proper dishwashing capacity must serve **reusable foodware** (e.g., plates, bowls, utensils, and cups) for **on-site dining**.



The ordinance is applicable to all food service establishments, including but not limited to: restaurants, grocery stores, bars, cafes, mobile food vendors, and cafeterias.

Disposable foodware such as paper food wrappers, napkins, straws, and paper liners are allowed for on-site dining but must be **fiber-based compostable**.



Food Vendors must offer a minimum **\$0.25 discount** for customers who **bring their own reusable foodware** for takeout food and beverages.

The \$0.25 discount is per order, NOT per item

All single-use disposable foodware, including accessory items, must be **fiber-based compostable** and **PFA-free**.

Disposables composed entirely of aluminum are acceptable.



Food Vendors must charge customers a **\$0.25 fee** for takeout food and beverages served in **single-use disposable foodware**.

The \$0.25 fee is per order, NOT per item



Accessory foodware can only be provided **upon request** or at a **self-serve station**.

Accessory foodware includes straws, stirrers, napkins, utensils, condiment cups & packets, cup sleeves, tops, lids, and spill plugs



Compostable means materials in the product or package are **fiber-based** and will **break down** into, or otherwise become a part of, usable compost in a safe and timely manner.



NO wax lining. Perfluoroalkyl & polyfluoroalkyl materials (PFA), used for wax-linings, do not easily break down, and accumulate in the environment and in our bodies.



Bioplastics are **NOT acceptable**. Even if it says 'compostable', bioplastics cannot be composted in Humboldt County and act like petroleum-based plastics in our environment and landfills.



Polystyrene (styrofoam) is **NEVER acceptable**. This material persists and pollutes longer than many other types of litter, and is a known hazardous substance according to the FDA.

Food Vendors may **request a waiver** for items that the City of Arcata has not exempted if they can document that the fiber-based item will cost 200% (3x) more than their current disposable alternative.

Current exemptions* are: Hot liquid containers, Cold cups, Cup lids, Soufflé cups, Cutlery, Grocery store pack-downs, and Hot bar meal trays. *subject to change

Any non-conforming disposable foodware types **must be recyclable in the City of Arcata**.