



# City of St. Louis Park Zero Waste Packaging Ordinance

May 17, 2016



# Zero Waste Packaging Background

- Nov. 2014 to May 2015 – Discussed research, goals, process for considering policy
- July to Nov. 2015 – Industry and local stakeholder input, draft ordinance discussion
- December 21, 2015 – After public hearings, adoption of ordinance
- **January 1, 2017 – Ordinance becomes effective**

# Legislative Purpose/Goals

- Sec.12.201: To increase traditional recycling and organics recycling while reducing waste and environmental impact from non-reusable, non-recyclable, and non-compostable food and beverage packaging

# Ordinance Requirements

1. Food establishments required to use “Zero Waste Packaging” for food prepared and served on-site or packaged to-go

Must be:

- ✓ Reusable or Returnable
- ✓ Recyclable \*
- ✓ Compostable \*

Excludes:

- Foods pre-packaged by manufacturer/producer/distributor
- Plastic knives/forks/spoons
- Plastic films less than ten mils thick

\*Recyclable and Compostable packaging require development of acceptable material lists by city

# Ordinance Requirements

2. Food establishments required to provide on-site recycling and/or organics recycling for customers dining-in



# Development of Acceptable Packaging Materials

- Lists is reviewed and approved by Council annually
  - Recyclable and compostable packaging meeting definitions in 12.202
  - Exemptions for packaging in 12.206

# Acceptable Recyclable Packaging Materials

Food or beverage containers that are:

- Made of recyclable material
- Accepted by local material recovery facilities
- Marketed to existing robust recycling markets

# Acceptable Recyclable Packaging Materials

- Plastic packaging:
  - Polyethylene Terephthalate (#1 PET or PETE)
  - High Density Polyethylene (#2 HDPE)
  - Polypropylene (#5 PP)
- Metal packaging:
  - Aluminum foil (includes aluminum foil wrap and rigid containers)



# ✓ Recyclable Packaging Examples



Aluminum foil



# Non-Recyclable Packaging Examples



Do NOT meet ordinance definition of Recyclable



Plastic lined paper cups



#6 PS - Rigid



#6 PS - Foam



# Acceptable Compostable Packaging Materials

Food or beverage containers that are:

- Made of unlined paper
- Made of paper with certified compostable lining
- Made of certified compostable plastic
- Or other materials accepted by the commercial compost or anaerobic digestion facility

# Acceptable Compostable Packaging Materials

- Paper Packaging
  - Unlined/uncoated paper products
  - Unlined/uncoated butcher paper
  - Unlined/uncoated parchment paper
  - Wax paper
- Certified Compostable Packaging (BPI or Cedar Grove certified compostable)
  - Paper
  - Plastic
  - Bagasse
  - Bamboo



Experience **LIFE** in the Park

# ✓ Compostable Packaging Examples



Certified  
compostable  
clamshell



Certified  
compostable  
paper cup



Certified  
compostable  
plastic cup/lids



Unlined paper  
products



COMPOSTABLE  
IN INDUSTRIAL FACILITIES

Certified compostable labeling

# Non-Compostable Packaging Examples

 Do NOT meet ordinance definition of Compostable

Plastic lined  
paper hot cup



Plastic lined paper  
cold cup

Plastic lined  
paper plate



Plastic lined  
paper container



# Development of Packaging Exemptions

- Made only when there is no reasonable commercially available alternative
- NOT made based on cost factors
- City-wide and NOT made on a case-by-case or business-by-business basis

# Temporarily Acceptable Packaging Materials (Exempt)

**Paper food wraps/fast food wrappers until January 1, 2018**

- Typically have chemical/plastic lining to stop grease
- Not accepted by local commercial composters
- Lack of sufficient commercially available alternative products (with certified lining)

Exemption → allowing for time for development of certified compostable alternatives





# Administrative Rules

Council assigns the authority to make administrative rules to Public Works Division

# Catering Activities

Temporary exemption until January 1, 2018

- Nature of catering (often from outside city limits, don't stay for cleanup)
- Exploring process to work with event venues in city to ensure caterers are compliant in the future

# Patient Care

- Patient care areas of hospitals and nursing homes → outside scope of the ordinance
- Cafeterias open to staff and guests → must be in compliance

# Collection Containers

## Where are recycling/organics recycling containers required?

Must provide on-site opportunity for recycling and/or organics recycling

- If trash receptacles are available to customers, need recycling/organics containers “front of the house”
- If trash receptacles are not available (staff deal with discarded packaging “back of the house”), containers “front of the house” not required

# Outreach and Education

Depending on licensing agency, partnering with:

- Hennepin County Environmental Health
- Minnesota Department of Agriculture (Retail food establishments – grocery store, bakery, convenience store)

Providing information on acceptable materials, including when change of ownership happens.



# Enforcement

- 1) A warning notice in writing for the first violation.
- 2) A fine of \$100 for the second violation.
- 3) Repeat subsequent violations within 24 months, a fine double the amount of the fine imposed for the previous violation, up to a maximum of \$2,000. For example if there were four occurrences of a violation that carried a \$100 fine: first is \$0 (warning); second is \$100, third is \$200, fourth is \$400.

At the time a violation occurs, the food establishment will be given 14 calendar days to take corrective action before a subsequent fine is issued.

# Zero Waste Packaging

## Acceptable & Exempt Materials Lists

### Effective January 1, 2017

**Emily Barker, Public Works Division**  
Solid Waste Program Specialist  
[ebarker@stlouispark.org](mailto:ebarker@stlouispark.org)  
952.924.2187

**Kala Fisher, Public Works Division**  
Solid Waste Program Coordinator  
[kfisher@stlouispark.org](mailto:kfisher@stlouispark.org)  
952.924.2183