

Dear Zero Waste Party Coordinator:

Thank you for throwing a Zero Waste event! The Cloud City Conservation Center (C4) is a local nonprofit organization that is here to help.

You are our hero! By planning a zero waste event you are reducing our strain on natural resources, reducing carbon emissions from the production of new resources and from methane produced at the landfill, lengthening the life of the Lake County landfill, producing valuable products like local soil and other recycled products.

Your costs:

- serving materials that are compostable and recyclable
- waste station bags
- tipping fee for compost at commercial facility
- volunteer or staff time to haul recyclables and compostables, and to be at waste stations

There are a few simple things you can do to help make this happen:

1. Use clearly labeled bins and signs. A zero-waste event should have a recycling and composting bin next to EVERY trash can. Each bin should have signs with words and pictures.

C4 rents zero waste tents and portable waste stations to zero waste events coordinators. Rentals are free for non-profits. [Fill out our rental form](#) to reserve.



You can download signs on our web-site, scroll to the bottom of this page:
<http://cloudcityconservation.org/waste/zero-waste-hero/>

2. Purchased only recyclable and compostable products. Cups, utensils and plates all come in a compostable version. Corn and starch based plastics are compostable in a commercial compost facility. Make sure compostable products are listed on this website: <http://www.bpiworld.org/BPI-Public/Approved/1.html>. If they are not listed on this web-site, commercial compost facilities like the one in Summit County may reject them. Another label that indicates compostable plastic is a PLA recycle number seven label.



Where can you find these products? Our sister-organization High Country Conservation Center in Frisco. You will find their prices competitive with the largest distributors. Other places to look: Eco-products online store: <http://www.ecoproducts.com/>. Walmart will sometimes carry compostable items.

For any zero-waste event, speak to your cook, caterer, vendors, or whoever is in charge of meals, well ahead of time and make sure they purchase compostable or recyclable products. At larger events, there is always some pushback when vendors are asked to make a change, but we've found that overtime we get much more positive than negative feedback.

3. Manage your participants. At larger events, a volunteer will need to supervise each waste station. For that confused person who just wants to get rid of the chicken bone in his or her hand, a volunteer acts as a guide and ambassador to that feel-good sensation everybody gets by doing the right thing. For smaller events, an announcement will usually do the trick.

4. Bring compost to a commercial compost facility. Summit County's Resource Allocation Park is the closest commercial facility and it takes all food scraps including meat, as well as napkins and corn-based plastics. There will generally be a fee associated with disposing of compost, just like anything else, but if you have just a small amount of compost we (C4) can likely find a way to help you get rid of it. Call us (719) 465-6164. Alternately, many waste haulers will drop and pick-up a compost container for a fee. Vail Honey Wagon is available for hauling service.

5. Bring recycling to a recycle drop-off center. The Lake County recycling center is a great spot to drop recyclables, located at the landfill. Yes, you do need to sort. Make sure you have vehicles that can haul compost and recycling.

Here are a few more tips:

Containers and Foodservice Products that are DESTINED FOR THE LANDFILL

- Styrofoam (polystyrene) – It is not recyclable, regardless of the recycling symbol on the product
- Saran wrap
- Plastic cutlery

Other Food and Foodservice Products that are OK for COMPOSTING

- All food, meat, cheese, dairy, vegetables, fruits, grains
- Uncoated paper plates, boats, and bowls that are not coated with plastic, and paper napkins (compostable)
- Cornstarch cutlery, including spoons, forks and knives
- Waxed paper products (compostable)
- Paper towels and napkins (compostable)

Examples of Acceptable Compostable Products by Brand and Product Type



Most compostable products are labeled biodegradable or compostable on the package or product. To be sure if it is compostable, you can visit www.bpiworld.org and enter your brand into the database.

Compostable Cups: Compostable cups look like plastic cups except they have a “#7 PLA” and/or

“compostable” label (some have a green stripe) on the bottom or side of the cup.

Bare by Solo

Eco-Products Compostable cold and hot cups

Dixie EcoSmart PLA paper cups

Ecotainer compostable paper cups

World Art PLA Coated Eco Paper Cups by NatureWorks

Compostable Plates, Boats, and Bowls: All plates and bowls must be uncoated (non-plastic lined). Most uncoated paper plates and bowls are OK for the compost program.

Bare by Solo

Solo Budgetware Uncoated Paper Plates

Eco-products Tree Free Plates and Bowls

Sustainable Earth Paper Plates

Nature Friendly Paper Plates

AJM White Paper Plates Green Label (uncoated)

Green Wave biodegradable plates

Dixie Paper Plates Uncoated White Economy

World Art Paper 8 oz. Soup Container by NatureWorks

Compostable Tester Cups: Tester cups must have a “compostable” label. Wax-lined paper cups are OK for the compost program.

Royal Lace Paper Nut Cups

Kegworks Condiment Portion Paper Cups

Solo Paper Souffle Cups

Dixie Wax Treated Paper Cold Cups

4 oz FSC Paper Compostable Espresso Cups

Compostable Utensils: All wood, bamboo, and corn-based or compostable cutlery is OK for compost program. Please be sure you are buying compostable and not plastic as both look identical.

Biodegradable flat wooden tasting spoons

Popsicle sticks (uncoated)

Wooden or bamboo skewers

Eco-Products High Heat Compostable Cutlery

Birchware compostable wooden cutlery

Toothpicks (wood or bamboo only)

Compostable Napkins, Wax Paper, and Paper Towels: All paper napkins, wax paper, and paper towels are OK for compost program.

Compostable To-Go Ware: All unlined (no plastic lining) paper to-go boxes are OK for compost program. Please, NO Styrofoam or plastic lined (Chinese food) containers. Foil is OK for recycling.

Sugarcane Clamshell Take-Out Containers

World Centric Wheat Straw Compostable Take Out Clamshells

Green Wave Take Out Containers (Sugar Cane and Bamboo)

Did you know?

Contrary to popular belief, the landfill is not a gigantic biodegrading and composting system. In fact, the landfill is designed to keep oxygen, sunlight and water away from your trash. These



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are the ingredients needed for swift biodegrading of materials. In addition, all of your leftovers, yard clippings, and organic waste that go into the garbage produce a hazardous gas called methane in a landfill environment. Methane is a greenhouse gas 72 times more potent than carbon dioxide. By keeping organics out of our landfill, you help combat climate change! Similar to recycling, composting also diverts materials from our landfill. Organics (including yard waste, food waste, paper, paperboard, and wood waste) make up over 65 percent of the waste stream. When you compost and recycle, you can keep over 80 percent of your garbage out of the landfill, extending our landfill's life for future generations.

We are very fortunate to have a large scale composting facility nearby (High Country Compost at the Summit County landfill). Compostable materials are collected from zero waste events and travel a short distance to the Summit Resource Allocation Park. Recycling is bailed and shipped off to markets around the United States. Compostables are ground up and mixed with wood chips and turned into compost in a matter of weeks. This unique, closed-loop system includes compost collection from zero waste events, school lunch waste, and participating restaurants into a nutrient-rich soil that is contributed back to the community through local community garden projects.