



# Saint Paul's Sustainable To-Go Packaging Ordinance

The City of Saint Paul is proposing an ordinance that would require all to-go food packaging distributed within the City's limits to be either reusable, recyclable, or compostable.

**Eureka Recycling is joining hundreds of Saint Paul residents and local businesses who support the passing of this Ordinance.**

## **What the Ordinance would require:**

The City of Saint Paul is developing an ordinance that would reduce waste, protect the environment, and ensure that disposable items are reduced, reused, recycled, or composted. The Sustainable To-Go Packaging Ordinance would require food businesses to provide to-go packaging that is reusable, recyclable, or compostable.

(Similar to an ordinance successfully passed in Minneapolis last year called Green To Go. [www.minneapolismn.gov/health/inspections/greentogo](http://www.minneapolismn.gov/health/inspections/greentogo))



## **Eureka Recycling supports the City of Saint Paul Sustainable To-Go Packaging Ordinance**

We fully believe this Ordinance is a positive step to a more equitable, just, and zero waste future for the City of Saint Paul. "To go" packaging items that are not recyclable or compostable create unintended and harmful impacts on our health and environment.

Many cities around the country have implemented similar ordinances with great benefit to their community. By adopting this Ordinance our communities can work together towards reducing waste, preserving our environment, and protecting the health of our families and communities for generations to come.

Eureka Recycling is committed to offering support with resources and education for local business owners and community members throughout the implementation of this Ordinance and beyond.

**For more information about how to get involved and FAQs see the back of this sheet!**

Our mission is demonstrating that waste is preventable, and that Zero Waste provides solution to the issues of climate change, environmental justice, and local economic development.

Find out more at [www.EurekaRecycling.org](http://www.EurekaRecycling.org) or call us at 612-NO-WASTE 669-2783)

# Frequently Asked Questions

**Q: How readily available is compostable or recyclable to-go packaging?**

There are now over 6,000 products certified compostable and many more that are recyclable. There are alternatives that would fit within these guidelines for nearly every product on the market, and most local distributors currently offer a variety of options.

**Q: Will there be an increase in cost for businesses?**

There will be an increase in cost for some items. Many products are already cost-competitive. In the long term, costs will continue to go down as demand increases (as has been the case in other markets with similar ordinances). In the short term there are opportunities to help mitigate these expenses like grants from Ramsey County, cooperative purchasing, and reduction in trash bills.

**Q: How will businesses know what is allowed and what is not?**

Businesses will have a year to learn how to implement these regulations into their business model. Vendor/product fairs and educational outreach events are going to be critical piece in the success of this Ordinance roll-out. Eureka Recycling is committed to working collaboratively with distributors, businesses, and the City of Saint Paul to support a smooth transition for our community businesses owners.

**Q: Will any products be exempt?**

Exemptions (meaning products that don't meet the criteria are still allowed for a period of time) can be a tool to help businesses transition to meeting the requirements overtime in a way that supports both their sustainability and the health of the community. However, too many exemptions or exemptions of particularly harmful products can dramatically weaken the ordinance and reduce the positive environmental impacts.

**Q: How can I get involved and support this initiative?**

- Let Eureka Recycling know you are in support of this ordinance and we will add your name or your business/organization's name to the growing list of supporters.  
[megank@eurekarecycling.org](mailto:megank@eurekarecycling.org) 612-455-9144
- Sign up for our mailing list through our website so we can keep you informed about the progress.
- Plan to attend the public hearing at the Saint Paul City Council Meeting **September 20**, and let us know that you'll be there!
- Call your City Councilperson and let them know you support this initiative!  
[www.stpaul.gov/departments/city-council](http://www.stpaul.gov/departments/city-council)