

Green To Go packaging initiative



SAINT PAUL
SAFETY & INSPECTIONS

Join in
creating
a more
sustainable
Saint Paul
for all.

The City of Saint Paul is rolling out its **Green To Go** food and beverage packaging initiative.

Ordinance Took Effect in 2022

The City ordinance requires that to-go food and beverage packaging be compostable, recyclable or returnable/reusable.

To-Go food and/or beverage means 1) packaged onsite and 2) can be consumed without additional preparation. To-go packaging must meet one of the following criteria:

- **Compostable:** packaging materials with Biodegradable Products Institute (BPI) certification or others with City-approved designation.
- **Recyclable:** packaging materials that can be recycled within City of Saint Paul residential recycling collection contracts. Please note: black plastic to-go containers are not recyclable.
- **Returnable/reusable:** containers such as bottles, milk containers, growlers, that can be returned to the distributor and used again.

Businesses may request an exemption if their current packaging does not meet these requirements by contacting the [Department of Safety and Inspections \(DSI\)](#) at 651-266-8989.

Resources and Education

The City and its partners will offer opportunities for businesses to learn about packaging alternatives and technical assistance.

BizRecycling

- This Ramsey/Washington Recycling & Energy program assists businesses in implementing organics recycling (food scraps and compostable packaging), waste reduction, and recycling efforts. Provides technical assistance and grants as well.

Food Packaging Resource Fairs

- In partnership with business organizations, the City will offer packaging resource fairs for businesses to learn about packaging that meets ordinance requirements. Vendors will display their packaging alternatives. Dates to be announced on the City's "Green To Go Packaging" web page.

Marketing

- Businesses that comply with the ordinance will receive a small window cling to show they're part of ensuring a sustainable Saint Paul for future generations.

Organics (food scraps and compostable packaging) recycling for residents

- Residents and businesses can now drop off food scraps and compostable packaging at sites in Saint Paul. Please note: compostable packaging cannot be recycled.
- In 2023, Ramsey County will roll out a pick-up program for residential food scraps/organics recycling.



Find out more at
stpaul.gov/greentogo