

Steps to going Zero Waste

PLAN FOR LESS PACKAGING

When creating the menu, avoid any items with excess or individual packaging, including sugar packets, condiment packets, small chip bags, soup cracker packets, individual creamers, individual cream cheese packets, individual yogurts, wrapped granola bars, and (most) boxed lunches.

GO BULK

Plan to replace sweetener packets, creamer, and condiments with bulk versions to avoid the packaging waste.



REUSABLE OR COMPOSTABLE

Make sure all tableware is reusable or certified compostable by BPI or CMA-W. Lists of acceptable compostable tableware can be found at:

Biodegradable Products Institute (BPI) Certified.

Compost Manufacturers Alliance -Windrow (CMA-W) Certified

SIGNAGE

Display signage letting guests know that everything they have today from tableware to food is compostable or recyclable.

OCS can provide signage if needed

COLLECTION PLAN

Make sure there is a plan for:

- Having compost collection receptacles at the event
- Taking it to a compost cart post-event

If the food and compostable tableware aren't composted, all the effort is wasted!



You or your client can contact us at:

zerowaste@umich.edu

or visit our website:

ocs.umich.edu/zero-waste

We know there will be certain items used in serving and transporting food that will not be recyclable or compostable.

Please make sure your staff know to put these items in the appropriate bin.



THESE ITEMS MUST GO INTO THE LANDFILL BIN

- Plastic wrap
- Gloves
- Sterno burners
- Plastic serving spoons
- Tongs



CLEAN aluminum foil, trays, racks can be recycled.



As far as we know, there is not a quality compostable plastic wrap or glove on the market. Please let us know if you know otherwise!

We are here to help!

The Office of Campus Sustainability administers the university-wide Zero Waste Events Program.

We can provide many types of assistance for on-campus zero waste events, including:

COMPOST COLLECTION SERVICE

We can provide compost collection boxes, liners, and compost collection service to U-M buildings.

VOLUNTEERS

With large events, volunteers are often needed to keep contaminants out of the compost bin and help guide guests in the new disposal process. If contacted early, we may be able to provide volunteers.

TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE

We are always happy to answer questions about what is and is not compostable, give suggestions about materials, or develop custom signage.



What is a zero waste event?

Zero waste events aim to reduce the waste they send to landfill by at least 90% through packaging reduction, composting, and recycling. At U-M, our **most important composting goal** is making sure the compost collection stays free of contaminants.



Zero waste catering at U-M



So your U-M client requested a zero waste event...

What comes next?