



## University of Southern California Catering Services Suppliers - Zero Waste Requirements

The University of Southern California is moving toward eliminating the use of single use plastics by utilizing compostable alternatives. As a result, we are looking to our catering suppliers to partner with us on these efforts. This document outlines minimum requirements for acceptable compostable products for any caterer providing catering services for a Zero Waste Event at USC.

### Disposable Serveware and Food Service Packaging

Products include but are not limited to: Drink Cups, Drink Lids and Sleeves, Drink Carriers, Straws and Stir Sticks, Smallwares/Utensils/Cutlery, Hors d'oeuvre Serving Utensils, Plates, Bowls, Tableware, Napkins, Paper Towels, Deli Sheets, To-Go food Containers and Wraps, To-Go bags, Trays, Platters, Other disposable plastic or paper products.

- All Disposable Serveware and Food Service Packaging **must be Compostable**.
- Compostable items must be certified by the **Biodegradable Products Institute (BPI)** or **Compost Manufacturing Alliance (CMA)** approved and meet the following standards:
  - ASTM D6400 or ASTM D6868 for composability
  - Bioplastics – PLA #7 for cold containers CPLA for hot containers



- Uncoated, unlined, or clay coated products made from 100% paper, plant based, wood or bamboo materials, are acceptable as long as the products are **Compost Manufacturing Alliance (CMA)** approved.
- Non Disposable Items are acceptable and caterers are required to ensure cleanliness of the items for use and take back of all items.

### Beverages and Beverage Containers

- Soft drinks, water, and any other single serving beverages must be in recyclable aluminum cans or glass bottles only.
- Plastic bottles and bottle caps are not allowed.
- Multi serving beverage containers must be reusable or comply with the composting standards listed above.

### Additional Items and Considerations

- Individual condiment packets are not allowed. Bulk condiments only.
- Food waste must go into compost bins or removed from USC property.
- Cardboard boxes or other items used for food delivery must be removed from USC property.
- Styrofoam products of any kind are not allowed.