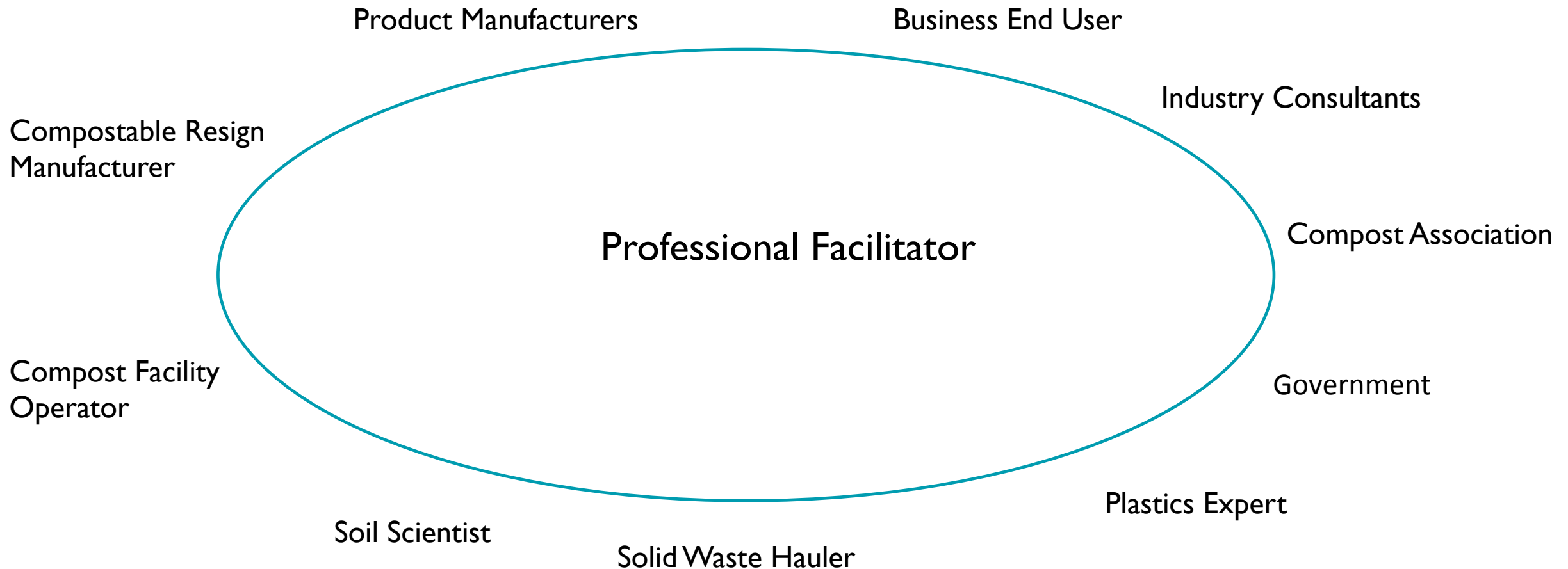




# CHALLENGES AND BENEFITS OF COMPOSTABLE PRODUCTS COLLECTION

Leslie Lukacs

# COMPOSTABLE PRODUCTS STAKEHOLDER GROUP



# COMPOSTABLE PRODUCTS STAKEHOLDER GROUP

## Mission:

- Recognize challenges and benefits of compostable food serviceware
- Identify options for resolving challenges to allow compostable food serviceware

Industry	Challenges
Composting Facilities	When accepting diverse, single-use compostable products and identify how facilities have overcome it
Product Manufacturers	Getting compostable products accepted at commercial compost facilities and methods employed for creating a more collaborative approach to acceptance
Municipalities Face	Making decisions and managing organics collection programs for residents, businesses and institutions and identifying tools for minimizing contamination

# RESEARCH & OPTIONS

- Interviewed industry experts
- Listened to presentations from experts
- Reviewed white papers
- Researched case studies
- Three viable options.
  1. Unlined Fiber Products Only
  2. Single-stream Process; All BPI-certified Food Serveware Accepted
  3. Dual-stream Process; All BPI-certified Food Serveware Accepted



# COMPOST FACILITIES

## ■ National

- 4,750 +/- compost facilities throughout the nation
- 185+ accept all types of food scraps (<https://www.biocycle.net/food-waste-composting-infrastructure-u-s/>)
- Less than half accept BPI-certified compostable bioplastics

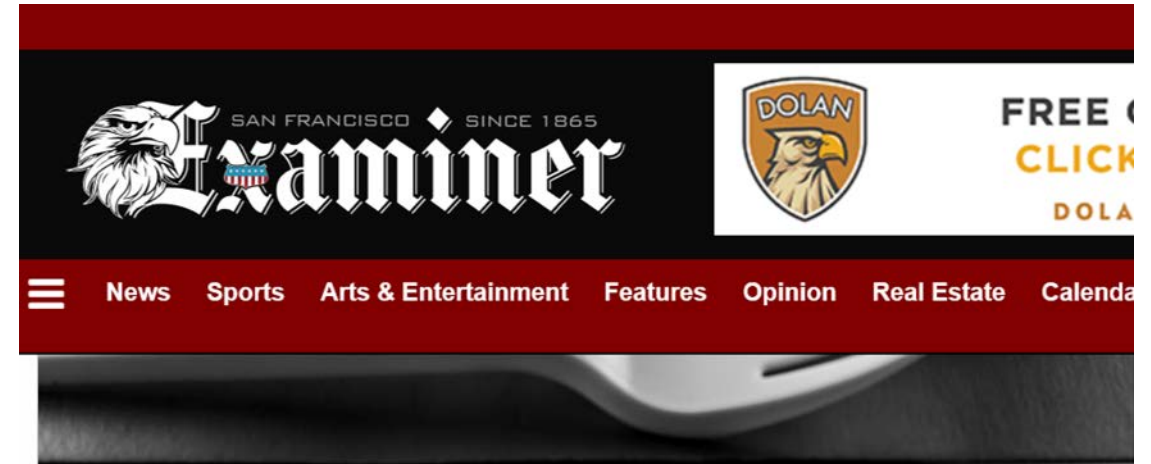
## ■ California

- 160 compost facilities
- 38 accept food waste
- 14 accept BPI-certified compostable bioplastics



# SB 1383

- Section 18984.1. Three-container Organic Waste Collection Services
- (a)(1)(A) Compostable plastics may be placed in the green container if the material meets the ASTM D6400 standard for compostability and the contents of the green containers are transported to Compostable Material Handling Operations or Facilities or in-vessel Digestion Operations or Facilities that have provide written notification annually to the jurisdiction stating that the facility can process and recover that material.
- ASTM D6400 - Test for Compostability



In San Francisco, many compostable containers, cups and cutlery are brought to the landfill. (Courtesy photo)

## Compostable containers don't end up where you think they do

For years, San Franciscans have used compostable plastic containers, cups and cutlery because it's supposed to be the better environmental choice.

# BENEFITS OF COMPOSTABLE PRODUCTS

- Enhances food waste collection
- Compostable plastics made from plants instead of petrochemicals from fossil fuels
  - Manufacturing uses less energy and creates fewer greenhouse gas emissions
  - Tested to be non-toxic
  - Suitable for hot food and drinks up to 100°F
- BPI - certified to break down in commercial composting facilities in 3 – 6 months



**COMPOSTABLE**  
IN INDUSTRIAL FACILITIES

Check locally, as these do not exist in many communities. **Not suitable for backyard composting.** CERT # SAMPLE



# A Message from Composters Serving Oregon:

- Don't always compost - not all 'certified' compostable items actually compost (break down) as fully or quickly as needed
- Contamination happens
- Hurt resale quality
- Can't sell to finished compost to organic farmers
- May threaten human and environmental health (PFAS) to provide water and grease resistance
- Increases costs and makes our job harder
- Just because something is compostable doesn't mean it's better for the environment. Oregon DEQ has found that compostable serviceware often has a larger (life time) environmental footprint than non-compostable items.
- Composting is a beneficial treatment option for organic wastes
- Compostable items often cost more as non-compostable, recyclable alternatives.





# SANTA MONICA - EXPANDED BAN ON SINGLE-USE PLASTICS



## Disposable Food Service Ware Guidelines Effective January 1, 2019

Natural Fiber Straws & Utensils  
Upon Request Only

Plastic Straws Allowed Upon Request  
for People with Disabilities Only



Natural Fibers – Okay

Plates, bowls, trays,  
containers, stirrers.



Cup & Cup Lids  
Exempt until  
Jan 1, 2020



Banned

Plastic, bio-plastic,  
aluminum.



# ALAMEDA – DISPOSABLE FOOD SERVICE WARE REDUCTION LAW



REUSABLE IS BEST



Dishware you keep, wash, and reuse saves money and the planet.



COMPOSTABLE FIBER IS GREAT



Paper-like, wooden or bamboo options break down more readily than any alternatives.



PLASTIC IS GOING AWAY



These single-use items are rapidly polluting our oceans, and are no longer acceptable in Alameda.

# BERKELEY



## BERKELEY SINGLE USE FOODWARE & LITTER REDUCTION ORDINANCE

Ordinance Requirements for Prepared Food Vendors

### Phase 1 Effective March 27, 2019



- **Accessory Items Upon Request**

- ✓ Provide Accessory Disposable Foodware Items (e.g. straws, utensils, cup lids, sleeves, stirrers, napkins, etc.) only upon customer request or at self-service stations.



- **Front-of-House Recycle & Compost Receptacles**

- ✓ Place color-coded recycle and compost receptacles next to trash receptacles available to customers.
- ✓ Post signage above and/or on each receptacle.

### Phase 2 Effective January 1, 2020



- **Certified Compostable Foodware**

- ✓ Disposable foodware must be BPI-certified compostable.
- ✓ No disposable plastics allowed.
- ✓ Recyclable aluminum foil is allowed for burritos & wraps.



- **\$0.25 Disposable Cup Charge**

- ✓ Charge \$0.25 for every disposable cup provided to customers.
- ✓ Identify the \$0.25 cup charge separately on menus, menu boards, delivery ordering platforms, and receipts.

### Phase 3 Effective July 1, 2020



- **Reusable Foodware for On-Premises Dining**

- ✓ Foodware utilized for on-premises dining must be reusable.
- ✓ Disposable foodware is prohibited for on-premises dining.
- ✓ Exceptions: Compostable paper tray liners are allowed. Napkins & compostable straws allowed upon customer request.

**Enforcement begins one year after the effective date of each phase. Technical assistance will be available to assist businesses with the transition to reusables prior to enforcement.**

This fact sheet is an overview of the ordinance. Please refer to BMC Chapter 11.64 for the complete ordinance requirements.

## COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION

### 3 OPTIONS FOR ACCEPTING COMPOSTABLE PRODUCTS

Option 1:  
Unlined fiber  
products only

Option 2:  
Single-stream  
process;  
All BPI-certified  
compostable food  
service ware  
accepted

Option 3:  
Dual-stream  
process;  
All BPI-certified  
compostable food  
service ware  
accepted – Opt In  
Commercial  
accounts

# OPTION 1: UNLINED FIBER PRODUCTS ONLY



Yes



No

# OPTION 2: SINGLE-STREAM; ALL BPI-PRODUCTS ACCEPTED



Yes



No

# OPTION 3: DUAL-STREAM; ALL BPI-PRODUCTS ACCEPTED

## 3.1) Opt-in commercial accounts



Yes

No

# DUAL-STREAM; ALL BPI-PRODUCTS ACCEPTED

## 3.2) Residential and all other commercial accounts Fiber Only



Yes



No



# ANNUAL COST BREAKDOWN

Option	Unlined fiber products (baseline)	Single-stream	Dual-stream
△ <b>Sorting Cost</b>	\$0	\$0	<b>\$94,852</b>
△ <b>Disposal Cost</b>	\$0	<b>\$360,000</b>	<b>\$360,000</b>
△ <b>Blending Cost</b>	\$0	\$0	<b>\$52,000</b>
△ <b>Conveying Cost</b>	\$0	\$0	<b>\$25,000</b>
△ <b>CASP land Cost</b>	\$0	\$0	<b>\$64,325*</b>
△ <b>Screening Cost</b>	\$0	\$0	<b>\$5,000</b>
△ <b>Storage Cost</b>	\$0	\$0	<b>\$64,352*</b>

\*The land and storage cost are each \$625,000, amortized over 15 years.

# ANNUAL COST SUMMARY

Option	Unlined fiber products only (baseline)	Single-stream; all BPI-certified products	Dual-stream; all BPI-certified products
Change in Capital Expense	\$0	\$0	\$128,703*
Change in Operating Expense	\$0	\$360,000	\$536,853
Change in Revenue	\$0	\$1,975,000	\$400,000
Change in Annual Cost	\$0	\$2,335,000	\$1,065,557

\* Total cost \$1,250,000 amortized over 15 years

# ZWS BOARD AD HOC COMMITTEE CREATION AND RECOMMENDATIONS

- Define Sonoma County's acceptable organic feedstock:
  - Yard debris, food scraps, and fiber-only compostable products
- Advocate for better statewide policy on compostable product labeling
- Write letter requesting the National Organics Program (NOP) make an exemption for PLA-lined fiber products
- Request that compostable plastics be accepted as a feedstock if/when
  - Proficient labeling standards are enacted
  - They are recognized as an acceptable organic feedstock by the NOP.
- Renewable Sonoma will be directed to incorporate flexibility for these materials to the design of the organics processing facility

## MODEL ORDINANCE Disposable food service ware and polystyrene foam ban

Jurisdictions in Sonoma County have implemented or are considering a model ordinance, called the Ordinance to Prohibit Use and Sale of Disposable Food Service Ware and Other Products Containing Polystyrene Foam, to ban the sale of certain polystyrene foam products and limit the use of non-recyclable or non-compostable disposable food ware.

### REUSABLE IS BEST



Food service providers are encouraged to provide and incentivise reusables for their customers

### RECYCLABLE IS GREAT



### FIBER COMPOSTABLE IS GREAT



Disposable food ware must be compostable or recyclable through Sonoma County's commercial collection programs

### POLYSTYRENE FOAM IS GOING AWAY



Retailers cannot sell or distribute polystyrene foam items including:

- Disposable polystyrene foam food service ware
- Polystyrene foam peanuts and packaging
- Coolers

# QUESTIONS

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