

RecycleSmart

PLASTIC-FREE JULY



Compostable plastic? Not so fantastic!

Compostable plastic is a wonderful idea in theory, but the technology is not quite there yet.

While the green stripe plastic cups and corn-based utensils may be biodegradable, **they are not compostable** under current composting facility operations. This means they are not engineered to break down quickly within the 45-day process limitation at most composting facilities.

Unfortunately these items belong in the landfill cart, and even so they won't break down in the landfill. They need air, moisture and sunlight to break down properly and landfills tend to mummify and deprive waste from these necessary elements.



Take the Plastic-Free July Challenge

Throughout the month of July consider **one change** to your daily routine to reduce your use of plastic.



Compostable plastics go in the black landfill cart.



Some alternatives to compostable plastic:

- Use reusable utensils, plates and cups
- Use uncoated paper materials (place in green organics cart)
- Use aluminum foil to wrap food

Single use? No excuse!

REDUCE



Use bar soap, shampoo and toothpaste tabs. Reduce the use of plastic bottles and packaging.



Choose aluminum or glass when you buy a single use beverage. Aluminum and glass are infinitely recyclable.



Look for natural fiber clothing (linen, wool, cotton) rather than polyester which is made from plastic (PET).



Bring your own reusable utensils and say no to restaurant single-use plastic utensils and straws.

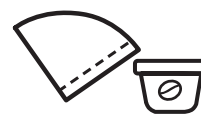


Buy snacks in larger sizes and separate into reusable containers. Say goodbye to single-use individual snack packaging!

REUSE



Bottles and containers are great for storing snacks and small supplies. Empty, clean and reuse!



Reusable coffee filters and coffee pods. Reduce the use of single use coffee filters and pods.



Use reusable bags or containers instead of zip-lock style bags and plastic food wrap.



Use large refill size cleaning products and refill the empty spray bottle.



Bring your own reusable bags and say no to those plastic bags at the store.



A large jar will go far!



cut me out & put me on the fridge!