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!**

**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!**

You or your client can contact us at:
zerowaste@umich.edu
or visit our website:
ocs.umich.edu/zero-waste
So your U-M client requested a zero waste event...

What comes next?

Zero waste catering at U-M

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.