



Expo '74 50th Anniversary Low-Impact Waste Pilot Program

Honoring the legacy of the first environmentally themed World's Fair



Produced by Spokane Zero Waste



Waste is a global problem that has many local solutions. It seems inevitable that we create waste, however that is not the necessary truth. With good planning we can significantly reduce the amount of waste made and build a system where materials used are returned as nutrients to soil or actually recycled into new materials. Circular systems like this ultimately save money, resources and protect the environment for all.

This guidebook is the beginning of building that system. We hope you'll see the value in joining this pilot program to help make Expo and all future Spokane events, Low-Impact Waste events.

Included in this guide:

- Why a Low Impact Waste Policy is needed
- Description of pilot program for Expo
- Goals
- Guide to Acceptable Food Service Ware for Expo Vendors

Why a low impact waste policy is needed

Spokane leads the state in per capita amount of food waste thrown away annually" (1).. Food waste is the #1 contributor to methane gas emissions in landfills and toxic emissions that must be controlled at Waste To Energy plants. Methane is a potent GHG and decreasing it will help Washington meet their 2030, mandated emissions goals.

Collecting food waste for composting has far reaching benefits including restoring soil health to grow nutrient rich foods. **Compost helps soil retain moisture and provides nutrients that replace the need for chemical fertilizers."** Additionally nutrient rich soil produces nutrient rich foods which support human health. Composting is an integral part of building back circularity in our food system.

Circularity is also the goal of recycling, unfortunately there are many barriers to accomplishing it. Aspirational recycling or "wish-recycling" is the #1 cause of contaminated loads everywhere, including Spokane. This means much of what is put in the blue bin ends up as waste instead of being recycled. These **contaminated loads cost Spokane additional money** in fuel and labor as they are hauled back from the recycling center to the Waste to Energy plant.

Bottled Water

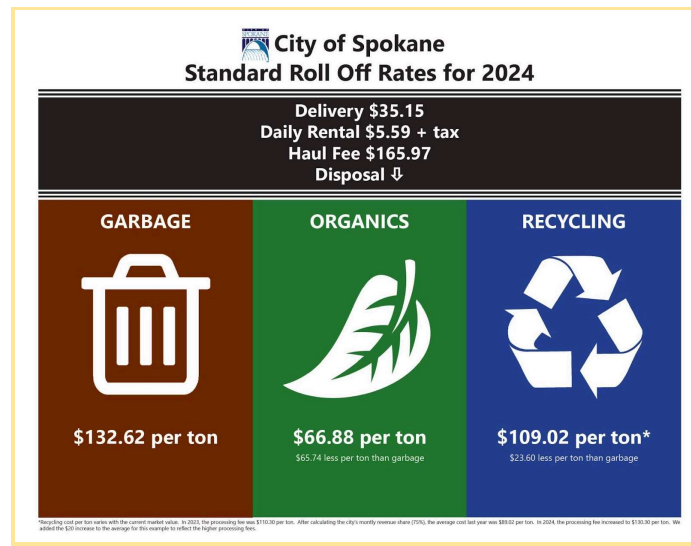
Why is bottled water an issue? **Bottled water has one of the largest negative impacts on water, air and soil health** due to the resources used to make, fill and transport those bottles. Between contamination rates, improper disposal and plastic types used, it is a well accepted statistic that **only 10% of the billions of single use water bottles used daily ever make it to recycling.** Often these bottles are of a type of plastic that can only be downcycled, making the energy in transportation and collection wasteful as the result is plastic film which has limited to no recycling capability or market.

A reliable and available solution is pumping municipal water through mobile water stations. Riverfront Park utilizes mobile water stations so the benefit has already been recognized.

Proper Waste Sorting

Demonstrating the proper collection of recyclables, food waste and compostables along with garbage while rejecting the use of single use plastics, such as plastic water bottles and tracking the diversion rates of both seems an excellent way to showcase the importance and benefits of waste reduction at a large-scale, environmentally themed celebration.

Facilitating waste collection at events ultimately saves resources including money, both for the city and for residents. As can be seen from the graphic below, the cost of dumping compost is almost half the cost of dumping garbage. There are many options for compostable serviceware from plant-based plastics to fiberboard materials. It is possible to host a food-focused event and create more compost material than either recycling or garbage. In such an instance the resources used go right back into the loop becoming nutrient rich soil that grows nutrient rich food and preserves natural resources.



“Zero Waste is a goal that is ethical, economical, efficient and visionary, to guide people in changing their lifestyles, and practices to emulate sustainable natural cycles, where all discarded materials are designed to become resource for others to use”

-The Zero Waste International Alliance

Low-Impact Waste Pilot Program

What:

A waste reduction plan for Expo event coordinators, vendors and the public focused on Riverfront Park and available to any business, organization or group hosting an Expo related event.

Why:

- Reducing waste, collecting clean recyclables and composting food waste are **the best, most visible ways for Spokane to demonstrate its commitment to the legacy as the first city to ever host an environmentally themed World's Fair.**
- Three-stream collection (compost, recycling & landfill) supports a systems change that will result in reducing environmental impacts long-term while building economic opportunity.
- Regulations and material bans are imminent such as [the “foam ban”](#) which begins June 1, 2024. **Being knowledgeable and outfitted to comply with new laws benefits your business** and showcases your good stewardship intentions to your customers.

How:

- **Reduced food and beverage commission from 10% to 5%**
- By using compostable food service ware, providing and encouraging use of water refill stations and having staffed, 3-stream waste stations. **NOTE: We are prioritizing compostables as they are better regulated and represent a functional step in a circular system.**
- Volunteers will be trained as Waste Ambassadors (WA). WA's will help the public and vendors properly sort and collect **clean** recyclables and compost material.



- Resources to comply with the Low-Impact Waste Pilot Program will be provided to organizations whose events will not be in Riverfront Park by request and downloadable from the Spokane Zero Waste website. spokanezerowaste.org.

Goals

- Model implementation of a low-impact waste event and showcase how Spokane and the Parks Department can institute a low-waste event policy for all future City and Park events.
- Provide Expo vendors the opportunity to learn and integrate low-impact waste practices into their businesses.
- Help build relationships between vendors and local distributors of compostable food serveware.
- Send more material to recycling and compost than to incinerator or landfill by weight
- Use above to set a baseline of waste diversion from which specific future targets can be set.
- Support the growing public interest of diverting food waste from incineration and landfill.

We don't need a handful of people doing zero-waste perfectly, we need millions of people doing it imperfectly?

**-Anne-Marie Bonneau|
The Zero Waste Chef**

Why use compostables?

Compostable products are made from non-petroleum based materials like plant fibers such as bamboo, sugar cane, bagasse and wheat straw as well as PLA, a plant-based plastic. All of **these materials can break down into healthy soil.**

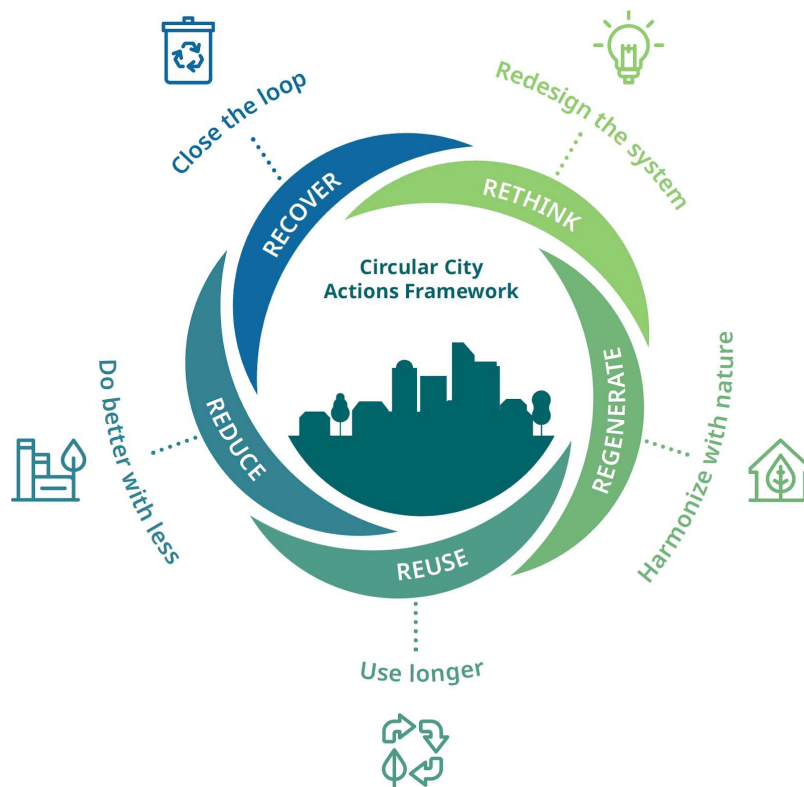


Conversely **plastics are petroleum derived materials that break down into smaller microplastics which pollute air, water and soil.** “There are over 16,000 known chemicals involved in the making of plastics, more than a quarter are thought to be toxic...” and many are known to be hazardous to humans and all living species. **Smithsonian Magazine March 19, 2024**

The products below are alternatives to petroleum-based plastics. They are certified compostable in our local industrial composting facility, Barr-Tech. Barr-Tech provides an indispensable service to

our region by supplying nutrient rich compost to local growers made from yard clippings, food waste and compostable materials.

Using compostable materials helps close the loop on waste by sending resources used for their creation back into that system for reuse. Diverting materials from landfill reduces cost (it's less expensive to dump compost than recycling or landfill waste) and is a healthier way to package and consume food and drink.




Acceptables List

The compostable product lines on this list meet the following Washington State requirements for compostables:

- Meet ASTM D6868 standards
- Are third party certified
- Meet U.S.FTC guide labeling requirements (for wood products)
- Display the word “compostable”
- Use green, beige or brown labeling, striping or other patterns to visibly identify

Items NOT on this list are considered garbage. One non-compostable item in a compost container renders all the compost contaminated which means it all ends up in the garbage.

Manufacturer	Line	Website	Local Distributor	Details
EcoProducts	Green Stripe made from renewable Resources Product Catalog Attached	EcoProducts	WCP Solutions 15321 E Marietta Ave, Spokane, WA 99216 Contact: Michele Peterson 208-819-7211 pmichell@wcpolutions.com	Orders must be placed by April 19. Items will be available for pick up on May 1. Can set up C.O.D account
Cedar Grove	Entire Line Product Catalog Attached	https://cedar-grove.com/store/packaging	Contact: Jim Simpson jims@cgcompost.com 206-669-5351	Orders must be placed by April 19. Items will be available for pick up on May 1.
World Centric	Entire Line Check for proper certifications and labeling Product Catalog Attached		Available at US Foods, URM, Cisco. Check Cash and Carry's for stock.	

CHOOSE	AVOID
Products that are BPI, CMA certified 	Products that claim to be “degradable” or “biodegradable” or make vague claims that are not certified by a third party.
Paperboard products made from clay-coated paper, or lined with bio-wax or PLA	Paperboard products lined with plastic, which are not compostable
Molded Fiber products lined with PLA	Unlined Molded Fiber , which is usually treated with unsafe fluorinated chemicals (PFAS)
Bamboo, Palm Leaf or Birch Wood products, which are naturally moisture proof	Clear PLA Cups and food containers. As of January 1, 2024 all products labeled as “compostable” must use green, beige, or brown labeling, striping, or other patterns
Cutlery made from PLA as a lower cost alternative to bamboo, palm leaf and Birch wood	Plastic lined paper products or plastic cutlery
Use wood or PLA skewers	Plastic picks, sticks or skewers
Refillable pump stations with paper condiment cups	Polystyrene or “Styrofoam” containers
	Plastic wrap or sleeves
Refillable cups and water dispenser	Plastic water bottles

Additional non-food recommendations

- Have a drawing for one large item instead of lots of small trinkets - recycle/compost drawing tickets
- Have a large QR code people can scan to sign-up for your information instead of small handouts or business cards
- If you do use business cards, print on recycled paper and note that they are compostable on the card
- Use sanitized serviceware to hand out free samples instead of using individual packaging

Back of the house waste collection:



We recognize front of the house food service is just part of what you do. To help you address back of the house food production we are supplying 2-3, 5 gallon buckets per food truck. These are to be used for collecting food waste and recycling. Waste Ambassadors will be assigned to assist food truck vendors in dumping compost and recycling throughout Opening Ceremonies, May 4 and on Bloomsday May 5.

Spokane Zero Waste will be reaching out to all Expo approved vendors prior to May 4 to answer questions and review what to expect of Waste Ambassadors during Opening Ceremonies, at Bloomsday and at any other event that chooses to follow these guidelines.

What we ask of you is that you follow these guidelines and sign the agreement below.

I have read the low-impact waste pilot program and would like to participate. I understand my participation is optional.

- I will use compostable items for serving food and beverage
- I will encourage participants to use refillable water stations
- I will support composting of all food waste by:
 - 1) collecting back of house food waste in provided 5 gallon buckets
 - 2) direct event attendees to visit a waste station (these will be identified by flags and on the event map)

In return I will receive the **Low-Impact Waste Vendor Seal** (shown on the right) to display on my food truck, and my business will be identified as participating in the program by the announcer throughout Opening Ceremonies



Sign/Date

Please email the signed agreement to info@spokanezerowaste.org