



Zero Waste Vendor Packet

Aquinas College is committed to becoming a zero municipal solid waste to landfill/incinerator campus. The industry accepted definition of “zero waste” is a 90% diversion rate, accomplished by “diverting” waste via recycling, composting, and reuse. However, we are committed to getting as close to 100% zero waste as the current market allows.

Campus events are one of Aquinas College’s largest sources of waste. **It is the responsibility of all vendors operating on Aquinas’ campus to ensure that their events are as close to zero waste as possible.** Therefore, at least 90% of the waste generated by your activities must be compostable or recyclable. Below you will find helpful information regarding “Zero Waste acceptable” products and appropriate alternatives.

Where do I begin?

Seek

China
Reusable flatware
Bio-based plastics (PLA)
Paper products

Avoid- Trash Namely:

Styrofoam
Plastic/cling wrap
Non-recyclable plastic
Individual Drink containers (Water bottles/pop cans)*
Individual condiment packets (Ketchup)**

** Instead: Provide drink stations with compostable paper cups, or ask your attendees to bring their own reusable cup.*

*** Bulk condiment options with small paper cups is a great solution. Buying items in bulk in place of individually packages can eliminate unnecessary packaging waste (which is generally not compostable or recyclable).*

Note: Any disposable product that will be contaminated by food must be compostable.

See more details on the following pages for what to seek and what to avoid while doing business on Aquinas’ campus.

Acceptable Items

Compostable Waste

1. Paper products (i.e. paper plates and paper napkins) are compostable and acceptable.
2. Special plastic products (i.e. compostable plastics) are also acceptable, but the product must be ASTM 6400 certified. See below information about purchasing these items.

We repeat: All paper waste, bio-based plastic, and food waste can be composted at Aquinas. Compostable plastics have to meet the ASTM 6400 standard. If any product is expected to be contaminated by food, please consider compostable option.

Common Compostable Items:

- Paper plates
- Paper napkins
- Paper towels
- Paper cups- If they have a thin wax coating on the inside, it is still compostable!
- Pizza boxes
- Food-soiled cardboard/paperboard (i.e. paper boats)
- Bio-Based Plastic Utensils
- Wax Paper (i.e. basket liners, McDonald's wrapper)
- Bio-Based Plastic Cups
- Bio-Based Plastic Straws
- Wooden stir sticks
- Paper packets of sugar
- Paper bags
- Tissue paper
- Wax-lined cardboard containers (i.e. the paper milk carton we got in grade school)

Specific Product Examples:

- Greenware cups- <http://www.fabri-kal.com/product/greenware-cold-drink-cups/>
- Bio-Based (PLA) Plastic Utensils: <http://worldcentric.org/biocompostables/utensils>
- Bare Compostable Paper Cups: http://www.officemax.com/office-supplies/breakroom-cleaning/cups-and-lids/cups/product-prod4220412?cm_mmc=Googlepla-Office%20Supplies-Breakroom%20and%20Cleaning-Cups%20and%20Lids&ci_src=17588969&ci_sku=22470229
- Standard paper plates- http://www.webrestaurantstore.com/9-white-economy-paper-plate-1000-cs/4339BULK.html?utm_source=google&utm_medium=cpc&utm_term=4339BULK&utm_campaign=PLA&clid=CJXdnJKRgbcQFetDMgodgGCAnA

Recyclable Waste

Like residential recycling in Kent County, all recyclable waste generated at Aquinas is sent to the Kent County Materials Recovery Facility. Therefore, please use the Access Kent guidelines to determine if an item is recyclable at Aquinas. <http://www.recyclekent.org/Recycling/recyclable.htm>

Of course, the most important note with recycling is that the **waste must be clean and food free**. From events, common recyclable waste includes plastics (#1 - #7) and (food-free) paper and magazines/newspaper.

*Ex...If you choose to serve a hamburger on a #5 plastic plate, the grease will have to be cleaned off before the plate is recycled. For that reason, we **discourage** using recyclable items if there is a chance of food contamination. Instead, **consider** compostable products like paper plates.*

Common Recyclable Items:

- Milk jugs
- Red solo cup (must be almost completely clean. A little drink residue is okay, but please don't use for greasy/sticky food items)
- Office paper (i.e. brochures, magazines, agendas)
- Water bottles
- Cardboard
- All clear and colored glass containers***
- Plastic grocery bags (#2 and #4 only)
- Aluminum Foil***
- Plastic Ketchup bottles***
- Pop cans
- Tin Cans***

***must be food-free

Unacceptable Items

Items that are commonly “trash” and we ask that you avoid:

- Bun/bread bags (unless it is stamped with a number 2 or 4)
- Trash bags
- Ziploc bags
- Candy wrappers*
- Styrofoam**
- Plastic/cling wrap
- Most thin-film plastic packaging
- Chip bags*

** Almost every building contains a “special collection” area for Terracycle (chip bags, candy wrappers, snack bags, etc.). If you bring a Terracycle-able item on campus, please locate the area for disposal.*

*** Almost every building contains a “special collection” area for Styrofoam. If you bring Styrofoam on campus, please locate the area for disposal.*