



ZERO WASTE FARMERS MARKET VENDOR ROLES, RESPONSIBILITIES AND REQUIREMENTS

What We're Asking of You:

To support our Zero Waste goals, the market is requiring the following from all vendors, especially those serving food. Please begin planning accordingly as this may affect your purchasing decisions for the season.

- **Use compostable and recyclable materials only.**
 - No **Styrofoam** (banned).
 - No **plastic cutlery or straws** (currently not recyclable).
 - Choose products that have the BPI logo.
- **Separate your waste at your booth** at the end of each market and place it in the correct bins.
- Unless using only compostable materials, please avoid providing public trash bins at your booth. Instead, direct customers to the designated waste stations.



Our Shared Goal:

- **Minimize trash.**
- **Increase compost collection.**
- **Improve recycling quality** by preventing food contamination.

Where to Purchase Approved Compostable & Recyclable Products

To meet the market's Zero Waste requirements, food vendors must use products with the BPI logo or recyclable products. Below are some recommended suppliers:

Why BPI?

The Biodegradable Products Institute (BPI) uses independent labs to test products to make sure they fully break down in a compost facility. When an item has the BPI logo, it means the product will fully break down without leaving chemicals or plastics behind. This makes the healthiest compost.



There are many products that advertise they are “biodegradable” and “compostable” without the BPI logo, and these products are not accepted because they may not fully break down. Trying to compost these products can contaminate compost batches.

Retailers

You can also search for BPI certified compostable products on the BPI website: <https://bpiworld.org/find-certified-products>

- WebstaurantStore (<https://www.webstaurantstore.com/47129/eco-friendly-disposables.html>)
 - Large selection of BPI-certified compostable cups, utensils, and takeout containers
 - Filter search by “Compostable” and look for the BPI certification logo



BPI Approved Cert # 10528598

This product is certified by the Biodegradable Products Institute (BPI) as compostable in a commercial composting facility.

- Eco-Products (www.ecoproducts.com)
 - Click the drop-down for compostability and select BPI-certified.
- Green Paper Products (www.greenpaperproducts.com)
 - Offers smaller quantities for small-scale vendors; look for the BPI logo on individual products and in their descriptions.

Product Certifications:

BPI Certified

CMA Certified

USDA BioBased

◦


What to Look For


- BPI Logo: Ensures the product meets commercial composting standards.
- Avoid items labeled “biodegradable” “compostable” and “100% compostable”—not all are truly compostable.
- No plastic linings, wax coatings, or PLA unless BPI-certified.




Waste Sorting Guide: What Goes Where?


RECYCLING (Blue Bin)

-  Clean & Empty Only, leave caps on
- Plastic beverage bottles & containers
 - Aluminum cans
 - Glass bottles & jars
 - Clean cardboard (flattened)
 - Paper (dry, not soiled)


-  Do Not Recycle:
- Food scraps
 - Plastic utensils, straws, or bags
 - Soiled paper or containers
 - Compostable items

COMPOST (Green Bin)

-  Accepted Compostables
- All food scraps (including coffee grounds & filters and meat & dairy)
 - Napkins, paper towels
 - BPI-certified compostable products like plates, bowls, utensils, cups & containers
 - Wooden stir sticks & toothpicks

-  Do Not Compost:
- Items without the BPI logo
 - Foil or wax-coated containers
 - Recyclables

TRASH (Black Bin)

-  Everything else
- Plastic utensils, straws
 - Plastic film or bags
 - Items without the BPI logo
 - Contaminated recyclables

Tips for Vendors:

- Pre-sort waste behind your booth during service.
- At end of market, use correct bins—do not leave mixed trash.

- Label staff-only bins and keep customer-facing bins minimal.
- Direct customers to central waste stations for proper sorting.

Funding Support




Hennepin County offers businesses funding and assistance to help reduce waste. Their goal is to help individual businesses find creative solutions that work for them. View available grants and their guidelines here: <https://www.hennepin.us/en/economic-development/programs/business-recycling-grants>






Let's continue building a market that's not just vibrant—but responsible. Your participation is essential, and together we can set a powerful example for our community.



Northeast EST. 2000 **FARMERS MARKET**

As part of our commitment to Zero Waste, we kindly ask that you use BPI-certified compostable or recyclable products at your booth this season. Using these specific materials helps us reduce landfill waste, improve recycling, and support our composting efforts.

We appreciate your partnership in making the market more sustainable—thank you for doing your part!

Product description	Item number	Unit of measure
9-inch plate	ECOEPP013NFA 	500/carton
12-ounce bowl	ECOEPBL12NFA 	1,000/carton
8-ounce cup	ECOEPBHC8WAPK 	50 cups/pack

Product description	Item number	Unit of measure
8-ounce cup	<p>ECOEPBHC8WA</p> 	50 cups/pack; 20 packs (1,000 cups total)
10-ounce cup	<p>ECOEPBHC10PK</p> 	50 cups/pack
10-ounce cup	<p>ECOEPBHC10WA</p> 	50 cups/pack; 20 packs (1,000 cups total)
12-ounce cup	<p>ECOEPBHC12WAPK</p> 	50 cups/pack
12-ounce cup	<p>ECOEPBHC12WA</p> 	50 cups/pack; 20 packs (1,000 cups total)

Product description	Item number	Unit of measure
16-ounce cup	ECOEPBHC16WAPK 	50 cups/pack
16-ounce cup	ECOEPBHC16WA 	50 cups/pack; 20 packs (1,000 cups total)
6-inch fork	ECOEPS012 	50 forks/pack, 20 packs (1,000 forks total)
6-inch spoon	ECOEPS013 	50 spoons/pack, 20 packs (1,000 spoons total)
6-inch knife	ECOEPS011 	50 knives/pack, 20 packs (1,000 total knives)
6-inch cutlery kit with compostable napkin and wrapper	ECOEPS015 	250 kits/pack
7-inch wooden stir sticks	ECONTSTC10C 	1,000/pack