

Zero Waste Packaging Ordinance

St. Louis Park's Zero Waste Packaging Ordinance requires that all single-use food packaging used by licensed food establishments be recyclable or BPI certified compostable. This includes packaging used to serve customers on-site or taken to-go. The ordinance applies to restaurants, bakeries, food trucks, grocery store delis and salad bars, gas stations and any other licensed food establishment.

Businesses that use single-use food packaging in-house must have an on-site opportunity to collect the packaging. Recycling collection is required for any recyclable packaging and organics collection is required for any compostable packaging.

ACCEPTABLE

Recyclable

Plastic



Metal



Compostable*



**Must be BPI certified compostable, except pizza delivery boxes.*

NOT ACCEPTABLE

Plastic



Non-certified compostable



Plastic-lined paper



Also: Any utensils and plastic lined paper that are NOT BPI certified compostable..

Exempt and excluded products

Temporarily exempt – until Dec. 31, 2026

- Paper food wraps and liners (e.g. fast food wrappers)
- Portion cups (smaller than 4 oz) and lids

Food establishments using temporarily exempt items must clearly indicate to customers that these items are garbage, using one of the following ways:

- Labels on exempt items
- Text on menus
- Posted signage (easily visible to customers)

Excluded – not included in ordinance

- Stir sticks
- Items prepackaged by the manufacturer, producer or distributor
- Plastic film less than 10 mils thick, including plastic bags

Exempt and excluded businesses

Temporarily exempt – until Dec. 31, 2026

- Catering activities of any food establishment
- Except at city-owned properties with recycling and organics collection

Excluded – not included in ordinance

- Businesses that are not licensed food establishments
- Patient care areas of healthcare facilities (e.g. hospitals and nursing homes)

Recycling and organics collection

If recyclable and/or compostable packaging is used to serve customers in-house, businesses must collect those items for recycling and/or composting.

- If trash receptacles are available to customers, recycling and/or organics containers are required “front of house.”
- If trash receptacles are not available to customers (i.e. staff handle discarded packaging “back of house”), containers are not required “front of house.”

For more information

www.stlouisparkmn.gov/zwp

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Additional requirements

Compostable utensils: Food establishments are required to use compostable or reusable utensils.

Straws by request: Food establishments shall not provide straws to customers, unless requested. A front-of-house straw dispenser or other self-serve setup is allowed.

Compostable cup labeling: All compostable cups and containers must be labeled to indicate the item is compostable. Examples include:

- The logo of a third-party certification (e.g. Biodegradable Products Institute, or BPI).

Cup and container lids: To help prevent cross-contamination of recycling and organics, lids must match containers.

- Lids used for compostable cups/containers must be compostable.
- Lids used for recyclable cups/containers must be recyclable.



Waste Wise assistance

If you are using take-out containers that do not meet the city zero waste packaging requirements, you can get free help from Waste Wise.

Waste Wise can offer support with:

- Identifying waste reduction opportunities
- Staff training
- Participation in their plastic reduction program MNimize
- Finding reusable, recyclable or compostable packaging products
- Applying for grant funding to help make the switch

Contact mpartch@mnchamber.com or 612.682.7823 to learn more.

For reasonable accommodations or alternative formats, call 952.924.2187 or email atansom@stlouisparkmn.gov. People who are deaf or hard of hearing can call 952.924.2518 for a relay service. Para ayuda, llame al 952.924.2187. Hadii aad caawimaad u baahantahay, wac 952.924.2187.